

Art Academy

Elective Skills Workshop Course

Course Title	Sustainable Sculpture
Tutor	Briony Marshall, Shane Waltener, Henny Burnett & Tim Norris
Studio session Dates	Thursdays; 23/04/26 – 11/06/26 (8 Weeks) No Reading Week
Session Times	10:30AM - 4:30PM
Course Code	E2503S0015
Studio	Studio 4 Bankside + various trips
Material Payment	£70 or less
Course Fees	£545

**Document is subject to change.*

Course overview

In an era of environmental consciousness, this course explores the intersection of art and sustainability with a particular focus on natural materials and outdoor settings. Dive into the use of eco-friendly materials, sustainable processes, and new ways of thinking about the role of art in public spaces. The first part of the course will be a series of workshops exploring materials, processes and ways of thinking sustainably. Then at the end of the course you will have three weeks to develop your own sustainable sculpture project. The course will include two different visits and there is the opportunity for the final projects to be sited in a community garden very local to the Art Academy.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Analyse the work of others, applying findings to their own work.
- Experiment with a range of different materials and techniques in making sculpture(s).
- Produce a cast using mycelium.
- Mix cobb and use it to create sculpture.
- Explain approaches for increasing biodiversity and utilise one or more in a proposal for outdoor sculpture.
- Research, plan and complete a self initiated project.
- Apply safe working practices at all times.

What Level is the course and do I need any particular skills?

This course is suitable for all levels.

About your tutors

Briony Marshall MRSS is a sculptor who has always found solace and meaning in science, to quote her heroine Rachel Carson: "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure [a lifetime]." Briony has a mission to bring this beauty and understanding to others through creating works of art that people can connect to emotionally. Her rammed earth sculptures are a visual metaphor for the problem of man-made materials as well as a return to more natural materials.

Briony shows with Pangolin London and was recently shortlisted for the Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture.

<http://www.briony.com>

Shane Waltener's art practice is rooted in ideas about ecology, sustainability and reuse. Waltener's sculpture, installation and performance work draw inspiration from a range of craft practice from ceramics to textile weaving and

basketry to dance and movement. Working in participatory settings, Waltener uses making processes to facilitate personal, social and cultural histories to be exchanged and create new knowledge and imaginaries.

Instagram: @shanewaltener

Henny Burnett is a mixed media artist working mainly in sculpture and installation using a range of techniques including casting, assemblage, photography, projection and sound. She explores the domestic and everyday with particular interest in the stories within the objects that surround us, in our homes and museums. Through casting miniature houses in a range of materials, often earth based and temporary, Henny unpicks questions about the materials she engages with and their environmental impact.

<https://www.axisweb.org/p/hennyburnett/>

Instagram: @hennyburnett

Tim Norris specialises in large-scale outdoor Sculptural works, his work draws its inspiration from the surrounding landscape and where possible uses indigenous natural materials, in combination with recycled or engineered parts. Tim has a range of experience in both exhibiting and constructing commissioned work in the landscape. A proven track record of Commissions and Residencies, Including, Artist in Residence at The Irwell Sculpture Trail, The Grizedale Forest, and The National Cycle Network. Rather than produce solely Furniture or Sculpture he creates inspirational environments for the public to relax, chat and enjoy. Tim has run a wide range of workshops in many different settings. Working on site with groups, constructing large sculptures to running one-day workshops in schools and Community centres.

<https://timnorris.co.uk/>

Site visits

Stave Hill Eco Park

Stave Hill is considered the UK's first urban ecology park, created some 30 years ago on rubble infill into abandoned wet docks. The Park has been designed and managed to form a mosaic of grassland, woodland, scrub and wetland habitats which support a wide variety of wildlife. It is a nature reserve, educational facility, research area and place of recreation. It also boasts an artificial hill with fine views of London. In 2019, a live audio stream of the bird sounds from the Stave Hill Ecological Park was installed in London Bridge Station as part of an art installation called 'Sounds Interrupted'

<https://www.tcv.org.uk/london/urbanecology/urban-ecology-sites/stave-hill-ecological-park/>

John Little's Hildrop Garden

John Little founded Grass Roof Company in 1988 and Green Roof Shelters in 2008. The companies create functional gardens that encourage biodiversity into urban spaces. We will be visiting his garden at Hildrop in Essex which is the ultimate experimental garden, with biodiversity and functionality at its heart.

<https://www.instagram.com/grassroofco/>

Beautiful Balin

Community garden around the Balin House, London SE1 which brings together the community to create a beautiful garden. You have the opportunity to create an artwork for the garden as your final project.

