

Ceramics: Intermediate Throwing

J. Wayne Reitz Union Arts & Crafts Center

Tuesdays 5:00—7:00pm

January 22—March 12

Instructor: Sam Mendez

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This seven-session course will enhance and further the skills you have obtained in Beginner Wheel Throwing. Learn to create functional tableware, such as bowls, plates and jars. Throwing two- part vessels will also be covered.

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1	Review throwing basics
Week 2	Platters & Serving Bowls
Week 3	Test tiles and Underglaze techniques
Week 4	2- parts vessel pt. 1
Week 5	2- part vessel pt. 2
Week 6	Lidded vessels pt. 1
Week 7	Lidded vessels pt. 2

Vocabulary and Skills You Will Develop in This Class

Wedging – kneading the clay in such a way as to remove all the air bubbles and blend it for consistency of firmness and moisture.

Centering – learn to control the clay so it is perfectly centered on the spinning pottery wheel. Centering is the critical starting point in throwing pottery. From a still, centered mound of clay, everything is created.

Opening – creating an opening in a centered mound of clay.

Pulling Up Walls – to move clay up and away from the pottery wheel surface in order to form the walls or sides of your vessel.

Shaping – shaping techniques allow you to take your creations further. Once you master the basic lift, shaping the pot is where you can add your own artistic flare to the walls once you've lifted them.

Trimming – is the process of cleaning or shaping the bottom of your pot once it's been removed from your wheel and has had the opportunity to stiffen up enough to be handled. The stiff but still wet state is called, "leather hard".

Glazing Techniques – learn the proper way to apply liquid glaze to your pottery. Instruction will be given to help you successfully decorate and color your pottery before it goes into the kiln for its final firing.

Greenware – unfired raw clay. Greenware has not yet been bisqued and therefore can be reclaimed.

Functionality – consideration of the final use for your pottery will dictate the size, shape and finish of your work. You'll learn best practices for a variety of functionality.

Aesthetics – after mastering the basics of creating pottery, we will guide you in ways to uncover and achieve your desired look, helping you achieve creations that exhibit your personal artistic voice.

Bisque Firing – an initial firing of raw clay ware to burn out physical water, chemical water, and carbonaceous matter, and make the clay into a material that will not slake down in water and may more easily be glazed.

Bone Dry – unfired clay with as much atmospheric water evaporated as relative humidity permits. The piece is dry, light in color, and very fragile. Clay in this state will slake down completely in water to an amorphous mass.

Kiln – furnace for firing clay work through the application of heat.

Leather Hard – clay holds enough moisture to still be dark in color, but is no longer plastic (will crack when bent), is stable in form, and can be easily carved or trimmed. Leather hard clay put in water becomes softer but does not completely dissolve the form.

Slipping and Scoring – joining two pieces of leather hard clay by scratching both clay surfaces with water or slip to provide extra surface area for a strong connection.

Plastic – clay that is soft and moist and responds easily to forming pressure. Plasticity is the ability of a material to respond to pressure and hold that form.

Course Resources

Texts (these are available for you to look at in the Arts & Crafts Center):

The Ceramics Bible: The Complete Guide to Materials and Techniques. Taylor, Louisa.

Mastering the Potter's Wheel. Carter, Benjamin

A Potter's Workbook. Illian, Clary

The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques. Hamer, Frank and Janet.

The Potter's Encyclopedia of Color, Form, and Decoration. French.

Functional Pottery. Hopper, Robin.

The Basics of Throwing: A Practical Approach to Form and Design. Cohen, David.

500 Bowls. Lark Books.

500 Cups. Lark Books.

Periodicals (many of these are available at the Arts & Crafts Center):

Studio Potter

Ceramics Monthly

Pottery Making Illustrated

Ceramics Art and Perception

Websites:

AKAR

<http://www.akardesign.com>

Schaller Gallery

<http://www.schallergallery.com>

Freer Sackler Gallery

<http://www.asia.si.edu/>

Ceramic Arts Daily

<http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org>

Youtube

<http://www.youtube.com>