



Course Title	Portrait Sculpture Masterclass
Tutor	Hazel Reeves MRBS SWA FRSA
Day & time	Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm
Dates	14-18 August 2017
Course Code	SC1604053
Level	Intermediate to Advanced - not suitable for beginners. Students must be aged 17 or over
Cost	£340



*'Adam' by Hazel Reeves*

### **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 tutor, Hazel Reeves MRBS SWA FRSA, who is a Member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors, on the Council of the Society of Women Artists and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Whether setting out a portrait head from a structural point of view with a clear path of constructive method and/or searching for a more expressive manner of approach, you will benefit from exploring with a professional sculptor to help build upon your own sculptural experience.

Hazel will take you through the tried-and-tested method she uses to set up a life-size portrait for a commission. This approach ensures the portrait is structurally-sound before moving-on to working on the detail of features. A likeness will slowly emerge over the five days.

There will be the option to leave your finished sculpture for hollowing and firing for an additional fee.

### **What topics do we cover?**

This course will explore how to observe heads – how to see their differences and similarities, and in turn learn how to translate this understanding into a sculpture which captures the essence of the sitter. More specifically we will cover how to:

- Set-up a life-size portrait on a wooden bust-peg
- Use a basic measurement system
- Understand the structure of the skull and its importance to achieving a convincing portrait
- Examine the model's head - and your portrait - from all angles at all stages of the portrait, from setting-up the structure, to working on the detail of features at the end - and applying the clay to accurately reflect what you are seeing
- Use techniques to assist moving the sculpture towards a likeness and thus assist 'problem-solving' at all stages.

**By the end of this course you will have:**

- Built-up one quick sub-life size portrait (note: this will not be saved)
- Built-up one life-size portrait head in clay using fingers as well as tools
- Developed an appreciation of the complexity of the head in terms of form and features
- Gained confidence in using a basic measurement system to set up the form of the head and used drawing to assist the sculptural process

**About your tutor**

Hazel Reeves is a specialist portrait sculptor working to commission. Curiosity in people, their faces and their stories form the heart of her artistic practice. For her a sculptural response has to move beyond a direct replication. Her work is grounded in the richness of the relationships she develops through the sculpting journey – whether it be a relationship built from researching an historical figure or with the day-to-day interactions with models, sitters, clients, co-artists or the public engaged in the process. This is somehow invested in the clay modelling, to reveal more than a likeness, and to produce sculptures with integrity and emotional currency.

Hazel has many awards to her name including from the Society of Portrait Sculptors and the Society of Women Artists (SWA). She is a Member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and is on the Council of the SWA, exhibiting her work at London galleries and across the South of England and Wales. Her 7ft 4 inch bronze of the eminent locomotive engineer Sir Nigel Gresley (1876-1941), the designer of the record-breaking steam locomotives *The Flying Scotsman* and *Mallard*, was unveiled on the new Western Concourse at King's Cross Station on the 5 April 2016.

Hazel's [website](#), [blog](#), [twitter](#) and [facebook](#) links  
 Society of Women Artists' [website](#)

**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?**

During the five days you will be sculpting a live sitter. Concentrated modeling will be interspersed with exercises - with clay and without - to help train up the eye and hands. 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 evening classes, such as creative sculpture, stone carving, ceramics, figure sculpture etc.

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.

<http://artacademy.org.uk/short-courses/>

<http://artacademy.org.uk/part-time/certificate>

<http://artacademy.org.uk/part-time/>

### **What else should I bring each lesson?**

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

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

**Note:** you will need to bring your own life-size bust-peg/armature if you wish to take away your work and are not leaving it to be hollowed out and fired.