Weekly breakdown

Below is a weekly breakdown of what will be covered.

Wk	Date	Topic/Activity	Location & Tutor(s)	What to bring
1	23/04/26	<p>AM Introduction to Sustainable Sculpture by Briony Marshall including a Curator's talk by Ali Clarke of Surrey Hills Arts (tbc)</p> <p>PM: Casting with Mycelium Casting with mycelium is an exciting new process that offers lots of potential in the world of construction and object making. Mushrooms are really just the flowers of a larger organism made up of mycelium that is hidden out of sight. In this exciting half-day</p>	<p>Studio 4 Bankside</p> <p>AM Briony Marshall</p> <p>PM Henny Burnett</p>	<p>Notebook for taking notes and capturing ideas</p> <p>For the afternoon: A notebook to take notes on the processes. A container such as a shoe box or rigid bag to take your</p>

		workshop you will be constructing a simple mould and then filling it with a pre-prepared mixture of fungi and growing medium. This will then need several days for the mycelium to grow before you stop the biological process and retrieve a solid cast object that is light and strong. (butterfly pea flower, acorn, oak gall, red cabbage, turmeric, berries)		mycelium mould home with you. This is so that you can finish the process at home at the correct time.
2	30/04/26	<p>Stave Hill Eco Park Trip</p> <p>A one-day workshop at Stave Hill Ecological Park in Rotherhithe where you will forage for and process plant materials, using ancient crafting techniques, in order to create site responsive pop up installations.</p> <p>The workshop aims to generate new thinking about sustainable practice, working with an economy of (seasonal) materials, consider their provenance and our impact on the environment and ecology of the site using these, thinking about relationship between space, body and object (animate or inanimate) as well as what it is to produce work in an 'embodied' way.</p>	<p>Site visit</p> <p>Shane Waltener</p> <p>Meet Shane at 10am at Canada Water, to walk to Stave Hill Ecological Park, Timber Pond Rd, London SE16 6AX</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gardening gloves - You will be outside for most of the day so bring suitable shoes and clothes for the weather forecast (hat, suncream or waterproof jacket) - Bring a packed lunch and water bottle
3	07/05/26	<p>How to increase biodiversity (tbc)</p> <p>We will spend the day at John Little's Garden in Basildon where we will see first-hand various experiments he has been trialling over the last 25 years to increase biodiversity on the 4-acre site.</p> <p>You will then spend the day developing ideas for outdoor artworks that will increase biodiversity.</p> <p>At the end of the day you will present your ideas and sketches to John, Briony and your fellow students as if you were presenting to a selection committee.</p>	<p>Site visit</p> <p>John Little and Briony Marshall</p> <p>Meet at Fenchurch Street Station and buy an off-peak return ticket to Laindon for £14.60</p> <p>We will catch the 10.36 train - Meet at 10.15am</p> <p>We will return on the 15.58 train that gets back into Fenchurch St at 16.31pm</p>	
4	14/05/26	<p>Outdoor Sculptures</p> <p>Willow/indigenous natural materials, in combination with recycled or engineered parts</p> <p>A one day workshop off site, instructed by Sculptor Tim Norris and informed his practice using found, wild and natural materials.</p>	<p>Site visit</p> <p>Tim Norris and Briony Marshall</p> <p>Location to be confirmed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring Sketchbook, drawing materials and materials for creating a small maquette (plastiline or modelling wax, wire, string) - a camera to capture photos

		https://timnorris.co.uk/ More details to come.		- You will be outside for a lot of the day so bring suitable shoes and clothes for the weather forecast (hat, suncream or waterproof jacket) - Bring a packed lunch and water bottle
5	21/05/26	Rammed Earth and Cob Using using earth and dug clay Cob is a natural building material made from subsoil, water, fibrous organic material, and sometimes lime. It has been used as a building material since prehistoric times and has been revived recently by the sustainability movement. You will learn ways to mix cob using straw and/or sawdust, and how to make sculptures in various techniques, hand-built, using armatures and cast in plaster moulds. Rammed earth is an ancient vernacular building technique in which walls and floors are made of compacted earth. Most of the Great Wall of China is made of rammed earth, along with China's mediaeval circular forts. Following a sabbatical in a rammed earth building in Portugal (where it is called Taipa) Briony has been using it in her practice to create large public artworks. You will learn various techniques to test the earth's suitability and make a small rammed earth sculpture.	Studio 4 Bankside Briony Marshall	For the rammed earth bring an interesting shaped plastic container you are happy to destroy (for e.g. something from your recycling bin) Natural materials to act as armatures for Cob, a few branches and twigs of various sizes (you might collect these from Stave Hill Ecopark in week 2), or even bind weed or the twine you created with Shane. Pigments or paints if you would like to colour your work. Notebook for taking notes on the process.
6	28/05/26	Personal projects. You will work on your own sculptures/concepts/ideas with the tutor's technical and conceptual support. This can either be a gallery-based work or for the local community garden. At 3pm we will visit Beautiful Balin, a local community garden which has agreed to host outdoor artworks.	Studio 4 Bankside Briony Marshall	Any materials you want to use in your project.
7	04/06/26	Personal projects. You will work on your own sculptures/concepts/ideas with the tutor's technical and conceptual support. Risk assessment and method statements to be completed for all works going into	Studio 4 Bankside Briony Marshall	Any materials you want to use in your project.

