

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

### S5D08278 CONCRETE CASTING FOR SCULPTURE

Tutor: GEORGE CHARMAN AND DR. DAVID STENT

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER – FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER

## MEXICAN WEEK

All courses are taught by tutors who either live in Mexico or whose work is inspired by the country. You are encouraged to engage with those on other courses, including attending tutor talks and visiting different course studios.

## ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course takes inspiration from Edward James' creative activities at his jungle ranch, as you discover how to employ similar methods to create sculptural forms in cast concrete. You will learn how to make formwork moulds from timber and other materials, how to mix, cast and dye concrete, as well as exploring the possibilities of concrete casting in relation to your own work and in response to the surroundings at West Dean.

The course begins with an introduction to the historical context of concrete being used as a sculptural material. Both tutors have visited 'Las Pozas' and will inspire you to develop your ideas and work as they discuss the relevance of concrete as a medium for contemporary sculptural practice.

Informed by this context, you will then develop a series of sketches inspired by your surroundings. Following group critique and discussion, these drawings will form the basis for detailed plan drawings that will assist the construction of formwork moulds. Following guidance and instruction, you will then use these formworks to explore experimental approaches to concrete casting, such as: combining aggregates and colour pigments; polishing techniques; working with repeated forms; techniques of reinforcement; exploring the possibilities of fabric mouldmaking.

At the end of the course you will have gained skills in observational and technical drawing, as well as woodwork and model-making skills through the development of moulds. You will also be familiar with basic concrete mixing and casting, providing you with increased confidence to employ similar techniques in your own sculptural practice.

## LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practice.

Working with concrete can be physically demanding and would not be suitable for people with any pre-existing medical condition that might restrict heavy lifting and/or the use of power tools.

To succeed on this course you should have existing basic skills in woodwork and past experience of using tools including: hand saw, electric jigsaw, cordless drill and hammer. If you don't have these skills but are willing to use all these tools and learn you may still be able to join the course, please check with the course programmer.

## ABOUT YOUR TUTORS:

George Charman is an artist and educator who lives and works in London. He is a Fine Art tutor at University for the Creative Arts and is a regular visiting tutor on the full-time Visual Arts programmes at West Dean College. Informed by place, Charman's practice incorporates projects developed in relation to specific historical or geographical contexts, explored through sculpture, installation, broadcasting, site-responsive drawing and collaborative workshops.

Dr. David Stent is subject leader of the full-time Visual Arts programmes at West Dean College. He is an artist, writer, curator and performer whose diverse practice draws on various media including drawing, photography, digital and print publishing, film and video, and sonic and sculptural installation. His most recent work has been concerned with the role of writing in art practice, particularly in association with artists' publications and the use of theory and philosophy in contemporary art. He holds a PhD in Fine Art from the University of Reading.

**TIMETABLE:** (The course will take place in the Sculpture Courtyard which is a short walk from the College (the main house) through the walled garden. It can be accessed by vehicle using the garden entrance. We return to the College for lunch but morning coffee and afternoon tea will be in the Garden Restaurant. The walls on one side of the Sculpture Courtyard are raised in the summer months to make it a partially outdoor working studio. During the winter months heavy canvas is fixed along this side and heaters used to warm the space. It can be draughty so we advise all students to bring extra warm layers. If you have any questions please contact [bookingsoffice@westdean.org.uk](mailto:bookingsoffice@westdean.org.uk) )

#### **Arrival day: Sunday 21 October**

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
5.30pm	Workshops available for dropping off equipment and materials
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 – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b> Introduction into the aims and objectives of the course as well as a powerpoint presentation on Edward James' use of concrete in Mexico and how his explorations in concrete casting will be further explored by students over the duration of the course.

#### **Other days: Monday 22 to Thursday 25 October**

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.
(7.45–8.45pm)	<b>On Monday evening</b> tutors will be giving brief presentations on their practice – non-resident students may wish to book in for dinner). <b>On Wednesday</b> at 5.30pm, there will be a talk about Edward James in Mexico.

#### **Departure day: Friday 26 October**

(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, please vacate workshop by 3.30pm
3.30pm	Tea then departure

**Please Note:** Any works that are not ready to be de-molded by the end of the COURSE can be left at West Dean with the tutors and will be de-molded by them. Work will be held for up to one month after the course ends for collection.

### **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:**

Concrete mixing materials (cement, sand, aggregate)

Wood (construction grade plywood) and canvas for mould making

Equipment for mixing and casting concrete

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

A4 sketchbook

A4 isometric graph paper

HB or pilot pencil

Black fine line pen

Ruler

Rubber

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

Any other materials you might want to use for mould making (e.g. cardboard, plastic, polystyrene, sheet metal)

Wear old clothes / overalls

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

The tutors instruct 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.