

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE08556: WOODCARVING FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor: ALEX JONES

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 1 MARCH – SUNDAY 3 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

The course aims to provide a starting point to develop enthusiasm for the techniques and skills needed for woodcarving.

The tutor aims to encourage and direct you to use your talents effectively and, as in his own work, to develop closeness with the subject and working process using simple tools and the natural qualities of wood: understanding its limitations, pushing to the limits and testing skills.

In order to develop your skills and confidence the tutor presents a small-scale simple carving exercise which involves 'recreating' in wood a small natural form, leaf, snail shell, flower. Then he will guide you to find or create your own design for a relief carving – in the most economical way, both in terms of labour, planning and materials. The tutor will give technical information and practical instruction, alongside guidance to allow you to develop your own approach to the subject.

This carving process will entail:

- Initial removal of excess wood (roughing out) and gaining confidence in the use of the gouge.
- Developing the form using gouge and flat chisel.
- Detailing the work with the use of various small gouges and the use of punches to create texture and surface detail.
- Surface treatment, sealing, oiling, polishing, considering appropriate finish for various surfaces.

You can expect to complete a piece of work in the time available, and to leave with an understanding on how to approach your next project.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject.

Please note that carving is a physical process and requires standing for much of the time.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Alex Jones learnt his craft at City & Guilds Art College and in a traditional studio before concentrating on commissions. His work can be seen at Durrell Wildlife Park, Jersey and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall. He has many pieces in private collections worldwide and has appeared on the *BBC's Spring Watch* and as a featured artist on the TV programme *Flog it!* His work is driven by the influence fine wood carving and scale can have on a subject. Ugly can become beautiful and common, exotic.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 1 March

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

Arrival day continued: Friday 1 March

8.00pm – 9.00pm **First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course.**
During this time we will look at choice of timber that is appropriate to specific needs; which wood should be used for a particular job; considering its durability, texture; seasoning and drying; buying ready prepared; collecting, preparing and seasoning your own; and the essential tools and sharpening equipment, the use and care of them.

Other days: Saturday 2 March

9.15am Morning classes start
10.30am Coffee
11.00 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: Students may work on in the workshop, untutored, during the evening until 10pm, on aspects of their work discussed in advance with the tutor.

Departure day: Sunday 3 March

(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 source material, drawings or photographs, of a natural object you would like to carve.

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 cost of a piece of lime wood supplied for your carving is included in the course fee.

Available from the Shop:

Additional lime wood
Pencils
Paper and tracing paper

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

Clothing and sturdy covered footwear suitable for the workshop (*open sandals must not be worn in the workshop*)

Ideas/designs developed from natural forms suitable to carve in relief

Please Note: The College provides carving tools for the course but students may bring any carving tools they already have (*please mark any tools you bring to the course*).

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.

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