		Beautiful Balin Gardens (supported activity).		
8	11/06/26	<p>Personal projects. You will work on your own sculptures/concepts/ideas with the tutor's technical and conceptual support.</p> <p>Installation of all works going into the Beautiful Balin Gardens</p> <p>PM Final group crit of all works at 3pm in both Studio 1 and Beautiful Balin Garden.</p>	<p>Studio 4 Bankside & Beautiful Balin</p> <p>Briony Marshall</p>	Any materials you want to use in your project.

Preparation Requirements & Additional Costs

A small materials budget tbc will be required to cover the cost of materials such as the mycelium, and the time for sourcing/foraging the natural materials and earths. Estimate £15 tbc.

Resources & Further Reading

Please note reading lists are suggested, not required.

Author	Year	Title	Publisher	Location
Benedict Macdonald	2023	Cornerstones: Wild Forces That Can Change Our World <i>A book about the keystone theory of ecology applied to UK ecosystems</i>	Bloomsbury	
Isabella Tree	2023	The Book of Wilding: A Practical Guide to Rewilding, Big and Small	Bloomsbury	
Julian Allwood and Jonathan Cullen	2015	Sustainable Materials - Without the Hot Air: Making Buildings, Vehicles and Products Efficiently and with Less New Material	UIT Cambridge	
Julian Keable and Rowland Keable	2011	Rammed Earth Structures: A Code of Practice	Practical Action Publishing	
Adam Weismann and Katy Bryce	2006	Building with Cob: A Step-by-step Guide: 1 (Sustainable Building)	Green Books	
Jason Logan	2018	Make Ink: A Forager's Guide to Natural Inkmaking	Abrams	
Nick Neddo	2015	The Organic Artist: Make Your Own Paint, Paper, Pigments, Prints and More from Nature	Quarry	

Other useful resources (websites, galleries etc)

Natural Building and crafting with earth

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheNitoProject>

Especially watch the Dorodango one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDSee1-4bUI>

Ebuki: Earth Building UK and Ireland

<https://www.ebuki.co/>

Cat: The Centre for Alternative Technology (in Wales)

<https://cat.org.uk/>

Runs postgraduate as well as short courses on a variety of environmental subject areas.

Surrey Hills Arts

<https://www.surreyhillsarts.org/>

https://www.instagram.com/surrey_hills_arts/

We will be having a talk by **Ali Clarke** who is the curator for Surry Hills Arts and involved in a number of really interesting projects.

Who can I contact for further information?

General information and advice on courses at Art Academy is available from the main office, open Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 during term time.

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7407 6969 or email our Reception at info@artacademy.ac.uk

