

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW07995 EXPERIMENTING WITH PAPER CLAY

Tutor: LUCY COBB

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 5 JULY – SUNDAY 8 JULY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Paper clay is an amazing and exciting material. Mixing organic fibres with a clay body enables you to create complex structures and sculpt with it at any stage. You will explore the many techniques and versatility of paper clay throughout the course.

You will start by taking casts of found organic materials by dipping and painting the porcelain paper clay slip onto the surfaces.

This is followed by the techniques of pouring and painting the paperclay slip onto plaster bats or moulds or onto balloons or paper/cardboard forms. Organic material can then be pressed into these layers which will then burn away leaving an imprint or ghost image of the material. Wet/leatherhard/dry sheets can then be joined together or cut, torn, sewn together and formed into larger scale sculptures.

Because of the structure of paper clay, it can be worked with at wet, leather hard or dry stages. Green Paper clay can even be joined to bisqued paper clay.

Oxides can be added to the slip or wedged into the plastic clay. We will be firing the work up to stoneware/porcelain glaze temperatures in one cycle as bisque paper clay is very fragile. The pieces won't be glazed but oxides and slips can be added to colour the clay at the making stages.

I will encourage everyone to work on multiple pieces in order to build up the layers of the slip and develop each technique. I will also outline methods and recipes to make your own paper clay.

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.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Lucy Cobb has a degree in Sculpture from Edinburgh College of Art. She is a professional potter working at North Street Potters. She teaches in a community pottery, an Art school and secondary school in London. She runs paper clay masterclasses, and handbuilding courses.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Thursday 5 July

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. I will briefly introduce the history of paper clay and show some examples of its creative and expansive potential. We will handle some of the different clay bodies in raw and fired states.

Other days: Friday 6 and Saturday 7 July

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue

Other days continued: Friday 6 and Saturday 7 July

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: Sunday 8 July

(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:

Students may want to start collecting organic materials such as interesting seed pods and seeds, leaves, dried papery seaweed, and textured (organic) materials.

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, oxides and firing costs – large work in size and quantity may be charged extra.

Available from the Shop:

A Sketchbook
Drawing materials

Available from the tutor:

Organic materials, rice, lentils, strings, balloons, slip trailers, pipettes, hair dryers, books and resources.

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

An apron
A camera to document your work
I would encourage you to bring some found organic (combustible) materials in which to dip and paint the paper clay slip onto
For example: seeds, dried seed pods, leaves, dried flower heads.
Textures to emboss with and any material that may inspire your sculpting process.

PLEASE BRING A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED POSTCARD WITH YOU (or a card with your name and email address) if you wish to leave your work at the College for firing, so that we can let you know when your pieces are ready for collection.

Please note that your work will be kept for collection for six months from the postmark date on your returned postcard or email.

Firing finished pieces – at the end of the course:

1. Students may leave any raw, finished pieces, that they wish to keep, for biscuit firing for collection at a later date.
2. Students are free to take away their unfired pieces for firing elsewhere.

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.