

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S4D08276 SCULPTURAL PAPER ARTWORKS INSPIRED BY MEXICAN TRADITIONS

Tutor: HUMBERTO SPÍNDOLA

Dates: 4 DAYS SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER – THURSDAY 25 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 is an experimental course based on using silk paper (ie pH free white tissue paper). Getting to know the qualities of this material from commercial and fantasy to acid free. Cutting, structuring by folding, wrinkling, and painting with traditional organic components from the new world. Discover the wide range of possibilities of using silk paper as an art material and learn how to use these simple techniques when applying to a sculptural project. Initially the course will explore making decorative objects based on the hat of La Catrina, an iconic figure in Mexican culture, linked with the Day of the Dead festivities and painted famously by Diego Rivera. This will be a starting point and inspiration to create similar extravagant hat decorations, mobiles with paper feathers, pop up sculptures with paper fans or explore other sculptural ideas of your own.

The techniques covered include preparing our own paint with pigments, gelatin and aloe vera and how to apply it to colour the white silk paper and also how to protect it.

Humberto has developed his own sculptural paper art works drawing on the traditions, symbolism and anthropological meanings of paper making and paper works used historically in Mexico. This includes the traditional papercuts and piñata making which he has developed into costume making as he has sought to raise traditional paperworks from a craft to an art and find new applications in contemporary art through installations, performance and sculptures, a talk on his work will be included during the week. The aim is for participants to grasp an understanding of techniques, aesthetics, colours, and usages in Mexico, which can be adapted.

### 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.

Students need to have basic manual dexterity to work with these materials.

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Humberto Spíndola creates paper fine art works. Working from Mexican traditions of paper work craftsmanship he has evolved these into an artform. He translates his skills to contemporary art by making large installations, always looking to find new possibilities to the weakness and strength of his material of choice. His main solo shows are at important Mexican cities museums. Collected by the British Museum in London, Paper Museum in Basel, Design Museum in Helsinki. He won First Prize at Praga Cuadriennale of Costume Design for his Vivaldi's Motezuma opera in Heidelberg.

Humberto has developed his his own techniques and experimental processes over time. He has translated his skills to contemporary art by making large installations, always looking for finding new possibilities to the weakness and strength of his material of choice. He has developed innovative methods, including a way to apply gold leaf and colouring with pigments without dissolving that fragile material.

## TIMETABLE:

### 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><br>Chat session on paper works and Mexican paper traditions with photographs |

### Other days: Monday 22 October – Wednesday 24 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. |

**On the Monday evening** after dinner, tutors will give talks on their practice (non-resident students may wish to book in for dinner).

**On Wednesday** at 5.30pm, there will be a talk about Edward James in Mexico.

### Departure day: Thursday 25 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                               |

## REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Nothing specifically.

## 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 a supply of acid free tissue paper, use of pigments, gelatin, aluminium foil and paper covered wire, provided for use by the group on the course.

## Available from the Shop:

Sketchbooks, and drawing materials  
A range of brushes – #0 to 2" brushes  
Pencils, rulers, erasers  
Craft knife

**Please bring any of the materials on page 2, if you have them, and in addition:**

Sharp scissors, if possible

Apron, or overall

Sketchbook and drawing materials, may be useful

Any paint brushes you have

Camera to record work, if you wish

**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.