### **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 daily 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	Date	Topic/skills covered	Location and Tutor	What to bring	Model
1	14 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Exercises with and without clay to become familiar with the model's head</li> <li>-Drawing from the model in preparation for setting up the sculpture</li> <li>-Preparing and using an armature/bust-peg</li> <li>-Applying clay to the armature</li> <li>-Sculpting a rapid under-size portrait, as a learning exercise (<i>note: this will not be saved</i>)</li> <li>-Photographing this portrait</li> </ul> <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 Hazel Reeves	<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>See also list above</p>	Model A
2	15 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Removing the clay from the armature used yesterday</li> <li>-Learning how to/where to set-up the clay on the armature</li> <li>-Taking basic measurements from the model</li> <li>-Building a flat profile in clay on the armature</li> <li>-Examining the skull in more detail</li> <li>-Starting to build-up in three dimensions</li> <li>-Learning how to look at the model and the sculpture in order to compare and plan the next steps</li> </ul>	Studio 1 Hazel Reeves	See list above	Model A
3	16 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continuation of modeling, focusing on structure and skull</li> <li>-One-to-one discussions of progress</li> <li>- Exercises to assist progress and/or loosening up</li> </ul>	Studio 1 Hazel Reeves	See list above	Model A
4	17 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continuation of modeling, finalising structure, locating features</li> <li>-One-to-one discussions of progress</li> </ul>	Studio 1 Hazel Reeves	See list above	Model A

		-Exercises to assist progress and/or loosening up			
5	18 Augl	-Continuation of modeling, focusing on features, hair, neck muscles, etc - Line-up of sculptures with model for photographs and final round of reflections  Hollowing out and firing procedure discussed  Select option to have work hollowed and fired by The Art Academy Fees apply £20 hollow, £20 firing - total £40.	Studio 1 Hazel Reeves	See list above  Sculpture can be left for hollowing and firing  If not, document with photos and dismantle clay from bust peg.  Sculptures can only be taken home if you have provided your own bust peg.	Model A

### Resources & Further Reading

Relevant artists for research: Michelangelo, Rysbrack, Roubiliac, Rodin, Claudel, Frink, Epstein, Messerschmidt, Dobson, Brancusi, Dora Gordine and other contemporary artists like Mark Quinn, Ron Mueck, Suzie Zamit, and Etienne Millner.

### Also recommended:

- The Society of Portrait Sculptors has a useful website ([www.portrait-sculpture.org](http://www.portrait-sculpture.org)) and a DVD that documents the techniques of four of the Society's senior members (Paul Fletcher, Neal French, Vlasta Prachaticka, and the late Brian Taylor). Note that Society's Annual Open exhibition includes the Tiranti prize for young sculptors (under 30s)
- The National Portrait Gallery (<http://www.npg.org.uk/>) has some very interesting portrait sculptures in its collection
- Look at the Royal British Society of Sculptors website [www.rbs.org.uk](http://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) 207407 6969

Email: [info@artacademy.org.uk](mailto: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

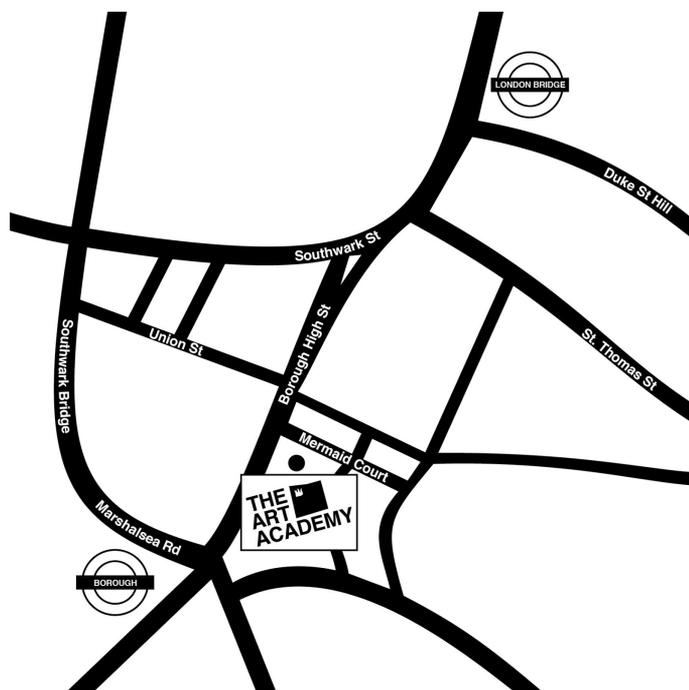
Jerwood Gallery

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.

Mermaid Court

165A Borough High Street

London SE1 1HR



## 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

- o 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.
- o Ensure that you wear old clothing, as you may get messy!
- o All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course.
- o Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- o Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.
- o If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them. Thank you for your co-operation, we look forward to seeing you on the first day of term.