

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AT REASEHEATH
APRIL 2016

Mixing it Up with Tilly Wilkinson

Most of us try out the full range of techniques that are available to the enameller at some time or another. As a consequence we often have lots of "different" types of enamelling media sitting unused in our sheds and spare rooms. However these items can work well in conjunction with each other. Sometimes it's good to just mix it up a bit.

Let's have some fun playing about for a day and combining different enamelling techniques on either jewellery sized pieces or small panels.

We'll look at using simple copper cloisonné with foils, decals, decoration media, riso screens, rubber stamps, stencils, painting enamel and anything else you'd like to bring along. We will also have a go at making our own decals using on glaze painting enamels and U-Wet paper.

Land & Seascape with Carol Griffin

Using copper blanks, sifting and wet process, we will create beautiful, seasonal land & seascapes.

Abstract or realism, create textures, depth & oxides using sgraffito, masks, stencils, embedding, including glass threads, beads, glass confetti, frits, lustres, and anything else that works! Providing a pick and mix of techniques and medium to play with – great fun and experimenting will be encouraged!

'Wraptures' with Dorothy Cockrell

Ten or more years ago the late Bill Helwig ran an experimental workshop, which he called 'Wraptures', in which we made enamel shards which curled up at the edges when fired onto a prepared tile. A deliberate mis-match of enamels and very careful firing was necessary to get a good curl which was properly adhered to the underlying surface. As an employee of Thompson Enamel, he used only their products.

We will take his experiments a stage further by using a variety of other enamels to produce different 'curled' effects.

Playing with Paint with Susan Davies

During a one day workshop, I would like to introduce you to beginnings of enamel painting. It can be a slow process as thin layers of paint gradually build into a finished piece, but I hope to show you how to begin creating an image, with different techniques, strengths of paint and tools.

Using two pre-enamelled white tiles as a 'blank canvas' I would like to help you create a simple landscape on one, and encourage you to explore and play with this wonderful medium on the other. The aim is not to complete a finished piece, as this may not be possible in one day, but to enjoy the creativity and freedom that painting allows.

All students will be encouraged to bring their own supplies, however, I will have supplies of panels should any be required for a small fee.

Workshops are a new experience for me, (not to say daunting!) but I'm sure we will have lots of fun and laughter!

The art of fine Cloisonné with Melvyn Jennings.

We will be looking into the art of fine Cloisonne and enamel working in fine detail (1mm deep). You will need a good eye or magnifying glass.

Using silver and fine silver wire as a base to outline cells for enamelling, we will be exploring the texturing of the metals and the different types and ways wires can be shaped to create your design. We will look into the design, and the filling of cells, ending with grinding and ways of finishing off the piece.

There may be a small fee for materials (silver).

Cold Connections Workshop with Kathryn Partington

The attraction of enamelling allows us to create beautiful, colourful components that can be used to create wearable jewels. As a jeweller, designer and maker, I produce items of jewellery utilising my background training within the discipline of tableware ceramics & printed textiles. In recent years I have introduced enamelling within my portfolio of work, experimenting with colour, texture, pattern, relief and surface. I often work with cold connection techniques to transform decorative elements into such items.

One of the challenges of working with finished enamel pieces is the way in which pieces are mounted, set or connected to another material. In this workshop we will look at cold connection techniques, including rivets and tab setting. We will create a variety of samples you can refer back to and also discuss and explore a variety of solutions to address any technical issues you may be experiencing.

Please bring along any enamelled pieces you wish to mount or set. (Some soldering will be required)

Making Automata with Sarah Reast

Discover the intriguing world of moving models with Sarah Reast, an experienced maker and teacher of this exciting craft. Sarah will bring a variety of samples to show how different mechanisms work and take you through making a moving fish from her Timberkits range. This will help you to understand the mechanisms before designing and making your own moving model. You will use a prepared base and choice of cams to animate a model of your own creation using a variety of materials.

The cost for prepared parts for this workshop will be under £10. Bring bits and pieces for making the model; or if you wish to make the model using enamel, please bring your own thin metal and enamels. Sarah runs Timberkits, designing and making automata kits. Visit the website to see more:

www.timberkits.com