

Clay Animal Weekends with James Ort
Need to know information

***If you're reading this then you are considering - or have signed up - for this course. Great!
This document should have all the information you need to prepare for the weekend.***

What will you be doing on the course?

Over the course of the two days, you will create typically two clay animal sculptures.

Day 1 - Working on a reclined or seated animal.

Day 2 - Making a more challenging four-legged animal in a standing pose.

James will give demonstrations and provide individual guidance and tuition throughout.

How to prepare?

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

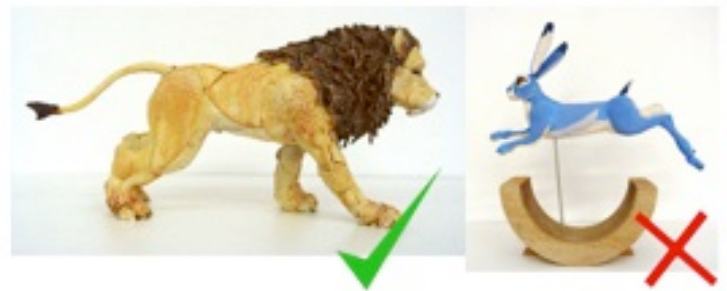
I have prepared a separate guide on **selecting reference material**. *Please take the time to read it - it's very important.*

Finding the right animal poses

Reclined or seated animals should have a significant part of their bodies touching the floor, like the ones 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.

Glazing and Firing

I recommend that you use underglazes to complete your sculpture. Your hard work deserves a beautiful and durable finish! Alternatively you can colour them yourselves at home using acrylic or oils paints (but they don't look as good this way). When you have created your unique creature, we'll discuss your options in detail so that you can decide which approach you'd prefer

This means that your creative journey will not stop after the weekend. Typically artists choose to return to glaze their pieces (this is optional but highly recommended) and then come back one more time to collect their fired pieces.

Return visits to glaze your sculpture are arranged to meet your individual schedules though we try to group people together wherever possible.

Additional costs

There will be additional charges for clay, glazes and firing of the pieces in the kiln.

We charge £2.00/lb dried weight after the first firing. This covers clay & kiln costs.

Your ceramic creations will be hollow inside so don't weigh as much as you might think.

We charge a nominal £10 to cover glazing tuition and set up costs. The underglaze process requires an additional firing, which is a further £2.00 per lb on the final fired weight.

Generally the additional firing fees come to around £25-30 per student, depending on the weight of the piece.

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,

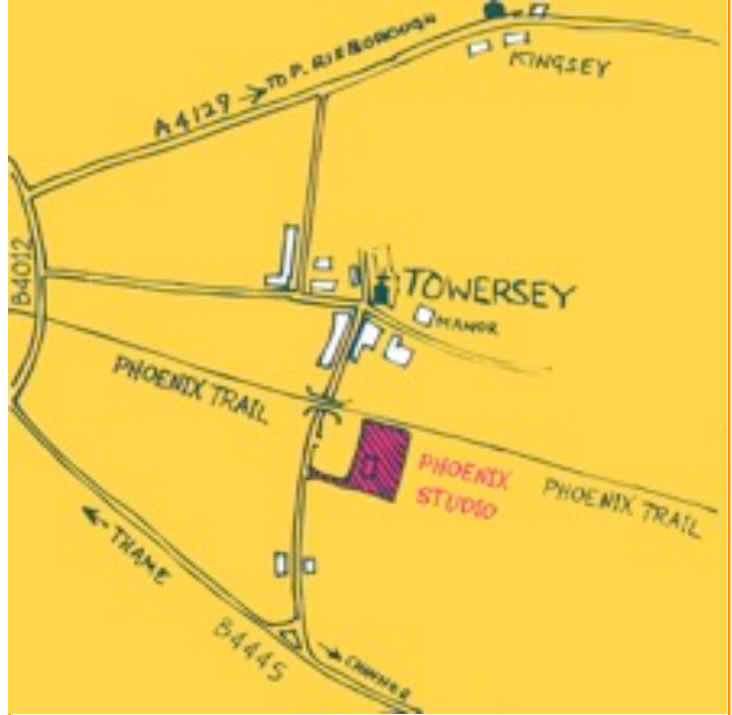
James

james@orts.co.uk
07765 980508

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. If 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 16.00 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*)
- You need to provide 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
- *Optional* - laptop or tablet device with charger

Refreshments

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

What we provide

- Guidance and tuition throughout the day in a purpose-built professional studio space.
- Comprehensive teaching notes that will enable you to carry on creating beyond the course.
- Use of all necessary equipment, tools and materials (*though as said, some additional costs do apply*).
- WiFi should you need it for reference. You will need to bring a laptop or other media device.