

COLORFUL ARTS & CRAFTS CARVINGS

WITH ROBERT W. LANG

September 26-27, 2020

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Thank you for signing up for my class at MASW. It promises to be an enjoyable weekend. For more information about the panels we will be carving, visit my website:

<https://readwatchdo.com/tag/carving/>

<https://readwatchdo.com/2015/08/down-the-byrdcliffe-carving-rabbit-hole-part-2/>

You will be carving your choice of panels. I will have patterns available in January and there will be a few more options for authentic Byrdcliffe designs than what is currently on my website. I will be providing patterns for all three, so you can decide which one ahead of time, or in class. This is a "bring your own wood" class, so you will need a piece of 3/4" thick basswood, about 6" wide x 14" long. I can provide a suitable piece of basswood, watercolor pencils for coloring and a brush for a reasonable fee. Contact me for more details and to get the available patterns.

This carving is relatively simple, and is a good introduction to relief carving and a distinctive way to add color to wood carvings. You'll need to provide your own carving gouges, but you only need a few. Here are my suggestions, from a couple of sources. I'm not picky about brands, but as it is with anything else, you get what you pay for so it makes sense to buy good tools. Lee Valley sells Hirsch, Tools for Working Wood sells Ashley Iles, and WoodCraft sells Pfiel. All of these brands are good, and about the same price.

Most places like to sell tools in sets, and if you continue in carving you will eventually find a use for all the tools in a set. Carving tools are numbered, with the number representing how much of a curve the tool has. This is called the "sweep" of the tool. A number 1 is flat and a number 9 is nearly a semicircle. Most sets contain both small and large sweeps. The width of a carving gouge is usually expressed in millimeters, so a number 3, 10mm tool will be about 3/8" wide, with a shallow arc. If you have a set bring them. If you're buying new you can likely find a set with most of the tools on this list, but you may need to get a couple additional tools, and a few from the set will go unused in class.

For this class you should have at least these tools:

- V-Parting Tool-
 - V-tools are available in both 45, 60 and 90 degree versions. I prefer the 60 degree but other angles will do fine in this project. Size should be in the middle of the available range, 1/4" to 1/2" wide (6mm to 12mm)
- #3 Sweep Gouges
 - #3 gouges have a gentle curve, suitable for most of the surfaces in this panel. You should have two or more, ranging in size from 3/8" (10mm) wide to 5/8" (15mm) wide. The smaller size should be "fishtail" shape to help you get into corners.
- #5 Sweep gouge
 - This will be used for cutting arcs in the outline, 1/2" wide (13mm)
- #7 Sweep gouge
 - Similar use as the #5 above. Width isn't critical, anywhere from 3/8" (10mm) to 3/4" (19mm) will be fine
- #1 Flat chisel
 - Flat carving chisels are beveled on both sides, width between 1/2" (13mm) and 3/4" (19mm) will be fine
- Large shallow gouge
 - This will be used for leveling off the background, and can be a #2 or #3, 5/8" (15mm) or wider.

I will have many different types and sizes of chisels at the class, along with stones and strops to get and keep them sharp. Don't worry if you don't have all the tools on the list, we will find something that will work. You shouldn't need a mallet, but it's okay if you bring one along.

If you have any questions about the class, feel free to e-mail me at: boblang@cinci.rr.com

If you must call instead of e-mailing, my number is 513-509-3894. You may have to leave a voice mail, but I will call you back.

During this two-day class we will

- Begin with a discussion of the history of Byrdcliffe and carved, colored panels.
- Then we'll move to transferring the patterns to the wood we'll carve.
- By mid-morning Saturday we will be starting to carve.
- After lunch on Saturday I will present a slide show of images from the original Iris Desk and other original Byrdcliffe pieces.
- Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning will be spent completing the carvings
- After lunch on Sunday we will color and finish the panels.