

Youth aged 11 to 14 years Two-day workshop (12 hours total)

Day One:

Small fire - Big effect?



From a fire circle to a major blaze...

We pour alcohol onto concrete, in the shape of a circle. When lit on one side, the fire quickly spreads across the whole circle. The danger of fire is obvious; therefore our course begins with the following safety discussion:

- How to prevent fire.
- How to escape from fire.
- How to get help.
- When to extinguish fire.

We teach the use of fire blankets and fire extinguishers.

Fear fire, create fire!

Fire is more than a risk! But before we can work with fire we must find out about potential hazards, for example how wind can cause a small fire to develop into a major blaze. Why can our breath extinguish candles in one case and spread flames in another?

Through demonstrations and controlled experiments, participants learn about the flammability and smoke emission of various materials. We focus on the aesthetic quality and creative potential of fire, while always mindful of the safety aspects.



Every participant receives an experimental kit consisting of a fire proof tray, a lighter, a water bucket and a fire blanket. Under our supervision and guidance, the group explores the nature of fire through experimentation. For example, they observe the different colours of flames emerging from various combustibles.

Day two: Shapes of fire

Fire can be destructive, but fire can be artistic as well! Hannes and Doris demonstrate fire sculptures to encourage the participants to think about fire as a creative material.



“My heart is burning for...”

What do we want to create with fire? At first we must ask ourselves what are we ‘burning for’? On the one hand, a fire sculpture should express ourselves. On the other hand, it should express our longings, wishes and dreams.

Yet, how can we express ourselves with fire? Each participant develops his own personal idea for a fire sculpture - first as a drawing which is presented to the group. Then, using the provided materials, everyone creates his piece of art.

Doris and Hannes provide help and guidance as the participants develop their ideas.

Finally every participant ignites his sculpture in front of the group. We capture this moment on video, to be included in the

visual record presented to each participant.

This workshop combines practical and creative elements. While the first day concentrates on secure handling of fire in a practical and hands-on manner, the second day focuses on creative approaches. Learning by doing, group discussions and manual activities instill a reflective and careful approach to the ‘fourth element’.



Course Aims:

- learn about inflammability, flashover and smoke
- learn safety rules, behavior in emergency situations, extinguishing fire
- experience the creative process of developing an idea into a completed artwork.
- learn to use fire as artistic expression

Each participant will receive a visual record of his or her activities.