

3-day Clay Animals with James Ort

Need to know information before the course!

What will you be doing on the course?

Over the course of the three days, artists will typically make three clay animal sculptures.

- **Day 1** - Wall-mounted animal head.
- **Day 2** - Four-legged, standing animal.
- **Day 3** - Two-legged standing animal.

James 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!

Choosing your animals

Choose an animal that means a lot to you! What do you want to look at on your wall and could you bring a facial expression that would give your creation character?



Four-legged animal poses should have all four feet on the floor, not in mid-air which is harder to make.



I have developed a method for creating two-legged standing animals. It's worth noting that straighter legged animals are much easier to sculpt than specimens where their legs are bent.

Where possible, try to select a species with straighter legs to begin with.



Before the course

Please email [James](mailto:james@phoenixstudio.co.uk) a full-body side profile of your chosen standing animals (two and four-legged) at least a few days before the course is due to start. Email james@phoenixstudio.co.uk. James will remind you nearer the time

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.



The Firing Process

Your creative journey will not stop after the two days. Typically, artists choose to return to glaze their pieces on another date. This generally takes between 3-4 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 – please see the ‘Glazing document on the acknowledgement page for more information.

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 instead. Many will and I am happy to advise them on temperatures, etc. This will save you one trip if you have a long way to come.

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 & Lois

07765980508 / james@phoenixstudio.co.uk

Covid Precautions

Depending on the current expert advice the Phoenix Studio and its tutors will adopt as many of these practises as is deemed necessary:

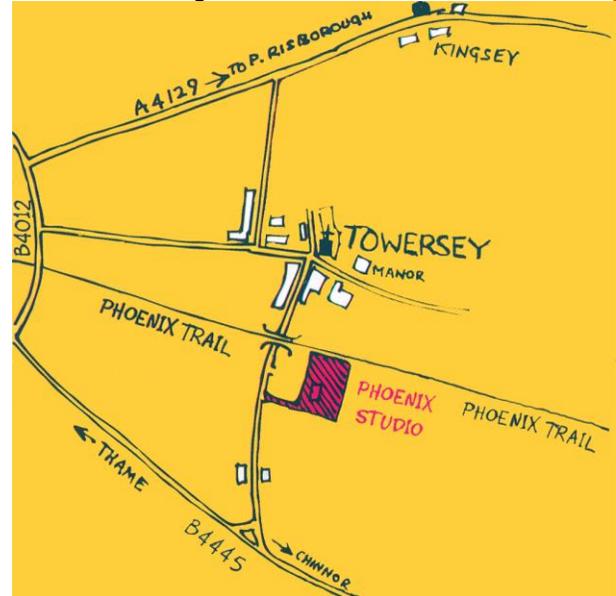
- Everyone attending the course will be asked to follow social distancing.
- Implement a daily sanitising and cleaning routine to ensure that all communal surfaces get cleaned regularly.
- *(in the warmer summer months)* Put up our large marquee outside the main studio to effectively double the teaching space.
- Wherever possible, sanitise and give each student their own set of tools/materials needed for the course. If not possible, sanitiser will be available to clean the equipment before and after use to help ensure they are contamination-free.
- Provide masks and/or plastic face shields for teachers to wear when they give any closer one-to-one assistance (Students will also be asked to wear masks when in close proximity to a tutor too).
- Ask students to wear masks at all times when in communal indoor parts of the studio (i.e the kitchen/loos).
- Hopefully, students should not need to wear their masks when working at their desks as everyone will be so spread out and the teaching spaces really well ventilated (this is obviously dependent on government guidelines at the time).
- Ask students to bring their own face masks and to either wash their hands regularly or use hand sanitiser gel.
- Provide alcohol gel/hand sanitiser on entry to the studio and at various places in each teaching area. You may use your own.
- Provide tea, coffee, and milk. If using our mugs/cups please keep the same one to use throughout the day and place in the dishwasher at the end of the day. You may bring your own.
- Use an urn to provide boiling water for teas/coffees instead of kettles.
- Ask all students to bring their own lunch and snacks. Some biscuits/cake will be provided.
- Open the doors and windows in the main studio to ensure the room is well ventilated.
- Ask that you keep use of the corridor to a minimum amount of people when using it to access the toilets to ensure the room to them is well ventilated (and that the toilets remain well ventilated as well)
- **Hopefully, it goes without saying that anyone who has been in contact with or experiencing symptoms of covid-19 in the last 14 days will NOT be permitted to enter the studio or attend the course.**

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 you are coming from the village hall in the centre of Towersey, go past the pub, under the bridge & we are about 50 metres on the left – you'll see the Phoenix Studio sign!



Timings

Each day starts at 10.00. **Please arrive in good time in order not to miss the introduction**, that said, please try not to come before 9.30am – we may well still be setting up for you! If you do arrive early then please take a wee walk along the Phoenix Trail (which goes over the bridge) to unwind and find some inspiration! We work through to 16.30 and generally with no more than an hour's lunch break and a tea/coffee break in the morning and afternoon.

What To Bring?

- Items/reference recommended for your specific course
- Your own packed lunch. We have microwaves and a toaster in case you need them.
- An apron or clothes you mind getting dusty/mucky

Refreshments

We provide you with all the tea, coffee, cake & biscuits needed to fuel your creativity!

What we provide

- Use of necessary equipment, tools and materials.
- Guidance and tuition throughout the day.
- WiFi should you need it. You will need to bring a laptop or other media device.
- Various reference materials and a small library of books though this doesn't mean you shouldn't do your homework!

Need Accommodation?

- We have a fabulous list of local accommodation providers on the website, there are even some in the village!
- <https://www.phoenixstudio.co.uk/where-to-stay/>