



Art in Action

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Practical Classes

One of Art in Action's distinguishing features is that it gives visitors the opportunity to join in with the artistic endeavour in one of the many practical classes on offer.

More than thirty different courses in a wide range of subjects are offered for children as young as 3 years old up to advanced adult classes. Last year for the first time a number of classes were run by some of the most established art schools and societies in the country and this is repeated in 2009.

The University of the Arts London is a vibrant world centre for innovation, comprising six internationally renowned colleges and is Europe's largest university for art and design. Patrick Crouch and Enver Gursev contribute to courses across Camberwell College of Arts, Chelsea College of Art and Design and Wimbledon College of Art and will be teaching stone carving and contemporary painting respectively.

The Art Academy will be teaching the practical class in portrait sculpture as well as having students and tutors demonstrate approaches to modelling clay portrait heads. The Academy is an independent not-for-profit art school in central London providing a wide range of art education courses for adults.

The Guild of Glass Engravers will be teaching children and adults. This beautiful art form has been championed by Art in Action over the last few years, and visitors can learn drill techniques from Tony Gilliam one of the UK's finest glass engravers.

Sarah Burgess and Mary Sleigh from the Embroiderer's Guild will be using simple hand stitch structures as the starting point for experimental design work. There are also classes in textiles led by Heather Belcher from West Dean College who works with hand-made felt, combining knitting, stitching and digital print processes to create wall-based work.

Other tutors from West Dean College will be teaching bookbinding, woodcarving, jewellery making, gilding, knitting and crochet. West Dean is a unique community, a creative mix of artists, craftspeople, gardeners, farmers, foresters and builders. Also working in wood is Chris Hyde from Oxford & Cherwell Valley College who will be teaching marquetry using wood veneers and knife cutting techniques.

The Prince's School of Traditional Arts taught two very popular classes last year – Sacred Geometry by Tom Bree and Traditional Painting Techniques by Lily Corbett. This year they are returning and are joined by Helen White, an illuminator and a miniaturist, who will be teaching how to decorate an initial letter with a medieval pattern. The Prince's School is the only college in the Western world where the practical skills of the Islamic and traditional arts are taught at such a high level, and their perspective on traditional arts is that they are part of everyday life, not a luxury but a contemplative practice based on spiritual truths.

Nature in Art is the world's first museum dedicated exclusively to art inspired by nature. It's exhibitions are supported by an unrivalled programme of artists in residence and this year we are delighted to welcome Andrew Forkner who will be teaching techniques for rendering realistic detail in graphite pencil. Tukumasa

Ono who will be helping visitors master the art of Japanese brush painting. Valerie Petts will be teaching water colour painting in the gardens (weather permitting) and Julia Loken who has a long experience of botanical illustration, and will be teaching flower painting.

Art in Action also has an army of seasoned teachers and practitioners who have been instructing the public in a diverse and eclectic mix of arts and crafts over many years. This years programme includes Susan Baker-Bates enabling the magic of art to shine through each and every child; Lindy Barletta demonstrating and teaching pottery throwing; Brian Eburah teaching basic hand working techniques in jewellery; Yvonne Fletcher teaching water colours and Aimee Harman will be having a mosaic mad tea party! Please see a full list of classes below.

And don't forget after the class visitors can head on down to the materials and publications marquee and buy supplies to go home and carry on.

Classes can be booked online www.artinaction.org.uk

Classes for ages 3 to 7

Dough modelling (3 — 7)

Feltmaking (3 — 7)

Mosaic Making (3 — 7)

Painting (3 — 7)

Pottery Handbuilding (3 — 7)

Classes for 8 years upwards

Batik (12 — 17)

Carving Wood (16+)

Contemporary Painting (16+)

Copper Enamelling (8 — 17)

Crochet Floral Brooch (16+)

Decorative Paint Techniques on Wood (16+)

Detailed Drawing in Graphite Pencil (12+)

Discovering Coloured Oil-based Pencils (12+)

Embossed jewellery (12 — 17)

Felt Bead Making (10+)

Flowers and Foliage in Watercolour (12+)

Gilded Textile Brooch (16+)

Glass Engraving (12+)

Japanese Brush and Ink Painting (12+)

Japanese-style Bookmaking (16+)

Marquetry Taster Session (16+)

Medieval Manuscript Decoration (16+)

Mixed Media with Stitch (16+)

Pastel (12+ years)

Piecing and Patching African Style (16+)

Pole Lathe Turning (11 — 17)

Pole Lathe Turning (16+)

Pottery Handbuilding (8 — 17)

Pottery Throwing (8+)

Pottery Throwing In-depth (16+)

Pyrography (8 — 17)

Sacred Art of Geometry (16+)

Sculpting Portrait Heads in Clay (12+)

Silk Painting and Marbling (10 — 17)

Sketching in the Grounds (12+)

Stitch to Print to Stitch (16+)

Stone Carving (16+)
Traditional Painting Techniques (16+)
Understanding Perspective (12 — 17)
Watercolour in Detail (12+)
Watercolour landscape painting in the Grounds (12+)

General Information

The first Art in Action took place in 1977, featuring around 50 artists. Since then it has grown significantly and is now an annual pilgrimage for anyone interested in the visual arts. Visitors can learn or buy from the 150 artists and craftsmen who recreate their studios in one of the many Art in Action marquees and demonstrate their expertise in Painting, Sculpture, Drawing and Printmaking, Ceramics, Calligraphy and Illustration, Glass, Metalwork and Jewellery, Nature in Art, Textiles, Woodwork and (new this year) Mexican Arts. At Waterperry, visitors can also learn new creative skills at practical classes organised for children and adults, half of which will be run by some of the UK's most prestigious art colleges including University of the Arts (Wimbledon, Chelsea, & Camberwell Colleges of Art) and the Prince's School of Traditional Art. Following a class, enthusiasts can purchase art materials and publications to take home and "get started" or just browse the Craft Market where more than 100 designer-makers sell quality goods.

In addition, Art in Action offers fine music, performing artists and storytelling for children. There are lectures organised by NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies) in Asian Textiles, Exotic Woods and Furniture, Victorian Art and Glass and Early English pottery. There are guided tours of the beautiful Waterperry gardens and also of the exquisite frescoes on the walls of Waterperry House that were completed in 2006 - a 10-year project. There is also a wide range of refreshments: cream teas from the Pear Tree Restaurant, a good selection of wines, champagne and Pimm's served on the lawn in front of the house and numerous organic and artisan food stalls throughout the site. Art in Action is truly a celebration of creativity as well as a great day out. People come year after year – often, they say, as much for the atmosphere as for the works on show

Event details

Venue: Art in Action
Waterperry House, Near Wheatley
OXFORD OX33 1JZ

Website: www.artinaction.org.uk

Tel: 020 7381 3192

Date/time: 16-19 July 2009, open 10am-5.30pm daily

Tickets:	Adults	£15 (Booked online £14.00)
	Senior citizens	£12 (Booked online £11.00)
	Concessions	£7 (Booked online £6.00)
	Child (9-17 years)	£5 (Booked online £4.00)
		Under-9s free

Family and season tickets available

Car parking free

Party rates for pre-booked minibuses and a limited number of coaches by arrangement – contact the office (020 7381 3192) in advance.

Note to editors

Art in Action has an extensive photo library available for the press.

Further information

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