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Beauty in the Wind: Principles of Movement

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CLASS SYLLABUS

DAY 1: INTRODUCTION

I. Presentation of principles of movement

A. Cottonwood bark demonstration of:

1. Typhoon burr
2. Effective uses of cabinet maker's pattern rasp
3. Establishing, directing, and rotating a plane
4. Use of second cut file
5. Use of $\frac{3}{4}$ " sanding drum

Student cottonwood bark exercise - Students will implement the above techniques in cottonwood. (time: 15-30 minutes)

B. Projects assigned.

C. Wood distributed.

- LUNCH -

II. Presentation on recognizing the potentials of found wood.

A. Design Process - Determining:

1. Inherent lines and planes
2. Masses
3. Potential negative spaces
4. Orientation and balance point
5. Which way does it flow?
6. Which grain to keep or remove

B. The 5 Big Questions pertaining to lines, planes, and forms.

1. Where does it start?
2. Where does it end?
3. What does it do?
4. What is its profile?
5. How can I make it more valuable?

C. Learning the Tools (demonstration)

This is for power carvers who want to give gouge and mallet a try and for hand tool carvers who want to learn power.

This will be demonstrated on a single plane on a student project.

DAY 2

I. Refreshing on principles of movement illustrated by photos of Chris' work.

II. Demonstration - rotating a plane thru a negative space.

III. Application of principles of movement.

Chalk lines will be drawn on each project to aid in seeing the main lines and planes of the wood.

IV. Establishing the primary planes through gouge and mallet or typhoon burrs.

DAY 3

I. Wood removal and shaping of sculpture.

II. Simplifying your design.

III. Employing a plane to do your work.

IV. Rotating and merging of planes.

V. Maintaining balance (insertions).

DAY 4

I. Preparing a plane for sanding.

- A. Rasp and file
- B. Sanding drum
- C. Hand sanding (150 grit)

II. Hand sanding Demonstration (start to finish).

- A. Thumb technique
- B. Sanding steps
- C. Polishing
- D. Applying an oil finish

III. Students will sand a small area (2-3" square) from start to completion (II. A-D)

IV. Resume shaping and smoothing planes with rasp or file.

DAY 5: Finishing up your sculpture

I. Repairs

- A. Breaks
- B. Blemishes
- C. Bore damage

II. Mounting

- A. Square pins (tubes)
- B. Rounds pins (brass rods)

*There are lots of little tricks of the trade learned over years of challenges. These are dispersed throughout the course. **One of my main objectives** is to give the students a conscious awareness of how lines are directing your eyes and how to direct lines to all flow together.*

Note from the Artist: There will be some students who get their abstract done by day three or four. They can then begin another more representational piece. The first sculpture may serve as a base for the second sculpture. (Subjects for the second sculpture are at the discretion of the instructor.) Anatomical concerns slow a person down, often to a dead stop. Principles of movement are best learned without anatomical concerns. However, if a student already has a firm grasp on a particular subject (ie: fish, bird, animal), then there is less of a learning curve and a greater confidence to remove wood and proceed forward. Any subject can be stylized by taking its anatomical landmarks and exaggerating or minimizing them. I believe a person needs a better grasp on a subject's anatomy to stylize it than to create it realistically.

You will come out of the class with a fluid polished hardwood sculpture. More importantly, you will hopefully have applied the principles of movement sufficient times and in sufficient variations to internalize them to the degree that you can apply them with your other woodworking skills and in other areas of your work. In other words, I trust each student will leave with new tools, design tools, perspective changes, and the ability to use and implement them.

TOOLS NEEDED:

Nicholson #49 or #50 cabinet maker's pattern rasp.

Foredom or some comparable flex shaft tool.

5/8" and 3/4" flame shape typhoon burr

3/4 straight gouge #5-7 sweep.

Mallet

If you have one: Angle grinder with 4" typhoon donut ring and/or 4" Arbotech blade.

Chris White