

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

LW6711 HAND BUILDING AND THROWING TEXTURED POTS

Tutor: ALISON SANDEMAN

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This exciting course will leave you with a wealth of new possibilities after three days of sharing resources, pooling of ideas, and individual work.

Hand builders will be able to apply the course theme to slab and coil pots, slump formed square dishes, pressed dishes from plaster moulds, and sculptural work. Throwers will start by making simple shapes and then progress onto their own ideas.

Roulette wheels, wood paddling, stamp pressing and incising into the clay surface and through coloured slips will be covered.

Potters tend to get by with very few tools. However, when it comes to texturing clay and decorating surfaces, found natural and handmade objects to create these textures are invaluable. A small end section of eroded wood becomes, at the least, a treasure with potential and, at best, a vital tool to add to one's collection.

The natural and fulfilling process of decorating pots has been happening for thousands of years. This is well illustrated in the repeat patterns of the Pre historic pots of the Neolithic period, and the fine detailed patterns created with cord by the potters of the Japanese Jomon period. The applied and stamped decoration of medieval jugs, clearly show an enjoyment of decorating. Whilst present day potters use the same kind of simple tools and found objects to decorate their work, we also have the advantage of modern materials to draw on.

### TIMETABLE

**THURSDAY EVENING:** Introduction to the course and looking at the potential of the found objects that everyone has brought along with the tutor's and West Dean's resource.  
A short look at past and present examples of decorated and textured work.  
Preparing test tiles for impressing the next day and a demonstration of using found objects.

**FRIDAY:** A short visit to a local site to dig clay and find fossils; instant texture tools.  
On return, you will learn how to process the clay to make coloured slips. We will start to try out the found objects on the clay tiles and also be shown how to make plaster and clay moulds from textured surfaces and the objects. These moulds then become part of the resources. Some of the tiles will be rush dried for an overnight firing so that they can be used the following day. Making of stamps from clay, bone, wood and plaster.  
The rest of Friday will be spent on making pots for texturing and experimenting with the resources.

**SATURDAY:** Making, decorating and starting to finish work.  
Demonstration of inlaying coloured clays and slips, followed by group work.  
Hand builders will have the opportunity to go out into the gardens for pressing clay slabs on bark and other natural objects. These slabs can be made up into pots and sculptural pieces on return. Overnight firing of more biscuit moulds.

**SUNDAY:** Making and finishing.  
Demonstration and group work on the application of colouring oxides on the biscuit surface.  
Discussion of appropriate glazes and their recipes for textured work.

### LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practise. **Throwers should be able to centre their clay.**

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Alison Sandeman is a long-standing tutor at West Dean. She makes functional individual pieces in stoneware, porcelain and Raku, at her well established pottery studio on a farm, near Chichester. She has a special interest in outdoor firing techniques and is currently working with University College London on a research project on ancient making techniques.

Alison has a passion for collecting, using found objects and passing on the processes and techniques.

### GENERAL TIMETABLE:

#### Arrival day: Thursday 2 February

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b>

#### Other days: Friday 3 February – Saturday 4 February

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working – workshops are available until 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

#### Departure day: Sunday 5 February

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

### REQUIRED PREPARATION:

You are encouraged to bring your own finds in preparation for the course. Materials that work best with clay are any absorbent surface such as wood, textiles, rope and cord. Metal items can work depending on the condition of the clay; so do bring them. Old saw blades are a highlight!

### MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

**Materials included in the course fee:**

The cost of all clay, glazing and firing costs (large work in size and quantity may be charged extra).

Basic tool kits are provided in the Pottery for use during the course

**Available from the Shop:**

Pottery tools, pottery knife

Rough paper or sketch pad, and pencil

Wood or plastic ruler and plastic set square

Natural sponge

**Available from the tutor:**

Found objects resource

**Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:**

Wellies and waterproofs for our outings!

If leaving your pots, PLEASE BRING A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED POSTCARD WITH YOU (or a card with your name and email address) so that we can let you know when the pots are ready for collection.

**Please note that your work will be kept for collection for one year from the postmark date on your returned postcard (or the date of the email).**

**Firing and glazing of completed pieces:** Students normally have three options at the end of the course.

1. Students may leave any raw, finished pieces that they wish to keep, for biscuit firing, basic glazing and re-firing by the College, for collection at a later date.
2. Students may leave raw, finished pieces for biscuit firing at the College. They may then book a place on a Glazing Day – the details and fee are advertised in the short course programme – and learn how to glaze their work themselves. This work will be re-fired and available for collection at a later date. (There is no additional cover charge for practical glazing days.)
3. Students are free to take away their unfired pots for glazing and firing elsewhere.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.