

Creative Arts Center of Dallas Stone Carving - Welcome Packet

Welcome to the ancient art form of stone carving. You are entering into a world of rich human history. Some say that the earliest known works of representational art are small fetish carvings and pictographs carved into cave walls. Most famously, the fertility symbols such as Venus of Willendorf, are estimated to have been carved between 25 and 30 thousand years ago. Prior to that stone was shaped into hunting tools.

The process of stone shaping has not changed. Of course the tools have modernized as humans discovered newer and newer technologies, but the process is the same. Grab a stone and remove what is not supposed to be there! My first carving was done with a regular hammer and a screwdriver instead of a mallet and chisel. LOL

Here is a supply list and an idea of what to expect. I have added on-line links to some of the items. You do not have to buy exactly what is on the link, it is just a launching place for your search.

Mandatory Safety Gear:

Safety Glasses or Goggles	Protect the peepers.
Paper Dust Mask	We make lots of stone dust.
Ear Plugs	We are a very noisy bunch.
Closed Toe Shoes	Rock crushes toes.
Comfortable/Old clothing	We are outdoors under a canopy.

Optional Safety Gear:

Gloves - Leather is always great.
Respirator - This offers more protection than a paper mask.
Noise Cancelling Earbuds/Headphones (instead ear plugs)
Steel Toed Boots (instead of closed toe shoes)

Specialty Safety Gear - For returning students with specific safety needs.

Anti-Vibration Gloves - I prefer fingerless options.
Flip Top Respirator - I prefer this one because you don't need to remove it to talk.
Safety Glasses with "Readers" - magnification for detail work.
Back Brace - If your sculpture is heavy and you move it around a lot while carving.

Tools:

The school provides all the tools you will need as a beginning stone carver. If you find that you like stone carving and continue to take additional sessions you may find that you want to purchase some of your own tools. Long term students do this because of 2 main reasons... they are simply tired of sharing the school's community



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tools, they have a special application and need very specialized tools.

For returning students who are ready to start investing in their own tools, I will have a list of specialty items and suppliers in the stone carving office.

Stone:

As part of your tuition, you will have access to practice limestone at no charge any time you need it. We use practice stone for learning about tools and techniques.

New and Intermediate Stone Carvers: For your 1st - 3rd sculpture, you will be able to pick out a piece of limestone for your project. Limestone is \$0.50/lb and about 150lbs per cubic foot. Your first piece will be smaller than a cubic foot. You will most likely be making a \$20-\$40 purchase of stone but if you are ambitious, it might be more.

Advanced Stone Carvers: Once you are comfortable with carving limestone (usually 2 or more 8 week sessions) you can advance to other stone options including marble, calcite, onyx, etc... Those are more expensive options and harder to carve but my goodness they are beautiful and worth the effort.

Cheers,

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***Bringing joy into the world one sculpture at a time!
Pronouns: she, her, hers.***

