

\ O SCHEDULE

Straight - Circle
Richard Wheeler
A Mobile Neon Workshop
Porto, Portugal

26th, 27th, 28th September 2025
or
1st, 2nd, 3rd October 2025

€895 / £750 (excludes accommodation and food)

Maximum 6 participants

All glass/neon making materials are included in this workshop.

One neon power supply will be available to each participant as part of the workshop fee.



Summary

Straight–Circle will be taught by Neon Workshops LTD founder and artist Richard Wheeler, with support from neon assistant Matty Townsend. The 3-day neon class will utilise our mobile neon facility to operate from the studio of celebrated Porto ceramicist Joao Carqueijeiro (joaocarqueijeiro.com).

No experience is necessary, this unique fast-paced neon class will introduce up to six participants how to bend and blow glass to a template, and turn your shape into a neon red glowing work. You will be inducted on the three different flame torches used in neon making, and shown how an *oven pump* neon processing unit works.

Through demonstrations, talks and having a go, this workshop is suited to those that have a passion for neon and would like to embark into three days of illuminating discovery, learning of its massive potential through practical making, whilst being based in one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

Aims and aspirations

Neon making can be time-consuming and difficult. There are real time constraints here, and this isn't the class to make a masterpiece, rather an introduction into something that you may wish to continue exploring. We measure success by you leaving fully intact with a work that inspires and reminds you of a rewarding and memorable experience during your time with us.

Your work

You will leave with a handmade clear glass tube that you have manipulated through hands and breath, that will be filled with neon (red) gas. The workshop price includes a low voltage neon power supply for everyone.

Things to bring with you

- . non-flammable clothing, jeans and cotton is ideal
- . Safe footwear, no open toed sandals
- . Camera and/or documenting method.

Please dress appropriately for a workshop environment.

If you have long hair, please bring something to tie it back with.

All other safety wear and measures will be provided by Neon Workshops.

Workshop location

R. Vasco Santana 70
4460-249
Matosinhos,
Portugal

Schedule

Day 1

- 10am Introduction to tutors: Richard Wheater, Matty Townsend and our studio host Joao Carqueijeiro. Richard will demonstrate the process of making a circle from a straight tube of glass using a bending template.
- 11:30am Workshop induction with glass and hot torches inc neon basics... colour/brightness/electricity.
- 12:30pm Lunch break
- 1:30pm Richard gives demonstration on oven pumping
- 2pm With tutor guidance, participants begin attempting making a circle from a glass straight tube.
- 4pm Richard gives a demonstration on filling glass with neon gas, wiring up and lighting
- 5pm End of day one
- Evening (OPTIONAL) Catch up drinks and visit Porto's famous old pharmacy neon and cinema neon

Day 2

- 9:30am (OPTIONAL) 'Light Yoga' with Richard
Guided sequence of moves, attributed to luminaries of the neon world
- 10am Demonstration on joining glass/electrodes
- 11am Participants continue practicing making circles and attempting to join their electrodes to completion
- 12:30pm Lunch break
- 1:30pm for those that have completed a circle ready to be processed, tutors discuss participants own ideas.
- 2:30pm Participants complete their ideas to a bending template.
Participants begin making their ideas in glass
- 4:30pm Glass ready to be processed to fitted in the kiln and switched on
- 5pm End of day one
- Evening (OPTIONAL) Meal with class and tutors in authentic Portuguese restaurant

Day 3

- 10am Richard gives a demonstration on making a letter
- 10:30am Torches on! Participants work to complete their glass bending, ready for processing
- 12pm Remaining participants work is fitted to oven pump and processed
- 12:30pm Lunch break
- 1:30pm Participants complete and document work Class discuss completed work with tutors
- 4.45pm Pack work and cleanup workshop
- 5pm End of Straight-Circle Mobile Neon Workshop

