



The Office of Artisanry and Local Patrimony of the Formentera Island Council presented today the selection of autumn workshops planned for the Centre Antoni Tur “Gabrielet” artisanal space, thus putting use of the multi-functional centre – which hosts a full calendar of expositions in summer and educational courses in winter – within the reach of the local population.

The course offering was presented by the councilor of Tourism, Trade and Markets, Alejandra Ferrer. This year's selection of classes will begin in November and extend into March and generally speaking will be composed of continued learning topics aimed at adults.

Two different beginners' pottery courses will be offered by master artisans putting their tried and true techniques and materials on display for students. Another portion of the catalogue includes a workshop on crafting traditional senalla and senalló baskets.

The goal is to provide a format through which locals can develop courses based on traditional crafts, thus ensuring the conservation and continued development of these artisanal traditions, and simultaneously fomenting year-round artisan activity on the island.

The Centre Antoni Tur “Gabrielet” programmes quality expositions with local artists and artisans all year long. These represent opportunities not only to steal glimpses at the art in creation on the island, but they also stand as moments to bring the different art forms (painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, etc.) within the reach of island residents. The Formentera Council has marked a clear path toward the goal of creating an official accreditation for artisanry, granting a form of official recognition for 67 individuals and providing Gabrielelet's 'artisanal centre' as a stage for the exhibition of their work.

Such traditional craft work is so important for a slew of reasons. It is first an important source of local employment and second of cultural charm, extremely significant to tourism on the island. The Gabrielelet centre, in this way, represents a means of exhibiting the many traditional or at least locally-produced pieces of craft work found on Formentera.

A two-week period of pre-registration from 1 to 14 October will be followed by definitive registration from 15 to 30 October. Interested residents can visit the Citizen Information Office between 9 am and 2 pm and request further information. The first workshops will begin in the month of November. The minimum number of students in order to hold a class is ten.

The “Made in Formentera” product brand distinction

As part of the task of promoting the “Producte fet a Formentera” brand, a ceramic kiln for the pottery courses held at the Gabrielelet centre was acquired with funding from the Leader project.

The Leader project is an initiative that, in addition to funding computer equipment at the Casal d'Entitats, has already provided financing for different capital investments that will help small-scale, local producers at Gabrielelet.

The clear predominance of mass-produced goods in today's markets makes finding handmade artisanal work increasingly difficult. For this reason, the Formentera Island Council regulated the “Producte fet a Formentera” (“Product made in Formentera”) brand. It will serve to promote the elaboration and consumption of local fish and animal products like gerret, peix sec (dried fish) and honey at the same time that it promotes locally handcrafted products.

Provided the proper conditions are upheld and application procedures respected, the CIF will allow use of the brand by any individual or company legally-established as 'artisanal' as well as by vendors of local fish, animal and agricultural products.

2013/2014 course selection

POTTERY COURSE

Course length: November to March

Instructors: Remedios Castillo and Sílvia Jobani

Time: Monday and Wednesday, 10 am to 12 noon OR 7 to 9 pm.

Cost: 180€ (material not included)

POTTERY COURSE

Course length: November to March

Instructor: Àngel Berenguer

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 am to 12 noon OR 7 to 9 pm.

Cost: 180€ (material not included)

SENALLA AND SENALLÓ COURSE

Course length: November to February

Instructors: Vicent Verdera, 'Vicent Mateu'

Time: Tuesday, 4 to 7 pm

Cost: 80€ (material not included)