

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW08439: BRAIDED BASKETS INSPIRED BY THE SPANISH TRADITION

Tutor: TIM JOHNSON

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 10 JANUARY – SUNDAY 13 JANUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

In Spain and North Africa palm and esparto grass are commonly woven into long lengths of braid and stitched together to make a wide variety of functional items. In this workshop you will learn a variety of braids using esparto and rush and the special 'invisible stitching' technique that seamlessly interlocks the braid selvages to make functional baskets and mats of your own design. The course is suitable for beginners and those with some experience.

Tim Johnson is an English artist and basketmaker based in Catalonia, Spain. Over recent years Tim has researched and practised the variety of braid patterns commonly used in Spanish and North African palm and esparto grass baskets and how these traditions differs to the similar but distinct British rush braiding tradition.

Starting with a close look at some traditional Spanish and Moroccan baskets from Tim's collection, you will learn how to analyse and understand braided and stitched baskets. Traditionally these baskets were used for all kinds of domestic and agricultural uses from donkey paniers to olive pressing mats, sunhats to cheese moulds. The diversity of the tradition indicates the great adaptability of the techniques.

Using widely available rushes and Spanish beaten esparto grass you will learn how to make 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 strand braids of different patterns and variations and then go on to sew the braids edge to edge with the special 'invisible stitch' technique creating a seamless fabric with interlocking braid selvages. Once you have made a variety of samples and learnt round, oval and rectangular beginnings, you will be able to create bags, baskets and mats of your own design.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Artist and basketmaker Tim Johnson has exhibited and taken part in residencies throughout the UK and internationally over the last 20 years including projects in Australia, Denmark, Spain, Newfoundland, Ireland, the USA and Uzbekistan. Originally from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Tim has lived in various parts of England and Ireland and is currently based in the north-east of Spain just outside Barcelona. He is an experienced tutor and has been awarded the prestigious Marsh Award for Excellence in Gallery Education and several awards for his baskets in Spain and Poland. He combines a deep respect for traditional basketmaking techniques with his own innovations and enjoys using a wide variety of materials and techniques gleaned from his travels, research and his own creative practice. Tim's work may be seen on his website here: www.timjohnsonartist.com

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Thursday 10 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 11 and Saturday 12 January

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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: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored. |

Departure day: Sunday 13 January

(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:

None.

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:

Rush, esparto grass and Spanish hemp string supplied for the course. If you use a large amount an additional charge may be payable.

Available from the Shop:

Scissors
Notebook

Available from the tutor:

Appropriate needles

Please bring the following:

Scissors
A water sprayer
Cloth to keep your work damp
Notebook, and camera to record work in progress
Stout covered footwear to wear while in the workshop

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.