

Brantford Potters' Guild- ClayWorks Studio Adult Curriculum

The following list helps to describe techniques, skills and knowledge that will be imparted by the instructor, based upon each student's individual level of skill. All classes are considered multilevel with the teacher and student together assessing the appropriate level for the student to be working towards.

Introduction to Clay

- Safety and studio protocols
- Wheel throwing and basic techniques; centering, cylinders, trimming.
- Hand-building; pinch pots, coiling methods, slabs and using impressions and stamps.
- basic glazing
- Using tools and equipment and the effect of firing of clay in a kiln.
- reclaiming clay and proper storage and drying of clay work
- goal setting and the importance of keeping a sketch book

Beginner 1

- expanding on wheel – small bowls, and throwing multiples
- Hand building continued with slab techniques, carving, handles
- glazing using multiple dips and oxides
- sketchbook –keeping records and getting inspired

Beginner 2

- kiln terminology and firing basics discussed
- decorating techniques; coloured slips, underglazes
- produce 4 bowls properly thrown and trimmed
- making work 1lb/4inch tall & 2lb/7 inches tall
- intro to mugs, vases and bottles (collaring)
- refining skills and finishing of pots
- sketchbook-planning surface decoration

Intermediate 1

- make a variety of mugs both thrown and hand-built
- combined pieces; jugs/pouring vessels (ewer, pitcher) and handles
- Discuss kiln loading techniques
- various techniques for using slips
- wall piece
- sketchbook, emphasis on developing a critical eye

Intermediate 2

- throwing plates and larger bowls,
- sculptural objects
- discuss types of clays
- scrafitto and resist techniques
- photographing your work and the business of clay
- sketchbook, emphasis on form

Intermediate 3

- lidded vessels
- loading both bisque and glaze kilns
- developing your work for shows/ displays and packaging
- tiles, or miniatures
- platters and/or dinner set
- sketchbook, emphasis on the consumer eye

Advanced 1

- kiln loading and firing schedules
- glaze testing and line blends
- various teapots both hand-built and thrown
- self-directed projects in consultation with instructor
- sketchbook, emphasis on studio design and working from home

Advanced 2

- kiln maintenance and firing
- glaze; further testing and personalizing your glaze palette
- throwing larger
- multiples
- self-directed projects
- sketchbook emphasis on design

Advanced 3

- develop a body of work suitable for a gallery show
- apply to a juried show
- Marketing your work; approaching galleries/ shops/ wholesale accounts, develop business cards, website etc, writing CV, artists statement, grant applications and applying to mentorships
- Sketchbook