

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

### S4D07700 STONE CARVING – BIRDS, WINGS AND FEATHERS

Tutor: PAULA HAUGHNEY

Dates: 4 DAYS SUNDAY 11 MARCH – THURSDAY 15 MARCH

## ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Birds are fascinating creatures covered in feathers. With many different shapes and forms the subject of birds translate well into a stone carving. Bird motifs appear worldwide in the symbolism of religion, art, dreams, folktales and mythology. For your course the walls of the studio will be filled with inspirations to aid your thoughts and design. Bird song will be heard in the grounds outside. The finished sculpture could be a whole bird, wings or the head and beak. Your sculpture can be naturally realistic in form, simply abstracted, or freeze framed in action.

You begin by making a small model with clay. This will help you to explore the possibilities of the design. As most of the carving is done by hand tools, a simpler design is best achieved in the four days.

The method practised will be direct carving. Some of the stone available is cut into blocks and you can make use of the more natural rock shapes to inform your sculpture. A variety of stone is available. If you have a specific type of stone you would like to carve you can bring it with you.

For beginners practical instruction and advice in basic stone carving will be given. If you already have some experience individual tutorials will help you to pinpoint goals and facilitate technical advancement. Demonstrations on the different stages of carving a sculpture will be given throughout and a wide range of visual references and technical hand-outs will be available.

At the end of the course there will be an informal exhibition to record and celebrate your achievements and marvel at all the birds created. As well as your final sculpture, you will have gained knowledge and confidence in stone carving techniques.

## 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 practice.

### *Is there anything a potential student needs to be able to do to succeed on this course?*

Stone carving is a physical activity and usually practised standing up though can be achieved sitting down.

## ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Paula Haughney is an experienced stone carver and sculptor having practised her skills for over 30 years. All types of stone have featured in her work from soapstones to granite. Her sculptures are in many public places in Britain and Europe, including St Katharine's Dock, London and Herne Bay in Kent which won the Rousse award for Public Art. As a site specific sculptor she often carves the stone in its destined area as this informs the design and lets the public observe progress and ask questions. This helps in the understanding and acceptance of the sculpture.

*"I enjoy the physicality of working in the landscape be it urban or countryside with the challenge of the elements and the task of reducing the stone to be a finished piece in the eye of the public"*

## TIMETABLE:

### Arrival day: Sunday 11 March

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner

### **Arrival day continued: Sunday 11 March**

7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b> On the first evening there will be an introduction to the course and a slide presentation of different examples of stone carvings and sculptures of birds and wings. Something to inspire. Also a tour of the various bird examples around West Dean House. This will be in the main house.

### **Other days: Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 March**

(The course is held in the Sculpture Courtyard which is a short walk through the orchard. You can also drive to it. Lunch is served at the main house but morning coffee and afternoon tea is served in the Garden Restaurant. It can be cold so be prepared. Keep an eye on the longterm weather forecast before you arrive. )

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

### **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

### **REQUIRED PREPARATION:**

Bring any resource materials, pictures, books, inspirations and photographs. Model a simple bird form in clay or plastecine.

### **MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:**

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

The stone is paid for in the craft shop but stored in the sculpture studio and chosen as the course progresses per individual requirements. Different types of stone are available to buy from limestones, soapstones and alabasters. Prices range from £3 a kilo, though Maltese Limestone is sold by size.

### **Available from the Shop:**

All sorts of art materials  
Some stone carving tools  
Wet and dry paper

### **Available from the tutor:**

Some old reclaimed limestone and chalk pebbles

**Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:**

Bring gloves to work in or for handling stone

Strong boots or shoes (steel toe caps if you have them)

Overall or apron

Warm clothing as it can be cold

Sketch book

Phone or camera to record progress

**All stone carving tools and equipment are provided by the college to the student to use during the course.**

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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