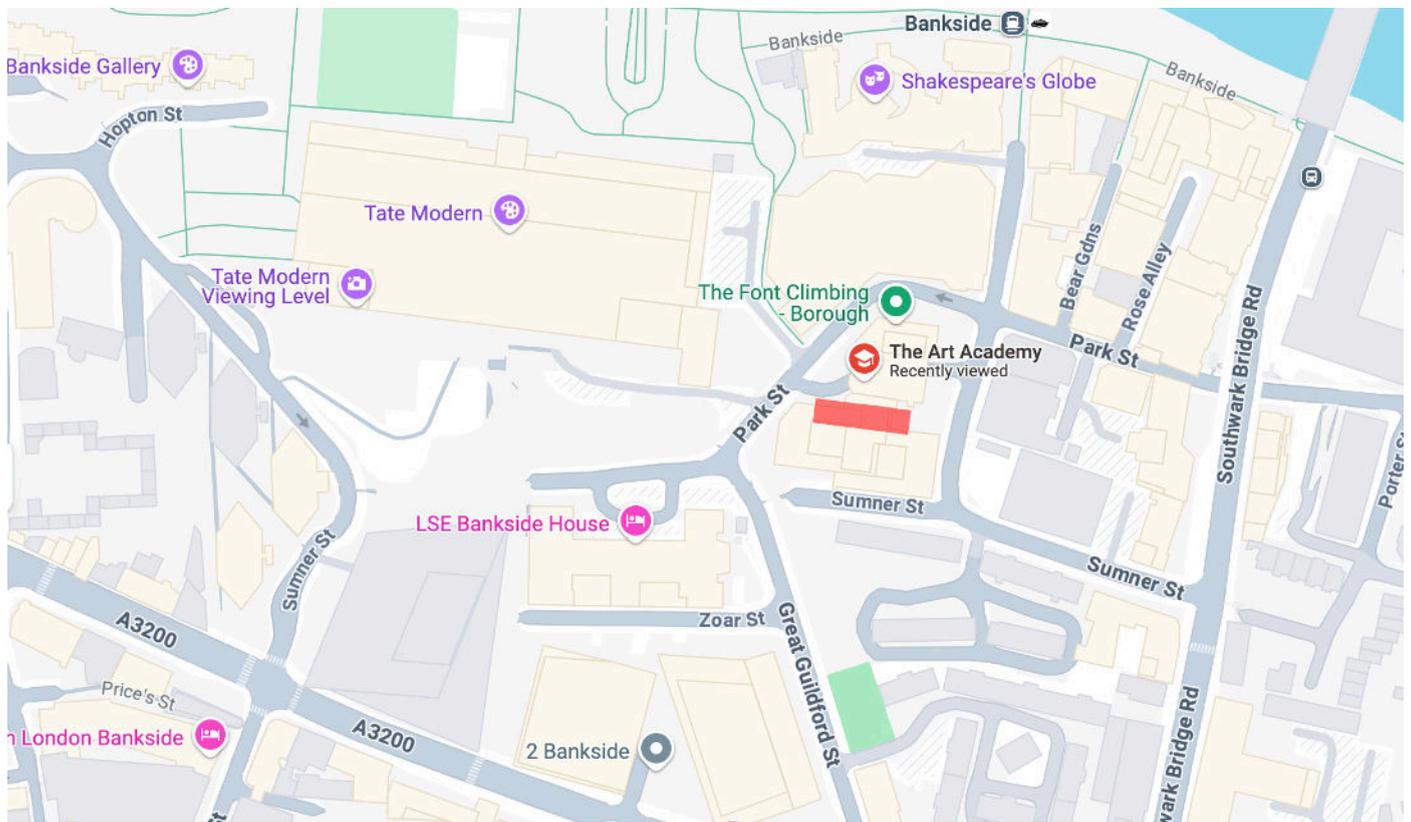
Locations - (Please check course location at the top of this document)

Art Academy – Bankside Campus

185 Park Street

London SE1 9BL

The Art Academy is conveniently located minutes away from London Bridge (Northern and Jubilee lines, National Rail services), Southwark (Jubilee Lines) and Borough (Northern line) underground stations. Please [click here](#) for a map, what three words input.



Just moments walk from the Thames, Art Academy is also ideally located for access to:

- White Cube
- Tate Modern
- The Globe
- Bankside Gallery

If you would like to make the most of the area a member of the team will be happy to advise you on areas of interest locally.

Refreshments & Facilities

All students have access to the common area located in the basement level of the building, here you will have use of a fridge, kettle, microwave and eating area.

There is a wealth of supermarkets, shops and cafes in the area as well as the world-famous Borough Food Market, fifteen minutes walk away.

For health and safety reasons, all students, staff, and tutors must use a sealable keep-cup or container for hot drinks. Mugs and open cups are not permitted in our teaching spaces. As we do not provide keep-cups, please bring your own if you wish to use the coffee and tea facilities in our Hub area.

Disabled Access

The campus has an elevator and has no threshold from the street level providing full step free access. We make every effort to accommodate students' access requirements, if you have mobility issues please speak to a member of the Academy team before your course starts.

Further Details

- You will need to have paid in full for your class before the first session of your class, your place is not guaranteed until we have received payment.
- If you purchased a materials pack online this will be given to you on the first session of your course upon your arrival.
- Ensure that you wear appropriate clothing, as you may get messy!
- All artwork at the Academy MUST be taken home at the end of the course.
- Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off, or is on silent, during the class.
- Please read the Health and Safety Guidelines carefully, provided at the beginning of your course.
- If you wish to join any class for the next term please contact the office to re-book. Classes are becoming increasingly popular, so please book early in order to guarantee your place.
- If you have any further queries let us know and we will do our best to resolve them. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you.