

Sculpture Courses in Southern Burgundy

Organiser: Volker Ries
Ludwig-Eid-Str. 2
D 66440 Blieskastel

The Workshop

Alone or within a small group, you can sign in for a workshop between the 15th of mai and the 15th of october in the year. Regularly the workshops will start on saturday to end on the following saturday(s).

A group signing in together may have up to 7 members. Otherwise the number of persons being on the site is limited to 5.

Even if you should be the only one to sign in for a week, the workshop will be held, if you agree. In the early or late season this might even interest those who are searching an oportunity for concentrated work e.g. on a larger project.

The first two days are spent with general preparation and familiarising yourself with the medium of sculpture:

- Getting to know the other participants
- Identifying individual perspectives and goals
- Outlining the projects
- Setting up the workplace
- Tools and materials
- Getting to know the area
- General information.

All necessary tools as well as one stone per participant will be provided. The stone will remain in the property of the participant.

You can work between 9.am and 8.pm, without interrupting or disturbing the neighbours! But 5 hours of intense work is already a lot for someone who isn't used to this. Thus this proceeding leaves you free to define your own needs and to explore also a bit the beautiful region.

Furthermore, a small reference library on the subject and a computer with internet connection and digital image editing are available.

Participants have to bring their own working clothes, especially sturdy shoes, safety goggles, gloves and breathing masks (from the building centre), as well as sketchbooks and pencils. Most of the equipment can be purchased locally.

From then on, we will approach the 'intractable' material with the concentrated energy of the chisel spike, which might seem a long process for a beginner.

With a high level of concentration, first results can be already achieved within a week, even though - after such a short time - these may still just reflect themselves rather than showing various dimensions.

For beginners, I suggest an initial period of at least 2 weeks.

The particular intensity and slowness of stone carving demands an adaptation in one's own rhythm which can only be achieved with time.



The first week's full of new impressions and experiences and will pass in the twinkling of an eye.

In the second week, you will apply and repeat what you have learnt and you may experience exhaustion and possibly the feeling of stress about not finishing on time.

Mostly at the end this week, just before leaving, you will be able to combine your newly gathered knowledge into a complete experience.

At a later stage, you will be able to build upon these experiences: both in a practical way - certain operations will have become a routine - and also in a theoretic way, as the obtained differentiations may lead to new perspectives in relation to of the handling of two dimensional media and art forms.

I once ran a two-week workshop in Dijon attended by art students who were literally burning for action. The key experience for them was the forging their own tools at the beginning of the course which almost took them a whole week. During the second week, they repeated the same gestures with the hammer, only the object had changed. Their creative ambition, now stripped off the initial zest for action, had changed likewise.

For the "whole-year-round art producers" this was a remarkable experience and for some a successful one,too.

For a workshop of 3 weeks you can engage for a larger project:

This offer is adressed to already experienced persons having a project that e.g. they couldn't do at their home. Arrangements on technical and logistic issues before the workshop are possible.

If required, the foundations of forging cissels can also be learned during the course.

My attention during the workshops is focused on 2 axis:

- Managing time and physical effort while carving a sculpture into stone
- The individual ideas and starting points of the participants in a cultural and artistic range

Thus it becomes possible to live the workshop not only in the 'here and now' but also in relation to everyday live.

It could be helpful, if you would transmit with your inscription some images of your recent drawings, paintings or scuptures.

It will be up to you to decide what to bring along in terms of time, energy, ideas and - last bit not least - money ...

It is possible and reasonable to take a one-week taster course if you do not expect 'superb' results but only a good experience.

You can extend your course duration when already on location, provided that there are still places available. The fees will be the same as when you book in advance.

