Phoenix Studio
Creative Courses for Everyone

Clay Animal Weekends with James Ort

Need to know information before the weekend!

What will you be doing on the course?
Over the course of the two days, artists will typically make two clay animal sculptures.

- **Day 1** - you will be working on a reclined or seated animal.
- **Day 2** - you will be making a more challenging four-legged, standing animal.

James & Alison will give demonstrations, provide individual guidance & tuition throughout but it is essential that you prepare before the course too.

How to prepare?
Think about what animals you want to make and collect images of your chosen subjects.

I have prepared a separate guide on **selecting reference material**. Please take the time to read it - it's very important!

Finding the right animal poses
Reclined or seated animals should have a significant part of their bodies touching the floor (*see below*).

Four-legged animal poses should have all four feet on the floor, not in mid-air, unless you are a more experienced artist.

NB - Whilst making birds standing on two legs is possible, it is complicated and I prefer not teach that on this course - sorry.

Before the course
Please email James a full-body side profile of your chosen standing animal at least a few days before the course is due to start. james@orts.co.uk

The reason why is that we make the armatures in advance for you. This makes the course run more smoothly and gives us more time to teach you all.

NB - Ensure that feet are not hidden from view (i.e by grass) & that the animal is facing forward. Eg below.

The Firing Process
Your creative journey will not stop after the weekend. Typically artists choose to return to glaze their pieces, this generally takes between 2-4 hrs to do but times vary depending on the artist.

The pieces need one more firing in the kiln and then can be taken home. This will mean three journeys to the studio – trust me, it is worth it but if you are concerned then just keep reading.

I schedule a few potential glazing dates for you to come on and ask you to specify which day you would like to attend using a doodle scheduling tool – please see the 'Glazing document on the acknowledgement page.

For those of you who live far away, you could always find an artist local to you who has a kiln and could fire your work, many will and I am happy to advise

them on temperatures, etc. This will save you one trip.

Additional costs

There will typically be no additional charges for clay, glazes or firings – these are included in the course fee. However if a student chooses to work particularly large, some additional fees would be welcomed to reflect this.

I think that's it….

I am sure that everyone who comes on the course will have a lot of fun and meet some lovely, like-minded people. We pride ourselves in having a wonderfully creative environment!

Please do get in touch if you do have any further queries.

We look forward to meeting you soon.
All the best,

James

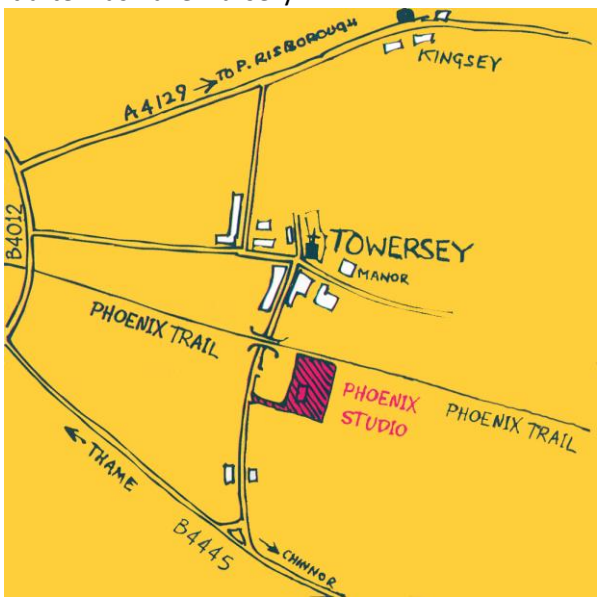
07765980508 / james@orts.co.uk

General Course Information

Getting Here

Directions to the studio are on the website. The postcode to the studio is **OX9 3QZ** and a map is below. NB sometimes old SatNavs take students to an industrial estate in Thame!

If you are you are coming from the village hall in the centre of Towersey, go past the pub, under the bridge and we are the next left after Lashlake Nursery.



Timings

Each day starts at 10.00. **Please arrive in good time in order not to miss the introduction.** We work through to 16.30 and generally with a half hour lunch break and a tea/coffee break in the morning and afternoon.

What To Bring?

- Ideas, inspiration and enthusiasm!
- Reference material (*see main text*)-ideally printed off or on a laptop or tablet device (ideally not a mobile phone!)
- Your own packed lunch. We have microwaves and a toaster in case you need them.
- An apron or clothes you don't mind getting dusty

Refreshments

We provide you with all the tea, coffee & biscuits needed to fuel your creativity (*maybe even cake if you are lucky*)!

What we provide

- Comprehensive Teaching Notes that outline what you will learn over the weekend, enabling you to carry on creating beyond the course.
- Use of all necessary equipment, tools and materials.
- Guidance and tuition throughout the day.
- WiFi should you need it for reference. You will need to bring a laptop or other media device.
- Various reference materials though this doesn't mean you shouldn't do your homework!