

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE08522: WOOD ENGRAVING

Tutor: CHRIS DAUNT

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Wood engraving is a relief printing medium executed on the end grain of a hard closely grained wood – usually boxwood. With graver, spitsticker and scorper, white lines are engraved into the blackened surface of the uncut block, bringing light and texture of great richness and variety to the design drawn on it. Although lino cuts and wood engravings share the same graphic approach, each medium produces its own inimitable result. Wood engraving can express the finest detail and the greater variety of texture on a smaller scale. It is essentially a drawing based discipline, and is the foundation of this art form.

During the course you will learn how to identify the various tools and materials for your wood engraving and appreciate their purpose; learn how to transfer a drawing onto the end grain block; carry out cutting exercises with the various tools on a sampler block; engrave your prepared drawing* onto an end grain block and refine your design; take a print from your block using the burnishing technique; take a print from the block using the Albion press; evaluate and reflect on the whole process.

**(It is important to come to the workshop with drawings and reference material for wood engraving. In order not to use up valuable course time deliberating, much can be done in advance of the course.)*

You will be working on engraving blocks measuring 10cm x 7.5cm (roughly 3" x 4"). This is a good size to tackle on this short course and most participants end up with a fully finished wood engraving at the end of the course. Choose a subject that interests you and bring drawings, photographs etc as reference material. The drawings need not be reduced to size right away, but it would help if you designed the image according to the proportions of the block size. Images can be reduced on the photocopier. Bear in mind that wood engraving is an unforgiving medium in that mistakes can't be corrected, so the more preparation given to the preliminary drawing the better. Do remember that engraving works from black to white, so that whatever you don't engrave will remain black. It's the opposite of the drawing process. No previous experience of wood engraving is required for this course, preparation is.

We will print the finished blocks using the presses at West Dean, as well as a simple and effective method of printing with a burnisher. You will take with you any experiments, revised designs, engraved block(s) and prints.

If you would like to look at a representative range of contemporary wood engravings go to:
<http://www.woodengravers.co.uk/gallery.html>

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:

Chris Daunt studied fine art at Newcastle and makes his living principally as an illustrator, specialising in wood engraving, wood and linocut. He is a member of the Society of Wood Engravers, teaches and makes traditional end grain wood engraving blocks for other wood engravers.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 15 February

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 – attendance is an essential part of the course. We go to the studio where the tutor will give a talk with examples of wood engravings which he will hand out for viewing. The tools are discussed, demonstrated and issued, along with practice blocks and some engraving is started.

Other days: Saturday 16 February

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 available until 10pm

Departure day: Sunday 17 February

(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:

Please bring a sketch book, tools if you have some already. Blocks will be 7.5cm x 10cm so try and work out one or two designs in advance with these proportions in mind. Even if your idea is not fully resolved, it is important to come to the course with designs that you think will work.

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:

Black ink

Additional Charge:

ENGRAVING BLOCKS: The price for blocks is £20. This is for a lemonwood block measuring 7.5cm x 10cm, and a practice block for the preliminary exercises. I will bring additional blocks of varying sizes and woods, which will also be for sale.

Materials are available for the process of wood engraving, but do bring along your favourite drawing materials.

Available from the Shop:

Tools: some tools are for sale in the College shop, but all tools are available on loan from the College and students are strongly advised **not** to buy any tools before the course

Paper

Fine watercolour brushes

Pencils

Sketchbooks

Small jar of white poster paint

Tracedown transfer paper (white)

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

Several worked-out designs

Tools if you already have them (students are strongly advised **not** to buy tools before the course)

Apron or old shirt (*if you are at all a messy worker*)

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.