

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW08485: CHAIR SEATING WITH CANE, RUSH, WILLOW OR CORD

Tutor: MARY BUTCHER

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 31 JANUARY – SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Traditional chair seating, with either cane, rush, willow or cord, will be taught depending on projects brought. It is preferable that you bring your own chairs, but if this is not possible, stools for rushing and small practice frames for caning may be purchased at West Dean, provided these are pre-ordered and the tutor is informed two weeks in advance.

The course aims to give a good grounding in whichever seating technique the student chooses, to explain the stages of this work and the methods of preparing and handling the materials. Beginners may complete one rush dining chair **or** complete or partially complete one caned bedroom chair during the course **or** may reach a stage where they can easily finish at home. You will be given demonstrations and instructions for the final techniques if necessary.

CANING: The six-way standard method of caning will be taught unless a student prefers to learn another pattern, for the purpose of matching with a set etc. As time permits, other patterns can be practised on sample frames, if desired.

RUSHING: Rush will be used to give the traditional English rush chair seat pattern unless the chair has been worked previously in another way. Continental patterns may be woven if appropriate.

OTHER SEATS: Danish Cord, Seagrass or willow can be used for seating **provided that the tutor is contacted beforehand.**

If you are bringing chairs to work on it is **essential** that the chair structure is in sound condition and you **do the necessary preparatory work** before the course – see **REQUIRED PREPARATION** on the next page. The tutor's contact details are given overleaf, should you need to contact her.

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:

Mary Butcher is a basketmaker, exhibition curator, writer and teacher. She held a prestigious crafts residency at the V&A's Sackler Centre in 2009. Recent exhibitions include 'This Beloved Earth', The Barony, West Kilbride, Scotland and 'Re-Making the Past' a exhibition based on research into Bronze Age Creativity with the final venue from February 2016 in North Lincolnshire. She received an MBE for services to basketmaking in 2012 and one of two Crafts Skills Champions Awards in 2013.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Thursday 31 January

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| 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: Friday 1 and Saturday 2 February

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| 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 until 10pm, discuss with tutor as sessions are untutored |

Departure day: Sunday 3 February

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

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| 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:

IF YOU ARE BRINGING YOUR OWN CHAIRS, the chair frame should be repaired, polished or painted before coming to the course, as this cannot be done easily after the cane or rush is woven in.

For caning The old cane should be cleared from the frames by cutting the cane strands underneath, and knocking out the pegs from the underside. If it is found that some pegs have been glued in, they should be drilled out with a small hand drill, taking great care not to damage the wood. The old caning should be preserved as far as possible and brought to the course.

For rush seats The old seat should be cut off carefully and brought to the class, in case it is an unusual pattern which is to be replaced. This should be done by cutting down just inside the seat frame and easing the seat downwards. This may reveal necessary repair to the frame.

To ensure the smooth running of the course, please contact the tutor as soon as possible if you have any queries AND to let her know which **materials you require so these can be ordered**. Her contact details are:

Mary Butcher Tel: 01227 766427 e-mail: marybutcherbaskets@gmail.com

Contact the College Shop if you wish to order a stool for rushing or practice frame for caning, at least two weeks in advance – they can also advise the cost. Tel 01243 818231

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:

Included in the course fee is the cost of rush or cane required to seat one standard chair. If further/large projects are undertaken more will be charged for materials.

PLEASE BRING as many of the following as you have available: (*on sale at the College Shop)

Cane chair seating

Chair for caning

Stanley/similar **sharp** craft knife with a narrow blade, or a good penknife

Mallet or small hammer

Sponge/small piece of towelling

Notebook and pencil

Pair of scissors for cutting cane

A clearer* (*if possible*), i.e. punch with diameter smaller than the holes drilled in the chair (*can be made by sawing off the end of a screwdriver or 3" nail*)

Small stool (*optional*) for student's comfort whilst working

A cushion

Spectacles (*if worn*)

Rush seating

Chair for re-seating

An old flannelette blanket/old bedspread/piece of sacking of a similar size, for wrapping up damp rushes

Scissors for cutting rush

J-cloth/piece of rag

Small stool (*optional*) for student's comfort whilst working

Small ball of soft string

A cushion

1 or 2 spring clothes pegs

Stuffing stick, wooden spoon or wooden kitchen spatula

Please wear covered footwear in the workshop – this is an essential health and safety requirement.

N.B. Tools may also be borrowed from the tutor. Standard cane and rush is available at the College.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.