

Course Title	Portrait Sculpture Masterclass
Tutor	Ellen Christiansen
Day & time	Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am - 5.00pm
Dates	29/08/2017 - 01/09/2017
Course Code	SC1604036
Level	This class is suitable for those aged 17 or over. Intermediate to Advanced
Cost	£275



What is this course about?

Portrait sculpture is an immensely absorbing and enjoyable discovery with every new sitter. This course aims to build upon your previous experience [Intermediate/Advanced] to further how to observe and translate your observation into a clay portrait sculpture from a life model. Refresh, renew or find alternative ways of looking through group and individual discussion with your experienced tutor, Ellen Christiansen, winner of Talos Award with Society of Portrait Sculptors and winner of the 2014/15 Founders' Sculpture Prize. Setting out a head from a structural point of view with a clear path of constructive method of approach, you will benefit from exploring with a professional sculptor to help

build upon your own sculptural progression.

Studying the human head is a doorway to a world of exciting sculptural possibilities. Ellen employs a measuring technique used for scaling up (and down) and in stone carving. Looking at the head through this technique, preconceived notions are challenged and one begins to develop a heightened awareness of structure, form and symmetry.

In addition to guiding each student individually, Ellen will also be demonstrating how she uses this 'box measuring' technique by working on her own portrait over the 4 days.

There will be the option to leave your finished sculpture for hollowing and firing for an additional cost [see below].

What topics do we cover?

- Measuring
- Observation
- Structure

By the end of this course you will:

- Appreciate the complexity of the head in terms of form and features
- Understand how to examine the head from all angles
- Use drawing and photography to assist the sculptural process
- Use an armature (bust-peg)
- Use a measurement system throughout the process
- Build up a life-size portrait head in clay using fingers as well as tools

About your tutor

Ellen Christiansen studied Sculpture at Camberwell Art School under Brian Taylor FRBS and continued to study and work with him after obtaining her Degree. She had the unique experience of working in his studio throughout 2011. During this time she made a life size sculpture of his dog Lily and worked on portraits of his 2 sons. She is based in London and is currently working on a series of life size figures inspired by his great unfinished work 'The Death Cart' which was intended to be a memorial to the holocaust.

<http://www.ellenchristiansen.co.uk/>

What level is the course and do I need any particular skills

Intermediate and Advanced. You will have experience in portrait sculpture and working from a model. Please get in touch with the office if you would like a discussion on this.

How will I be taught, and what feedback and support will I get?

Your experienced tutor will support you throughout the course in both group sessions and one-to-one support providing daily feedback, critique and constructive advice. Each course ends in a final round up session and should you wish for any specific feedback or support, please speak with your tutor at the start of your course.

When I've finished, what course can I do next?

There are a variety of courses available as short courses over the Easter and the Summer holidays, also a wide range of weekend and evening classes.

If you have more time available, huge development can be made in your practice by attending one of our part time day classes in drawing and painting, or our certificate and diploma programmes. Please see all the options available on our web site.

What else should I bring each lesson?

You should bring as much from the below lists as possible. In some cases we can provide selected equipment:

- Wooden clay modeling tools
- Callipers for measuring (medium-sized)
- Metal tape measure
- Wire cutter
- Water spray bottle
- Masking tape
- Black bin liner
- Drawing implement (pencil, pen, or charcoal)
- Sketchpad / loose leaf paper
- Apron or old clothing
- Camera for documenting your progress

Are there any other costs?

Hollowing and Firing

At the end of the course students are given the option to leave their sculptures for hollowing and firing. There is a charge of £20 for hollowing and £20 for firing. Hollowing is necessary before a piece can be fired and the piece should normally be ready for collection about 6-8 weeks after the course ends. This is payable by cash or cheque only before leaving the course. A form will need to be completed. There is a cashpoint nearby at Sainsbury's.

Students wishing to take their sculpture away must bring their own bust peg please. The Art Academy provides bust pegs for the course which cannot be taken away as these are needed for future courses. There will not be an option to purchase these. You would need to decide how you are going to take your sculpture home (if you are not leaving for hollowing and firing). The best way is to carry in the boot of a car with ballast to weigh-down the base (bags of clay are ideal) or on the backseat with a pillow between the sculpture and car seat.

Daily breakdown

Courses at the Art Academy offer a structured approach to ensure specific subjects, skills and methods are covered. Below is a breakdown of what will be covered. Bear in mind that these classes will move with the pace of the class so a degree of flexibility of what will be covered on which day will be employed.

