

# Stephen Mackay

*Confident learners in the making...*

## Course Title

An introduction to the art of carving (Te toi whakairo)

## Course outline

Carving is an expression of our cultural identity. Learn how to master some of the basic techniques, tools and equipment of this art-form.

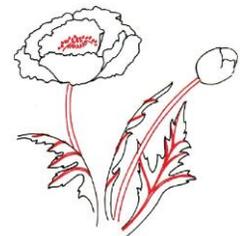


Come and develop another means to express yourself and how to translate drawings into a tangible form.

## Courses detail

This course is designed for the novice and is not a master class in carving. It is an opportunity for you to appreciate another means of self-expression safely.

You will be introduced to the techniques of low relief and sunk relief and will use both modern and traditional tools and techniques to shape material. Reference will be made to appropriate materials that can be used along with suitable finishing techniques.



The intention is that you will complete a simple piece of artwork within the set time period. Advice and notes on purchasing tools will be offered to those wishing to take this art-form further.

## Skills to be developed

All courses are designed to ensure that you achieve some level of mastery with minimal instruction and maximum hands-on experience. The success of these practical courses will be as a result of the full engagement of your physical senses along with your mind. Whichever course you undertake it will be an opportunity to expand your understanding of how you process instruction.

This particular course will offer you the opportunity to develop a broad range of personal (or soft skills) and in addition, specifically to,

- Develop a creative means of self-expression by learning about simple techniques in form,
- Rediscover or acquire fine motor skills in the use of a limited range of precision tools and equipment,
- Create a means for quieting the mind by focusing on minute practical detail.

You will also be invited to take part in the risk assessment for any process you are involved in, highlighting specific tools and equipment as appropriate.

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**Time frame**

Minimum 4 hours

**Course numbers**

Tuition is offered individually but small group sizes can be arranged. Ask for details.

**Photos/web link**

Take a look at the following [weblink](#) to see examples of what has been achieved by a wide range of children and adults. Note that carving is, by its very nature, a time consuming activity.

**Materials, background reading list, essential equipment required**

None except copies of artwork that you may have produced. Advice on this will be offered at the time of booking. Slabs of material will be provided to practice upon.

Please ensure clothing worn is not so precious that a little dust and dirt is a problem.

**Brief resume of tutor**

In the last twenty years I have developed a successful career in teaching, where I have led a number of initiatives in the special needs sector. I am a qualified, secondary trained, Design & Technology teacher. Much of my work is outdoors, constructing things that change the lives and the surroundings of my students. In 2012, I was recognised as one of New Zealand's 'Most Inspiring Teachers'. My teaching career has consolidated my experience in leadership, management, data analysis, logistics and Health and Safety.

For the past five years I have provided my own brand of specialised technical support to schools and kindergartens. I provide a range of educational services designed to develop confident learners. Specifically I work with staff and children to nurture a broad range of competences through a holistic approach to the design and build process.

Much of my success is grounded in thirteen years of industrial experience across a number of disciplines where I achieved chartered status in mechanical design and production. I have also studied green woodworking in the UK and am a practicing 'Bodger' with my own pole lathe.

In 2005 I took six months unpaid leave of absence to provide humanitarian support in Thailand after the Tsunami. There I led an international workshop project that involved locals in the production of their own furniture (Thaikea).

In short I have a passion for making things. I am happiest when surrounded by those that share my passion.

**Course cost**

For details regarding price see my [Pricing Policy](#)

Note that materials and travel costs may apply

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