

## **Wood and Stone Carving**

**Aim:** This course is aimed at beginners who would like to develop wood and stone-carving skills for use on a range of projects. Students will be introduced to the use of stone moulds, the use and care of key tools, as well as some of the key techniques which form the foundation for a stonemason's wood craft. This class allows the students to interpret and develop skills to carve the traditional wood craft.

### **Course Content**

#### **Unit -1: Planning:**

There are two basic approaches to carving. The first is to find wood and stone with a distinctive shape or color pattern that suggests sculptural forms. This approach frees the carver to follow the natural forms within the material. The qualities of the stone and wood itself become a major influence in determining the direction of the sculpture.

#### **Unit- 2: Lay Out:**

As in laying out a design for a wood carving, with stone students must also consider the direction of the grain to ensure the structural integrity of the parts of the carving. Try to keep the grain running with the length of the design, and avoid thin projections that protrude parallel to the grain.

Once students have determined the direction of the bed; check to see if there are any hair-line cracks in the stone that could open up and break off later during carving.

#### **Unit -3- Roughing out:**

The quickest way to remove a lot of stone from a block is with the pitching tool. To use this tool, students will have an idea about stone and wood having a flat surface and squared corners. They will be taught placing the pitching tool about 1 1/2" from the edge of the stone. Using this technique, begin defining the geometric planes of the large forms. Work all areas of the sculpture simultaneously so that the entire carving is always at the same stage of completion. In this manner you can make more accurate visual judgments about proceeding.

#### **Unit -4- Finishing:**

On the softer stones, rasps and rifflers are used for the final smoothing and shaping of the carving. The course teeth of a cabinet maker's rasp or round rasp when used in long sweeping strokes, produces graceful flowing forms. On harder stones and wood, a flat chisel is used to remove the ridges left by the tooth chisel.

## Unit -5 -Polishing:

Polishing brings out the beautiful color and pattern of a stone and wood. With the softer stones, continue hand sanding with the wet/ dry sand paper under running water. For stone Work through the grits (by roughly doubling the number of the last grit) from 150 grit to your desired degree of polish (somewhere between 600 to 3,000 grit).

### Suggest Assessment Scheme Assessment

1: <b>Planning:</b>	15% Assessment
2: <b>Lay Out:</b>	20% Assessment
3: <b>Digital Imaging</b>	25% Assessment
4: <b>Finishing:</b>	15% Assessment
5: <b>Polishing:</b>	25% Assessment

Reference Books: <https://workingtheflame.com/stone-carving-books/>

<https://tiranti.co.uk/product-category/books-videos/books-wood-stone-carving/>