

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

4D5893 AN INTRODUCTION TO MOKUME GANE

Tutor: ALISTAIR MCCALLUM

Dates: 4 DAYS SUNDAY 31 JANUARY – THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

An introduction to the Japanese metal working technique of Mokume Gane (wood grain metal). This practical four day course is designed to cover the basics of this technique using equipment normally found in a silversmithing/jewellery workshop. It includes the preparation, soldering and production of a sandwich of different materials, the design and development of pattern and how to finish and finally patinate the piece.

I would expect that everyone would complete a sample sheet of patterned Mokume Gane, some may achieve more and part make or finish a sample piece. This will depend to some extent on the amount of technical knowledge and experience of the student.

The metals used are combinations of silver, copper, and gilding metal. The process involves flattening, filing and preparing the sheets which are hard silver soldered together. This process is then repeated to produce the laminated sheet ready to be patterned. The pattern can be produced in a number of ways that could involve drilling, punching, filing, chiselling and twisting.

A demonstration is given on how to prepare and solder the different metals together followed by individual tutorials. On the final day there is a group discussion to share the knowledge and experiences gained during the course.

Day 1: Workshop demonstration
Day 2: Workshop
Day 3: Workshop
Day 4: Workshop group discussion

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Alistair McCallum trained at Loughborough and the Royal College of Art and teaches and exhibits work worldwide. He has practised the metalworking technique of Mokume Gane for over 35 years.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 31 January

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
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. An introduction to the technique with slides to inform the group of the history and my personal approach and development of the process. I also bring some samples for discussion.

Other days: Monday 1 February – Wednesday 3 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
7.00pm	Dinner
8.15pm	Evening working – the workshop is open until 10pm

Departure day: Thursday 4 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
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

Please bring along some basic design source material from which to develop pattern ideas, this would include anything that inspires you from, for example, the natural world, graphic or fine arts sources, photographs, drawings or sketchbooks.

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.

Additional Charge:

The tutor will supply the basic materials for this course which will include silver, copper, gilding metal and hard silver solder. The cost per student will depend to some extent on the combinations of metals and scale of the work and will be £45 – £120. This charge should be paid to the **tutor** before the end of the course, by cash or cheque.

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

Tools needed:

Six-inch case file

Jeweller's snips or wire cutters

Parallel pliers

Planishing hammer

Steel rule and scribe

Piercing saw and blades

And any hand tools you feel you may need

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.