

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW07485 EXPLORING PORCELAIN – THROWING AND HAND BUILDING

Tutor: JACK DOHERTY

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Man-made and natural surfaces are used as a starting point in this course to allow you to explore the intrinsic plastic qualities of porcelain clay. You will be introduced to a series of inventive forming techniques and encouraged to use these to produce forms from pre-decorated porcelain slabs. There will be instruction in the basic methods of construction with particular attention given to joining techniques.

During the course you will gain competence in the use of porcelain, learning to understand and exploit its special qualities and learn to handle the clay in a way which will develop surface quality and pattern which is integral to the form. By the end of the course you will have learnt to develop ideas for form and decoration, explore new forming techniques and produced a series of porcelain forms.

Using porcelain the tutor will demonstrate a wide range of techniques:

- construction techniques using simple moulding techniques and wooden formers, moulds made from pipe insulation and other found materials;
- throwing techniques and inventive combinations;
- impressing, piercing and mark making;
- using found objects to produce surfaces of different quality;
- drawing in clay, stretching and manipulating porcelain to develop exciting dynamic images.

Following each demonstration you will devise and work on individual projects with the tutor's support and guidance. At the end of each session there will be short informal discussion. All participants will present a selection of work for an informal group review at the end of the course.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practise.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Jack Doherty is renowned for his porcelain, thrown and slab-built with coloured clay. He is a former chair of the Craft Potters Association, exhibits widely and runs his own studio in Cornwall.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Thursday 30 November

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 – attendance is an essential part of the course. There will be an inspirational slide talk showing examples of contemporary work.

Other days: Friday 1 and Saturday 2 December

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch

Other days continued: Friday 1 and Saturday 2 December

2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: The tutor will be available in the workshop for supervised sessions on the two subsequent evenings. These will not include any formal teaching.

Departure day: Sunday 3 December

(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

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.

Included in the fee for this course: all clay, glazing and firing costs (large work in size and quantity may be charged extra).

Available from the Shop:

Pottery tools including pottery knife and natural sponge
Paper, sketch pad, pencils

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

Overall/apron

Old towel

Cardboard boxes are useful if taking away raw pots at end of course

PLEASE BRING A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED POSTCARD WITH YOU or a note of your email address, if you wish to leave your work at the College, so that we can let you know when your pieces are ready.

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 raw, finished pieces: Students 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. (The cost of firings and glaze materials is included in the course fee for this course.)
- 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 course 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 further charge for the glazing materials if you choose to book a glazing day.)
- 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.

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