

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S5D08478: SIMPLE AUTOMATA

Tutor: ROBERT RACE

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 27 JANUARY – FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

In the first session we will look at a few very simple ways of producing movement. This is illustrated by the tutor's collection of moving toys from around the world that exploit the properties of a variety of materials and use a range of simple mechanisms to produce movement. There will also be a chance to see some simple automata, principally in wood, and including the tutor's own work in driftwood and a range of books on automata and moving toys.

Over the five days, students first make a balancing toy, as an introduction to the materials and tools available. They are then encouraged to develop their own design for a simple automaton. The tutor's collection of automata is all available again on the following evenings when students have an opportunity to discuss their progress and plans, if required. The aim is to complete this project around lunchtime on the last day, leaving time for a group review and discussion of possible developments and improvements.

Students work with wood, plus a range of additional materials such as wire, string, plastic, etc. There is an emphasis on reclaimed and recycled materials, including driftwood, although this will be provided, students are welcome to bring their own contributions of interesting materials. The woodworking skills needed are pretty basic, but include the use of a fretsaw/scroll saw and a bench/pillar drill.

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 practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Robert Race, an established maker of automata and simple wooden toys, is an active member of the British Toymakers Guild. He exhibits his work widely.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 27 January

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.

Other days: Monday 28 to Thursday 31 January

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 – the workshop is open until 10pm

Departure day: Friday 1 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

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:

A range of materials supplied by the tutor and used by the group as a whole.

Available from the tutor:

Plywood

Driftwood

Dowel

Wire

Soft and hardwood scraps

A wide range of fixings, fastenings, findings, adhesives, acrylic paint etc.

Metal rod

Please bring the following items:

Notebook/sketchbook and pencil

Any small bits of driftwood or other interesting scraps of material you wish to incorporate

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.