



An Introduction to Laser Cutting for Artists and Designers

With Laura Clarke

Laura Clarke is a Senior Technician and Master Printer at CFPR. She is also an artist and has over 10 years of experience teaching in Higher Education. At the CFPR she strives to create work with artists that couldn't have been made in another way, in any other print studio, dedicated to bringing clarity and nuance to artists ideas however that manifests itself.

Overview

This one-day workshop is aimed at beginners to laser cutting – students, makers, designers, educators and hobbyists.

By the end of the day the participants will know how to safely operate a laser cutter, understand materials, settings and limitations, and will have produced their own bespoke small project – a laser cut clock face.

Max number of part- 6

Learning Outcomes

- Understand how the to operate a laser cutter safely
- To be able to identify suitable materials, file types and programmes for laser cutting and engraving.
- To prepare a vector design file suitable for cutting
- To adjust the machine settings for different materials
- To cut your own bespoke design product

Course Structure

Day 1

Welcome, introduction to lab and safety emphasis

Overview of the laser cutter and examples of projects where the laser cutter has been used

Setting up the laser cutter – demo test cut and engrave

Preparing designs on Illustrator – simple design of a clock face to set parameters

Operating the laser cutter – setting focus, speed, power, velocity

Each person cuts their own design

Assemble the clock face with mechanism

Showcase of works made

This would be a physical workshop and would take place in the lab.

This course could also lead to a longer, intermediate course.