Day	Dates	Topic/skills covered	Location	What to bring	Model
1	29th Aug	<p>Introductory talk & instruction on how to measure.</p> <p>Blocking-in the head</p> <p>Looking for the drama of the form & identifying the main characteristics of the sitter.</p> <p>Establish symmetry</p> <p>Discuss option to have work hollowed and fired by The Art Academy after the course - Fees apply £20 hollow, £20 firing - total £40.</p>	Studio 1	<p>Bust-pegs are provided [please bring your own if you wish to take it away at the end of the course if not leaving for hollowing and firing at The Art Academy].</p> <p>Ellen encourages students to bring their own bust-pegs as this will give the student a lot more options for the work.</p> <p>See also list above</p>	Model A
2	30th Aug	<p>Continue blocking-in and establish the position of the shoulders</p> <p>Continue learning how to employ box measurements to establish major planes of the head, maintaining symmetry & finding the dramatic thrusts and rhythms in the head</p>	Studio 1	See list above	Model A
3	31st Aug	<p>Become more aware of & try to establish the many profiles running around the form particularly the 3 quarter views with a view to enhancing the exciting architecture of the form. Photograph the work to gain objectivity.</p>	Studio 1	See list above	Model A
4	1st Sep	<p>Continue to ask questions of the form. Continue to look for information from the model. Resist the temptation to 'finish' the work!</p>	Studio 1	See list above	Model A

Resources & Further Reading

Possible sculptors to research: Rodin, Brian Taylor, Jules Dalou, Nicola Hicks, Laurence Edwards, Michelangelo, Degas, Greek and Roman portraiture

Look at the Society of Portrait Sculptors website <http://www.portrait-sculpture.org/> for members' sculpture, its Annual Open exhibition entry with the Tiranti prize for young sculptors (under 30's) and its Annual Lecture.

Look at the Royal British Society of Sculptors website www.rbs.org.uk

Welcome to The Art Academy

We are looking forward to welcoming you to The Art Academy and wish you the very best for your course. To help ensure you are fully prepared and make the best of your time with us you will find lots of information in this pack that will help. If at any time you would like to speak to a member of the team please feel free to contact us using the details below.

We value feedback on all of our courses so please keep us posted on your progress.

Who can I contact for further information?

General information and advice on courses at The Art Academy is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

Tel: +44 (0)20 7407 6969

Email: info@artacademy.org.uk

Location

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations. Please follow signs for Borough High Street to exit. Please [click here](#) for a map.

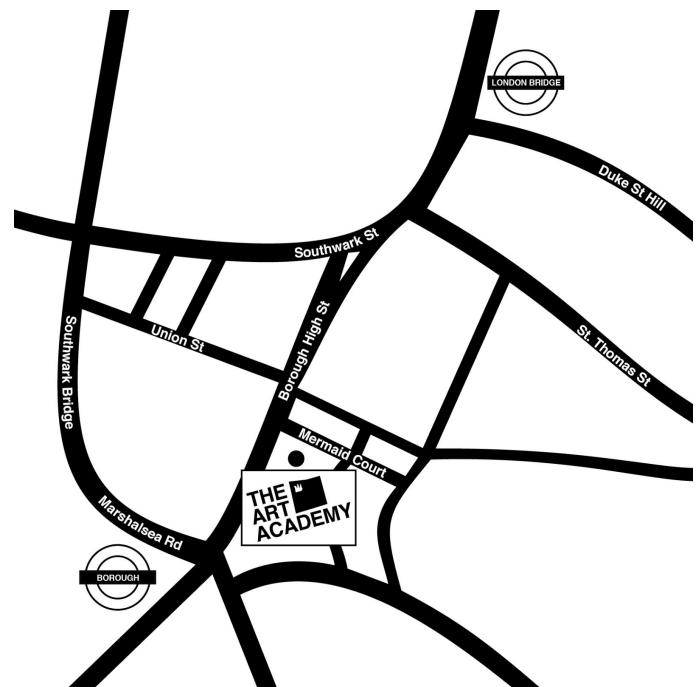
Just moments walk from the Thames; The Art Academy is also ideally located for access to:
White Cube
Tate Modern
Jerwood Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.

Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common room located in the Barn, on the ground floor of the Mermaid Court building. Here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world famous Borough Food Market. Should you have any access requirements please speak to a member of the Academy team before booking.



Further Details

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- Ensure that you wear old clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course or it will be disposed of.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them.