

Joe Stafford – Artist and Sculptor

Joe's fascination with sculpture started at an early age, watching his dad making strange gargoyles that covered the house inside and out. His love of fantasy and character creation grew as he was introduced to Tolkien books and Jim Henson films. His love and fascination with all wildlife great and small began watching David Attenborough documentaries, and has been a big influence on his sculptures.

He began his sculpting career around the age of 10 by making characters out of blue tac under his desk instead of doing school work, and his own gargoyles from clay when he got home.

After a break from sculpture in his teenage years, Joe always had the need to create and so at the age of 24 he decided to rent a workshop with his recently retired father so they could re-kindle their passion for clay.

Joe's style has evolved over the last 5 years where he has experimented with different techniques, clays and subjects. He likes to take on challenging commissions to push him into sculpting things outside of his comfort zone and improve as a sculptor.

Joe has always had an obsession with detail which comes out in his work in polymer clay, but has recently found his passion is working fast and loose in a much more sketchy style. Some of his influences for this style are Simon Lee, The Shiflett Brothers and wildlife artists such as David Cooke and Nichola Theakston.

Joe has found a love for sculpting tree ents and has always had the desire to sculpt much larger versions, but has been limited by the size of his kiln. After discovering Pal Tiya Premium a whole new world of possibilities has opened up which he looks forward to exploring, as well as teaching the techniques to anyone who wants to learn them.

He believes that all skills can be learnt, and that enthusiasm, patience, and a desire to create is more important than any ideas of natural talent.

Joe's aim with his sculptures is simply to spark people's imagination and love of strange, surreal and magical ideas which we had as children but often lose as adults.