

**Ceramics: Beginner Throwing**  
**Art Alley Studio**

Instructor: Sam Mendez  
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Wednesdays 5:30pm- 8:00pm  
January 9- February 13

This six-session course will teach you how to wedge, throw, hand- build and glaze pottery. Over the course of six weeks, we will learn basic terminology of ceramics while creating plates, jars, handles and bowls. We will treat the surface of the pottery by using different glazing techniques.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

Week 1	Studio Tour & Safety, Review hand-building- molds
Week 2	Slab- built sugar and creamer set
Week 3	Review wheel throwing- bowls
Week 4	Trimming & Wheel thrown plates
Week 5	Review glazing & surface treatment techniques
Week 6	Work Day

### Vocabulary 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.

**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".

**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.

Websites:

Artaxis	<a href="http://www.artaxis.com">http://www.artaxis.com</a>
Charlie Cummings Gallery	<a href="http://www.charliecumminggallery.com">http://www.charliecumminggallery.com</a>
Ceramic Arts Daily	<a href="http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org">http://www.ceramicartsdaily.org</a>
Youtube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com">http://www.youtube.com</a>

Art Alley Rules & Safety

- Clay costs \$1.00 a pound and can be bought in ½ or whole bags.
- Your materials fee covers ½ a kiln shelf. If you need more space, please see Sam or Allison for a kiln space purchase slip.
- Please wear closed toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting muddy!
- A clean studio is a safe studio. If you are not sure how to clean something, please ask.
- Do not leave wheel with muddy hands. Clean as much off in the bucket at your wheel before getting up. Clay winds up on the faucet, the stools, the outside of their clay bag, the door etc.
- Do not throw away clay! You can recycle your wrecked pottery and trimmings.
- Clean wheels and tools at station. Use recycle buckets. No clay down the sink. No clay cleanup in the bathroom.
- Store work on shelves provided. Cover and label all your work properly.
- Fold finished clay bags and put in storage bucket under the back table.
- Open studio is Tuesdays 5:30pm- 8:00pm
- Have fun, ask questions and experiment!

