

GET INSPIRED!

If you have resolved to improve your artistic skills in the new year, why not try one of these great course options...



▲ A WHOLE NEW ART EXPERIENCE

If you are looking for more than just another art lesson, why not consider a course with Jeanni Blaxall at The Art Lounge. This innovative and enthusiastic artist describes herself as a “visual awareness coach” and her courses promise to help change your perspective and see anew. Jeanni’s teaching looks at breaking bad habits, conquering fears and releasing your inner creative spirit. They even come recommended by Sir John Chalstey, the former Lord Mayor of London.

The Art Lounge is situated in the inspiring surrounds of Shepperton Film Studios in Surrey. One day introductory courses are available at £200 per person, with three-day courses from £500 per person. **07818 838 524; www.art-jeanni.com**

▼ EXPAND YOUR STUDIO PRACTICE

Meltdowns is an award winning arts studio in Ramsgate that attracts audiences from across the world. With an exceptional reputation for professional sculptural courses, it now launches its 2011 programme.

Delivered by acclaimed artist Stephen Melton, whose sculpture was recently cited as one of the top 25 bronzes in London, the programme includes the Armature and Portraiture Master Classes, Life Casting and Moulding sessions and unrivalled Bronze Casting course. Content is diverse, being both accessible for beginners and challenging for more experienced practitioners. Groups are kept small to guarantee one-to-one tuition and a safe environment in the unique foundry setting. **(01843) 580083; www.meltdowns.co.uk/art/courses**



◀ BE THE BEST IN YOUR FIELD

Boasting a holiday with a difference, the Field Studies Council (FSC) offer the unique opportunity for visitors to explore artistic elements of the natural world through painting and drawing. With 11 stunning locations around the UK, you can escape to a relaxing retreat and discover the artist within you.

Established in 1943, the FSC has always provided courses in the arts and its very first Field Centre, Flatford Mill, remains one of its most popular. Named after the world-renowned Romantic painter, John Constable, whose famous works include *The Hay Wain*, a painting holiday at Flatford Mill allows visitors to see Suffolk through his eyes and paint the landscapes he loved.

The majority of courses run from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, however, during July and August longer holidays, for up to seven nights, can also be enjoyed. Many of the FSC centres are historic buildings including converted mills and Georgian manor houses, adapted and extended to provide the services that visitors need.

The FSC welcomes adult learners of all ages and abilities, with courses for absolute beginners, freshen up courses for improving your skills and advanced courses for those who want to really push themselves. Prices for a two night stay start from around £200 and include hostel style accommodation, home-cooked food and tuition. **www.field-studies-council.org/art**