

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S3D07706 THE SUSTAINABLE CONTAINER – BASKETS FROM WILLOW

Tutor: MARY BUTCHER

Dates: 3 DAYS MONDAY 12 MARCH – THURSDAY 15 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

The aim of this course is to encourage the use of renewable resources by weaving with a sustainable material which has strength, beauty and a long life. Designs for today's lifestyles – rectangular baskets for supermarket shopping, arm baskets for the farmers market, box baskets for home storage, letter trays for the desk, and washing baskets can be chosen after discussion with the tutor.

You will gain or improve your willow skills, producing two pieces of average size. You also learn something of the history of this traditional material, details of growth, harvesting and preparation and be able to continue weaving at home.

Willow available will be both peeled, boiled buff and brown, with barks of beautiful colours (if available). Techniques include the use of a screw block for weaving square structures in a simple way, and a variety of weaves and handles, as appropriate.

You will work on individual projects, following a discussion with the tutor. There will be group demonstrations, observation of completed objects and samples, by discussion with the group and individually with the tutor.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Mary Butcher is a basketmaker, exhibition curator, writer and teacher. She held a prestigious crafts residency at the V&A's Sackler Centre in 2009. Recent exhibitions include 'This Beloved Earth', The Barony, West Kilbride, Scotland, 'Basketry Making Human Nature' at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich 2012, Re-Making the Past from the Devon Guild of Craftsmen and tour, 2014 (a study in Bronze Age Creativity) and 'Dimensions' in Denmark 2016. She received an MBE for services to basketmaking in 2012 and one of two Crafts Skills Champions Awards in 2013.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Monday 12 March

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. The first evening will involve an introduction to the course and each other, health and safety, setting up work for the course.

Other days: Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 March

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch

Other days continued: Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 March

2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working – the tutor will be available for an hour after dinner for two evenings of the course. You may continue to work unsupervised, until 10pm, providing work has been agreed with the tutor.

Departure day: Thursday 15 March

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

Included in the course fee is the cost of the willow supplied on the course. However, an extra charge may be requested for large or multiple items, this should be paid to the College Craft Shop as requested at the end of the course.

Tools may be borrowed from the tutor but please bring as many of the following as you have available (but do not buy anything especially before you come):

For willow basketmaking (*on sale at the College Shop)

Tape measure
Notebook and pencil
2–3 spring clothes pegs
Pair of sharp secateurs (preferably 'parrot-beak' shape)
Small hammer or rapping iron
Basketmaker's bodkin (at least 5")* – can be borrowed from the tutor
Ruler – at least 1 ft long
A good pen knife
Masking tape*
Side or wire cutters
A couple of large old towels
Please wear covered footwear in the workshop – this is an essential health and safety requirement.

NOTE: If you are in doubt as to the requirements for the course, please contact the tutor for advice: Mary Butcher, 6 Downs Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 7AY Tel: 01227 766427

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.