

Cornerstone Creations, LLC

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Fundamentals of Carving: July 16-20, 2012

This class will cover the basics of woodcarving based on traditional European techniques. I have worked with several master carvers from around the world, and love the process of using only mallets and gouges to achieve a crisp, beautiful design.

We will start with learning about the process of sharpening the chisels to a razor sharp edge using the techniques that have been used for centuries.

The first project will be a relief carving of a floral design. We will learn the processes of clamping the carving to the bench, proper ways of holding the chisels, how to carve the background down, and how to carve the details in the floral decoration.

The second project will be a more decorative relief carving of an acanthus leaf. We will cover the history, design, layout, and carving process of this popular historic design.

The third project will be a classical scallop shell.

Throughout the class, I will do demonstrations on such things as carving linen fold, letters, basket weave, egg & dart molding, etc.

Tools and materials:

Pencil

Carbon paper (I will bring extra of this)

Wooden or metal mallet (about 1 to 1.5 lb.)

5 or 6 mm v-chisel

#1, 14mm (flat chisel – bench chisels will work also)

#3, 3mm

#3, 6mm

#3, 20mm

#4, 12mm

#5, 14mm

#7, 14mm

#8, 10mm

#11, 3mm

I would recommend buying fishtails if you can, however they are more expensive than regular gouges. Either type will work fine.

NOTE: If you have other gouges not listed above, bring them all!

NOTE: If you have done any carving before this class, please bring samples of your work.

Sharpening materials (NOTE: We will have extras of the following for student use):

sharpening stones - any very smooth stones you have – Hard Arkansas,

ceramic, Japanese water stones, diamond stones (1200 to 8000 grit),

oil or water for lubricating stones

slip stones (small shaped stones that fit inside curved gouges)

leather strops