



City & Guilds of London Art School New Grotesques for St George's Chapel Windsor



City & Guilds of London Art School

City & Guilds of London Art School was established in Kennington by the City & Guilds of London Institute in 1879, as an extension of the Lambeth School of Art, to provide training in drawing, carving, modelling and architectural decoration for the local art and craft industries.

Over the ensuing years, the School has expanded its activities and courses and now attracts students from throughout the UK and abroad. It has remained an independent art school, with charitable status and since 1971 has been supported mainly by tuition fees. In addition, the School receives direct assistance from the Fishmongers' and other City of London livery companies and contributions from charitable foundations, trusts and individuals. In 1991 the School obtained delegated authority status from the City & Guilds of London Institute through its Senior Awards scheme.

The School offers BA (Hons) courses in Fine Art: Painting and Sculpture and Conservation Studies, an MA degree in Fine Art and a Diploma in Historic Carving.

The Historic Carving Department

The carving courses are designed to prepare students to work as professionals within the traditional disciplines of wood or stone carving. The course is unique in the level of training given, (degree equivalent / NVQ level 5) and in the contextual studies undertaken, such as art and architectural history, ornament study, professional practice etc. Once qualified, students possess both the knowledge and the advanced tool skills to undertake a wide variety of commissions.

Many students go on to work in the Historic Buildings Industry. Over the last few years former students have taken leading roles in the restoration of Uppark House, Windsor Castle, St Paul's Cathedral, and the Tower of London to name but a few. Other students find work in the higher reaches of the antiques trade and several of the top London Workshops such as "Wiggins" and "Carvers and Gilders" are run by ex-students. Members of staff and former students have also carried out many major new commissions such as the "Tibetan Peace Garden" at the Imperial War Museum and the "Modern Martyrs" statues for the West Front of Westminster Abbey.

The Historic Carving department also provides a lively and challenging drawing programme which includes life drawing and anatomy studies, the study of historic styles and the development of ornamental form.

Architectural Stone Carving

The programme develops from simple masonry and carving exercises to the creation of complex architectural ornament. It involves letter cutting and relief carving as well as work in the round and the study and carving of the figure. Students are introduced to problems of design and layout and how to design and carve contemporary pieces using traditional techniques. Contextual studies include geology, art and architectural history, professional practice and an introduction to current conservation practices and ethics.



Gallery of Students Work



The Proposal

In March 2005 the School was approached by John Maine RA on behalf of the St George's Chapel Sculpture advisory Committee to provide 12 new carvings of grotesques for the exterior of the Bray Chantry. These were to replace 19th century carvings that had eroded beyond recognition.



Months of research and development by students of the Carving Department followed. This included study visits to St George's Chapel and to buildings of the period in London and elsewhere. There was also a summer workshop to develop ideas and maquettes, visits to the school studios

by the St George's sculpture Advisory Committee to view and discuss the work in progress and the positioning of casts of some of the models onsite; also to check scale, dimensions and viewing angles.



Site visits to St George's



Onsite discussions with John Maine (Sculpture Committee) and Martin Ashley (Architect)



Casts of proposed models placed on lower corbel

The Participants: students and staff

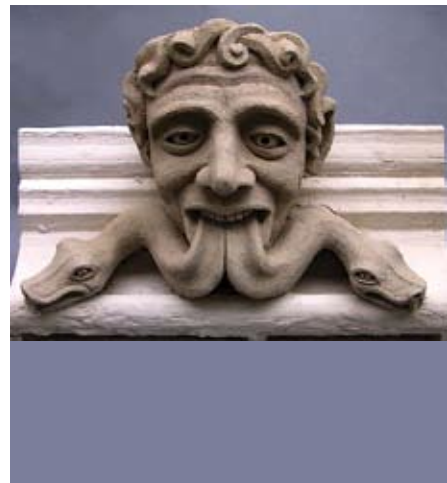
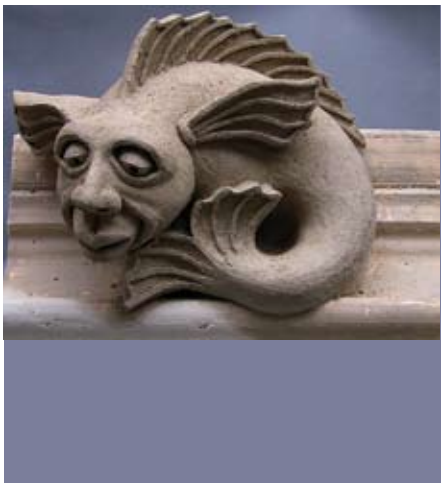


The international nature of the Carving Department is reflected in the many countries represented:
UK, France, Ireland,
Italy, India, Jamaica,
Japan, New Zealand,
USA, Zimbabwe





Project
Development



In March 2006, 15 completed models were presented to the Sculpture Committee and eight of these were selected for carving - 3 for the lower corbel and 5 for the upper.



Visiting Syreford Quarry to select the stone.



The stone arriving at City & Guilds



The first three carvings were fitted in summer 2006 and four others have now been approved by the St George's Chapel Fabric advisory committee.



Finished Carvings



