

Course Title

Te toi whakairo (the art of carving).....*in the Early Years*

Course outline

Carving is an expression of our cultural identity. Learn how to master some of the basic techniques of this art-form to allow children to express themselves in a way that will captivate others.

Come and find out how to help your children translate their drawings into a tangible form that will last. Find out what is required in terms of tools and equipment and take advice on what works and what does not at this age.



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 the joy in helping young people find 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 to be used as an exemplar within your school or kindergarten. Advice and notes on purchasing tools will be offered to those wishing to take this art-form further.



Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course participants will

- Have practical knowledge of how to use carving as an approach to *Developing Practical Knowledge in the Visual Arts(PK)* Strand of the NZ Curriculum
- Safely use a limited range of specialised tools and equipment

**Time frame**

Minimum three hours

Course numbers

Maximum 4-6

Photos/web link

Take a look at the following [weblink](#) to see numerous examples of what has been achieved by a wide range of children. Note that these pictures illustrate what is possible when working with children in this manner. Carving is however, by its very nature, a time consuming activity. Take time to enjoy the process with your children...and yourself.

Materials, background reading list, essential equipment required

None except some copies of artwork that children have produced. Advice on this will be offered at the time of booking. Slabs of material will be provided to practice upon. A work bench or other table to work at would be useful.

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

Brief resume of tutor

In the last eighteen 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 (Thaieka).

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

Course cost

Price on application

+64(0) 21 347 663 / +64(0) 283 3573
steve@stephenmackay.co.nz
206 Cames Road, RD5,
Wellsford 0975, New Zealand