

Shuswap School of Carving and Arts, September 18-24, 2011

Sorrento Retreat And Conference Centre, PO Box 99, 1159 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento, BC V0E 2W0
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CARVE AND PAINT "FENCE POST" BIRDS: \$393 for five 7.5-hour days of instruction.

About the Instructor – CAM MERKLE: Carver, inventor, and author Cam Merkle has been teaching bird carving for 26 years. In the late 1980's and early 1990's he was a full-time professional bird carver, winning top awards at many shows across North America. In 2009 he was awarded "Second in the World", Decorative Miniature Division for his pair of Great-Horned Owls, and in 2010 placed Third Overall in the Ward World Championships "Master's Life-Size" Division for his carving of a male Costa's Hummingbird. He is the founder of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Art Association, a non-profit group dedicated to promotion and education on wildlife art. His company, Razertip Industries Inc., manufactures pyrographic (wood burning) tools and portable dust management systems. Cam is kept busy running Razertip Industries, carving, inventing, writing carving articles, teaching, speaking, judging and competing at carving shows. Cam and his wife, Lori, live north of Martensville, Saskatchewan, on 80 acres that they have designated as "protected wildlife habitat" with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. Both avid photographers, they love spending time outdoors kayaking and snowshoeing and going for walks.

About the Course: These 3 Little Bee Eaters don't seem to mind the -36 degree weather at all. This is bird carving and painting at its most basic level. Carved with only hand tools and painted to look as realistic as possible, these carvings can be displayed in many ways, but are durable enough to be displayed outside year-round on a fence-post. Cam has quite a collection of these carvings decorating his yard at home; many of them have been outside for over 7 years. Using only knives and gouges you will carve your choice of Bohemian Waxwing, Chickadee, Little Bee Eater, Magpie, Red-winged Blackbird or Robin. Carvers wishing to carve a bird not listed are welcome to do so by contacting Cam ahead of time so he can be prepared with reference. This class will focus on carving realistic overall shapes. Painting will be done onto the faceted surface left by carving - no sanding or texturing. For most birds even the eyes will be carved, although you may opt to use glass eyes if you wish. Once carved, the bird will be painted using brushes and traditional painting techniques. Birds that will be displayed outdoors will be final sealed with an exterior grade sealer, and a screw will be inserted into them so they can be attached to a fence post. Most carvers can expect to complete at least 2 birds in this class; some may finish 3 or more. Remember - no power tools, no sandpaper, no airbrushes - just knives, gouges, and paint brushes. This is a fun way to carve great-looking birds without the tedium of fine detail - the effect is very impressive!



Skill Level: The class is geared to carvers of all skill levels; advanced carvers will love the speed and beauty of these birds, and beginner/intermediate carvers will be able to complete their project with a minimum of tools and equipment.

Tools & Supplies: The "classroom fee" will vary with the number and species of blanks you want. Blanks will range in price from \$5 up. Glass eyes and other supplies can be purchased by prior arrangement with Cam. Students may bring their own blanks if they wish. In order to make this class as rewarding as possible, each student will need to contact Cam to arrange the type of blanks and other supplies they would like and, if bringing their own blanks, to let Cam know what species they will be carving so he can be fully prepared. **Supply List:** Bring anything you have that you think might be useful!
 Photos/reference of the bird(s) you want to do. Task light (100 watt lamp recommended). Optical headband magnifier, reading glasses - to help see close detail. Pencil. Dividers. Callipers. Eraser. Pencil sharpener. Flexible ruler. Few long pins. Knives, gouges, or any other sharp tools you want to use - you should have as a minimum one sharp carving knife, one small gouge (3/8" #8 recommended) and one small 60 degree "V" tool. Any sharpening tools or devices you may have (we will discuss sharpening as needed). **Painting supplies:** A painting stick or two (dowel with a screw in one end) & a stand for the painting stick. Palette, palette paper, or foam/plastic plates for a palette. Palette knife, if you have one. Bring whatever brushes you have, but at minimum you should bring one or two very fine brushes (Robert Simmons E51 size 10/0 or equivalent), two or more small round brushes (size 2, 3 or 4) that hold a good point (Loew Cornell 7020 series recommended), two or more medium (1/4"-3/8"w) flat or bright brushes for blending & washes, two or more large (1/2" or larger) flat or bright brushes for blocking in and washes, at least one sable "Kats Tongue" brush - the larger the better (Silver Brush series 7110 size 8 or 10). You may bring your own paints if you wish, but paints will be supplied. We will be using mainly Jo Sonja's paints. Plastic container for water. Brush cleaner. A "grunge" towel or rag and/or paper towels. **Cam can be reached at Razertip Industries Inc., PO Box 910, 301-9th Street North, Martensville, SK S0K 2T0 Office 306-931-0889 (9-5, M-F), Fax 306-242-6119 Email info@razertip.com -- Website: www.razertip.com. Feel free to call him if you have any questions.**