

COURSE DETAILS – 3 DAYS/LONG WEEKEND LW0029

TITLE: SMALL STONE CARVINGS IN ALABASTER AND SOAPSTONE

TUTOR: PAULA HAUGHNEY

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

GENERAL CONTENT OF COURSE:

This course is for complete beginners, for people who feel physically unable to tackle a large sculpture, or those who would just like to work small. It is an introduction to the properties of stone and to creating three-dimensional objects.

On the first evening, a short slide show is given and then work begins on a very small piece of stone or a piece of soap.

Books and pictures illustrating Inuit, Japanese and Chinese sculptures are available to inspire.

Working with soft stones, soapstone and alabaster, a small sculpture up to 15 cm high is formed using rifflers and rasps. There is some carving with a mallet and chisel. It is then smoothed, oiled and waxed. By the end of the course the students are able to finish one or more small sculptures.

Look for ideas and inspiration – pictures that interest, figurative, animals, abstract – but keep in mind it has to be simple: solid, rounded shapes are best for beginners. The stone often suggests shapes and it is easier to adjust the idea than the stone. There is a selection of small pieces cut ready for use and advice is given on the qualities of the different stones.

Carving is a dusty activity but can be done sitting down. Tools are provided by the College. Advice on protective clothing is given by the tutor and some items and equipment may be borrowed from the College 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. **Eye protection and face masks are essential. These are supplied in the workshop. Your tutor will advise you.**

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

Stone: A variety of stone will be available and can be bought through the College Shop. Prices depend on the weight and are currently around £2 – £3 per kilo (£1.50 per lb). For example, a piece of Ancaster stone 12" x 12" x 12" (50kg) @ £2.70 per kilo would cost £135 at today's prices. (These prices may have to change without notice if subsequent deliveries are obtained at higher prices.) Most pieces of soapstone average out about £5.

These items will be available for purchase in the College Shop:

Sketchbooks	Drawing materials
Coloured chalks	Wet and dry paper, various grades
Rubber	Pencils, 6B and china graph
Plasticine	

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

Ruler or straight edge	Old clothes and spare shoes (<i>not sandals</i>) to work in
Hand brush (<i>softish</i>)	Hat or scarf
Hand cream	Pair of gloves

COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm 7.00 8.15–9.15	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner. Dinner. First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am 10.30 12.45pm 2.00pm 3.30 5.00 7.00 8.15	Morning classes. Coffee. Lunch. Afternoon classes. Tea. Classes finish. Dinner. Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am 3.00pm 3.30	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms. Classes finish. Tea then departure.