

Wood Ffolkkes: A Sculptural Community
IRD for Milwaukee Woodturners
Saturday, February 24, 2024

Demonstrator : Donna Zils Banfield
130 Fordway Extension
Derry, NH 03038
(978) 618-7192 Studio/Cell
www.livealifelessordinary.com
Email: Donna@livealifelessordinary.com
Donnabanfieldturns@gmail.com
Instagram: @new_england_wood_artist



Wood Ffolkkes are my latest body of sculptural work, a mythical community of abstract forms, all started from the same core but grown into individuals by different experiences. In this demonstration/workshop, students will create their own Wood Ffolkkes, with me sharing the processes, techniques, and story behind the work.

The demo will begin with sketching a pattern, followed by carving, and pyro-engraving the turned form. India ink will be used to make the form uniformly black, and while this is drying, I will show how to make the tips that do the pyro-engraving. Following this will

be a good time for a ten-minute break for everyone. During that time, I will remove the carving equipment, and gather the paints, etc. The remainder of the session will demonstrate how to apply color using the dry-brush paint method.



Wood Ffolkkes: 'Tweens

It should be noted that while this demo will focus on the Wood Ffolkkes sculpture, this technique can be used in many other ways, on multiple shapes and forms. Below are just a few examples:

Fire Flower II



Glacier



City 'Scapes



Lava



Equipment/Tools/Machinery used in the Demonstration.

- Wood: dry, straight grain, closed grain, closed pore. Preferred species are maple, cherry, birch, sycamore, poplar, holly.
- Power carver (Dremel, Micro-motor, Foredom); narrow or tapered point burr;



Saburr 1/8" shank ball nose burr fine

- Woodburning unit (must be 130 watts)

The following brands meet that requirement:

Burnmaster,

Detail Master (no longer commercially available),

Jacques Vesery Precision Burner

A home-made unit following John Jordan or Graeme Priddle instructions on making one using a battery charger.

A handpiece that accepts wire tips.

Fan or other device to draw away smoke. I use this one: [GermGuardian Room Purifier](#)

A leather glove to protect your dominant hand while woodburning.

Nichrome wire to make tips. I use this source: [Nichrome Wire P60 in gauges 17 through 20](#)



Image of the Burnmaster single port woodburner

Image of Burnmaster handpiece that accepts wire tips



- Black India ink or Black Leather Dye;
- Heavy Body Acrylic Paint. Base colors are black, gray, and white. This is your base. Your color palette begins after the base coat is applied.

Color choices: Blue, Purple, Green, Red, Yellow. Your color palette will be created by shading each layer by pulling the next lighter shade into the current shade. Some tubes have several shades in the same hue. You do not use all the shades, but if you have more than one, stick with the same hue (i.e., Dark Pthalo Blue, green shade should stay with the green shade of all your Pthalo blues to maintain consistency)

I use either Golden Heavy Body Acrylics or Liquitex Heavy Body Acrylics:

[Golden Heavy Body Acrylics](#)

[Liquitex Heavy Body Acrylics](#)

- Paint brushes: flat synthetic bristle



Image of flat paint brush.

Palette knives, to mix and blend paint. Either plastic or metal: [Assorted palette knives](#)

Plain paper plates to serve as paint palettes to hold and mix your paints

Soft Brass Wire Brush, Brass Jewelers Brush, or tooth brushes [Soft Bristle Brass Brush](#)

Over-the-head magnifier. I use these: [Optivisor](#)