

SUMMER SCHOOL SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SSS08052 MAKE AUTOMATA AND MOVING TOYS

Tutor: ROBERT RACE

Dates: 6 DAYS SATURDAY 4 AUGUST – FRIDAY 10 AUGUST

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Learn to make automata that are fun to design and fun to play with. The aim is for you to develop a playful, problem solving approach to design; to experience the properties of a variety of materials and to explore the possibilities of some simple mechanisms.

You make two or three different simple moving toys as an introduction to the materials and tools available. Everyone is then encouraged to continue experimenting with mechanisms and materials to develop their own designs for simple automata and see one or more of these designs through to a finished product.

You work with wood, plus a range of additional materials such as bamboo, wire, string, plastic, etc. There is an emphasis on reclaimed and recycled materials, including driftwood. Although these materials are provided, you are welcome to bring your own contributions of interesting materials.

Basic hand tools are used, together with a fret/scroll saw and a bench/pillar drill. Instruction in the use of tools is tailored to individual requirements.

In the first session you are introduced to a selection from the tutor's collection of moving toys from around the world that exploit the properties of a variety of materials and use a range of simple mechanisms to produce movement; a collection of simple automata by various makers, principally in wood, and including the tutor's own work in driftwood and a range of books on automata and moving toys. All of these are available for reference throughout the week, including evenings as required.

This initial session is followed by a set project – making a simple moving toy – which serves as an introduction to the materials and tools available. Thereafter you are encouraged to develop your own ideas, with guidance from the tutor as required. Although everyone works on their own individual projects, the group sharing of ideas, skills and experiences is an important ongoing element in the workshop, and time is also allowed at the end of each day for an informal discussion of progress (and a sharing of problems).

Day 1	Project: to make a simple moving toy. An introduction to tools and materials.
Days 2–5	Workshop sessions, punctuated by the other Summer School activities.
Day 6 (morning)	Finishing off and preparing display.

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 THE TUTOR:

Robert Race, an established maker of automata and simple wooden toys, is an active member of the British Toymakers Guild. He exhibits his work widely.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Please note: a detailed timetable covering all additional events and activities planned for your summer school week will be given to you on arrival.

Arrival day: Saturday 4 August

By 12.00 noon	Arrival and registration for summer school students (Please note: some bedrooms may not be available until 1pm)
12.15pm	Director's Welcome in the Stewards Bar, followed by lunch
2.00pm – 5.00pm	First teaching session
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.15pm	Tutors' talks in the Old Library

Other days: Sunday 5 to Thursday 9 August

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes (except Wednesday afternoon which is untutored and free for excursions to Chichester, from 2–5pm)
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–10.00pm	Evening working or additional timetabled summer school events Workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been agreed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Friday 10 August

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Final teaching session
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Individual group reviews
12.45pm	Lunch
1.30pm–2.30pm	Displays of Summer School students work in studios
3.00pm	Summer School ends
3.30pm	Tea then departure

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm. On the first and last days (ie Saturday and Friday) of your Summer School week the shop will be open until 4.30pm.

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

Included in the course fee: materials supplied by the tutor and used by the group as a whole.

Available from the tutor:

Plywood	Driftwood
Dowel	Wire
Soft and hardwood scraps	A wide range of fixings, fastenings, findings,
Metal rod	adhesives, acrylic paint etc.

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

Notebook/sketchbook and pencil

Any small bits of driftwood or other interesting scraps of material you wish to incorporate

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE VISUAL ART & CRAFT SUMMER SCHOOL

Attending an intensive Summer School course allows you to experience a range of creative activities alongside your course. Special Summer School features:

- Inspirational talks by tutors and displays of their work.
- A swap-over session to another course of your choice.
- An optional evening at the Chichester Festival Theatre (pre-booked at a group rate, via a form we send you in May).
- A free afternoon on Wednesday to explore Chichester or other cultural highlights on offer in the locality.
- A special party with dinner, entertainment and music.
- Workshop displays of students' work and informal end-of-course group reviews.
- If your stay includes the weekend of 10–12 August, enjoy West Dean's Chilli Fiesta in the gardens in your free time and add a little 'spice' to your stay with all things chilli and live music from midday until 11pm on the front lawn.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS are expected to attend evening sessions (which may last up to 10 pm), so their fees include coffee, lunch and dinner daily.

RESIDENT STUDENTS: Residents staying on for more than one Summer School week will have the additional dinner, bed and breakfast between the Summer School courses provided free of charge.