



Education & Retreat Center

## WELCOME LETTER

### Stone Sculpture: Intro to Hand Carving

**Instructor:** Robin Keck

**Start Date:** 7/14/19

**End Date:** 7/20/19

Check-In Begins at 3:00pm at the Welcome Center on 7/14/19. Dinner 5:30 – 6:30; Orientation 6:45 pm

**Invitation:** Have you ever picked up a rock and wondered what was inside? Or found a stone that looked like...something, and could be more? Have you wandered a sculpture gallery and wished you could carve something? Come learn the art of hand carving with us at Ghost Ranch. Together will choose stone (alabaster, soapstone, wonderstone, limestone), decide which tools to use, and create a work of art from your own vision. Along the process you will meet cool people, learn about stone and its history, and discover a lifelong hobby. It's not as hard as it looks!

**Learning Outcomes:** The primary goal of this class is to get hand rasps and rifflers and stone into everyone's hand and create amazingly beautiful and personal small works of sculpture. A secondary goal is to learn something about different kind of stone, carving tool, the history of the ranch, and each other. A final goal is to instill in the members of this class a love for stone carving, and a desire to take this new art form home and create all year long!

#### **Course Schedule:**

Mornings from 9-noon will be spent in class. Afternoons from approx. 2-4:30 the instructor will be in the studio. Evenings from 7-whenever we cannot see anymore, the studio space will be open. There very well could be an on-ranch field trip/hike to look at stone, and possibly build n inuksuk. Attendance at all is optional, but addictive.

**Instructor Background:** If it were not for Ghost Ranch, I would not be a stone carver. If I did not practice the zen of stone caving, I would be a far lesser person. In 1993 I had the great good fortune to be introduced to Ghost Ranch, and stone carving. In 2005 I was blessed to be asked to teach. These days, I get to work with the High School Initiative, the Instructor Reunion, the amazing office and marketing staff, and teach. Come to the ranch and take my class; who knows where it will lead!

#### **Provided Materials:** This class will have:

A lot of stone  
Many tools  
Sandpaper  
Finishing polish  
Photos  
Accessories  
Water

Chairs  
Pencils  
Rags  
Laughter  
Dremel (for finishing only)  
Cotton gloves  
A closing night Art Show

**What to Bring:** I try very hard to supply everything, especially for first-time students. There are a few things, over and above what I consider the basics, that you might want to bring. A higher quality pair of gloves (thin leather, or nicer cotton); Photos and pictures - especially if you are coming in hot with a vision; Water bottle (you will hear this a lot); Your own tools, if you are advanced or precocious.

**FAQs:** Q: Is it hard to learn? A: Well, it's stone. And, it's a new skill. But no, carving softer stone is surprisingly easy, and immensely gratifying.

Q: Will I get dirty?

A: It's stone dust. It brushes off. In fact, do that before meals.

Q: When I fall in love with carving, can I buy tools and stone?

A: Absolutely. I can sell you the basics (although new students get to keep their tool set) plus extra stone. Then I will give you websites to feed your craving for more.

Q: Can I fit my sculptures in my suitcase?

A: Yep. Roll them up in your socks. Or put one in your pocket to fondle on the way home. Do not put your tools in your carry on. The TSA does not understand,