

Clay Exploration

Wednesdays 6:00-8:50

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Introductions:

Goals and Objectives:

Have fun! Learn the technical skills necessary to create functional and decorative pottery. Wheel-throwing and hand-building techniques will be demonstrated. Various techniques for decorating and glazing your pieces will be explored. These will include surface texturing, glazing options and the use of oxides. We will also have a chance to do gas reduction and Raku firings.

Open Lab Hours:

See the white board in the studio – Open studio hours are dependent upon the availability of the instructional assistants. Open studio hours are staffed by volunteers who are available for help outside of class time. There must be a signed-in instructional assistant available for the studio to be open. Please help keep the studio clean during the open studio hours.

Lab Cards: Please fill out a lab card showing the hours you use the studio outside of class.

Clay:

ALL CLAY MUST BE RATED FOR CONE 10!!!!!!!

Clay Bodies Available from the Benton Center Bookstore

- Coleman Porcelain – Expensive. Very white and translucent.
- Mount Hood Porcelain – White Porcelain
- Hanjiki Porcelain – “Economy” Porcelain
- B-Mix – White Porcelaineous Stoneware
- Mac10
- Three-fingered Jack – Stoneware clay. Good for hand-building and Raku.
- Trail Mix – Stoneware. Easiest to throw. Good for dinnerware.
- Dakota Red – Stoneware. More iron. Toasted color when reduced. Best with shinos and celadons.
- Soldate 60 – Stoneware. Good all-around clay body.
- Piepenburg Raku – Stoneware. Best for Raku.
- Recycled Clay – Purchase at the registration counter

Tools: Most of the basic tools can be purchased at the Bookstore

- Needle Tool
- Cut-off Wire
- Wooden Rib
- Hard Rubber Rib
- Metal Rib
- Trimming Tools
- Round Synthetic Sponge

- Rag-grade Towel
- Wooden Knife
- Fettling Knife (optional)
- Notebook (Highly Recommended!)
- Homemade tools
- Brushes/Sponge Brushes

Cubby Space:

Select a cubby and add name to the list. Cubbies are limited so please share if you can.

Safety:

- All of the glazes (except raku glazes) are food and microwave safe
- Biggest problem is silica dust:
 - Cleanup with a wet sponge
 - Trimming
 - Towels
 - Don't trim dry pots
 - Spills
 - Dirty floor
 - Blowing on dry pot
- Chemicals
 - Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
 - Barium Carbonate
 - Silica
- Wheels and slab roller
- Glazing – Use exhaust fans
- Kilns are HOT! Know where emergency gas shut-off is located
- Most important for safety is a clean studio

The Process of Making Pottery

- Idea and inspiration – Books, Galleries, Other Potters, Nature, Just about anything!
- Wedging the clay – Kneading a mass of clay to expel the air and make the mass homogeneous
- Forming the piece – Throw on wheel, hand-build or a combination
- Storage and drying in the wet closets -- Greenware
- Trim/final Preparation
- Bisquing –Place greenware on the bisque shelf where it will be loaded into one of the electric and bisque fired to cone 06 (approximately 1830 F) – Bisqueware
- Glazing
- Final Firing – Gas reduction kiln fired to cone 10 (approximately 2300 F) and Raku to cone 06 (approximately 1830 F)
- Keep pots moving through the process

Tour of Studio