

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S4D07944 ORGANIC SCULPTURES IN CLAY

Tutor: FRANCES DOHERTY

Dates: 4 DAYS SUNDAY 17 JUNE – THURSDAY 21 JUNE

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Learn how to construct a sculpture using forms in nature as inspiration. The methods used will be some basic thrown and manipulated forms with components modelled and added in repeating patterns, and colour and texture can be added during the construction process.

The aims of this course are to enable you to develop an initial idea on paper through a small maquette and then translate these ideas into a realised sculptural form. You will move from two dimensions into three through the manipulation of simple thrown clay forms, small rolled slabs and coils, and the use of different modelling techniques.

The tutor will demonstrate a variety of construction methods, together with hand painted colouring products such as underglaze. Various texturing tools that can be found in the home and garden will help you to build up your sculpture. Although you start with thrown forms, these need only be simple bowls and cylinders that can be turned and added together then reformed to give you an internal shape on which to add your modelled components. These components will be formed by cutters, drawn templates and your fingers, and added to the basic form in repeating patterns.

By the end of the course you should have a small maquette and a medium sized sculpture which will be finished to the point of only needing a biscuit firing and a clear glaze. You will also have developed a good understanding of the variety of methods and the different types of tools, from the kitchen as well as the pottery that can be used in conjunction with each other. You will have gained a knowledge of the various techniques needed to build form in a way to ensure a successful outcome.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Skills development. For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills. The focus is on further developing and building of skills working towards independent practice.

Ideally you would be able to throw a basic shape. For instance two similar sized bowls that could be attached together, cylinders or a teardrop shape.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Frances specialises in throwing and modelling to make large sculptures based on plants and seedpods. These are sold nationally and internationally through galleries and by agents. She also runs school workshops and works with degree level students on developing their technical skills.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 17 June

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. During the first evening we will be discussing the images that you have collected and plan your starting point for the next morning. I will give a brief description of how I build up a form and see how this can be applied to your designs.

Other days: Monday 18 to Wednesday 20 June

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 21 June

(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:

Please collect some images that appeal to you from the natural world. Look for repetitive patterns (think about plants like zinnias, dahlias, pineapples, pine cones etc). If you like you can draw out how you think you might like to interpret these forms in clay, if not, don't worry, we can discuss this when you arrive.

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:

The course fee includes the cost of all clay, glazing and firing costs – large work in size and quantity may be charged extra.

Available from the Shop:

Thick paper or thin card to draw and cut out templates
Sketchbook
Drawing materials

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

Apron
Packaging materials if you plan to take your work home unfired

PLEASE BRING A NOTE OF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS or A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED POSTCARD WITH YOU if you wish to leave your work at the College for firing and glazing, so that we can let you know when your pieces are ready.

Please note that your work will be kept for collection for six months from the notification that your pots are ready to be collected.

Clays and other materials: These will be provided by the College. The cost of clays, glaze materials and firings is included in the Cover Charge – see page 2.

Firing and glazing of completed pieces: Students normally have three options at the end of the course.

1. Students may leave any raw, finished pieces that they wish to keep, for biscuit firing, basic glazing and re-firing by the College, for collection at a later date.
2. Students may leave raw, finished pieces for biscuit firing at the College. They may then book a place on a Glazing Day – the details and course fee are advertised in the short course programme – and learn how to glaze their work themselves. This work will be re-fired and available for collection at a later date. (There is no further charge for the glazing materials if you choose to book a glazing day.)
3. Students are free to take away their unfired pots for firing and glazing elsewhere.

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.