

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S5D07665 THROWING FUNCTIONAL POTS—FOR KITCHEN, OVEN AND TABLE

Tutor: ALISON SANDEMAN

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 2 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course combines the opportunity to improve and develop throwing skills with the production of basic and more advanced functional pots for the kitchen, oven and table.

In the ceramic world, drinking vessels, storage and cooking pots go back at least 4,000 years B.C. to the Neolithic Period in Britain and Ireland. Right up to the present day they have been, and still are, a vital part of home life. Food always tastes better from a handmade pot and the satisfaction of completing a handled mug, a set of plates, or a lidded casserole, along with all of their component parts fully justifies the challenge of the process.

On the first evening, we start with an introductory talk, and then take a look at historical and contemporary examples of functional ware. The tutor will guide your decision on which forms to work on, according to your level of experience. Forms will include mugs, jugs, bowls, plates, lidded storage pots, kitchen mixing bowls, open cooking dishes, flan dishes, skillets, egg bakers, soup pots and casseroles. Earthenware and stoneware ovenproof clays will be available. There will be time for clay preparation, getting wheels ready for action, and the tutor will give a throwing demonstration.

On the following three days we concentrate on throwing, getting the most out of the clay, and making the component parts needed i.e. lids, lugs and knobs. The tutor will demonstrate all techniques.

On the last two days, we concentrate on the completion of pots, and turning where needed. This includes pulling and applying handles for the mugs and jugs, plus lugs (side handles) for the casseroles and storage pots. Handles for lids and throwing knobs on lids, will also be covered. You will be able to return to the college to glaze your own work; see page 2. For those taking their pots home, the tutor will advise on glazing techniques.

The course is restricted to eight students with each having the use of a wheel for the whole course. You are taught at your own individual level, encouraged to practise, and are introduced to new ideas and methods of making, where appropriate. It is useful, but not essential, to come with some ideas, sketches or photos of the designs you wish to make.

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:

Alison Sandeman is a long-standing tutor at West Dean. She makes thrown functional and individual pieces in stoneware, porcelain and Raku, at her well established pottery studio on a farm, near Chichester, where she also enjoys maintaining a core range of domestic stoneware. She is currently working with University College London on a research project on ancient making techniques.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Sunday 25 February

From 4.00pm Arrival for residential students
6.45pm Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner

Arrival day continued: Sunday 25 February

7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course – see page 1 for details.

Other days: Monday 26 February to Thursday 1 March

9.15am	Morning classes
10.30am	Coffee
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
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. The tutor will show slides and videos related to the course. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Friday 2 March

(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:

As the tutor may like to make contact with you by phone nearer to the beginning of the course to help with the planning and answer any questions **please email her** at nutwood@waitrose.com at least two weeks before the start date of your course with your name, details of the course you are attending (ie course ref, title and dates) and your telephone number.

Course reading list: For those interested in reading any books before the course, the following may be in your public library:

The Craft of the Potter by Michael Casson (BBC Publications)
The Complete Potter's Companion by Tony Birks (Conran Octopus)
The Techniques of Throwing by John Colbeck (Batsford Watson-Guption)
Throwing by Richard Phethean (Blandford)
Throwing Pots by Phil Rogers (A & C Black)
Country Pottery by Andrew McGarva (A & C Black)
10,000 Years of Pottery by Emmanuel Cooper (British Museum Press)

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

Available from the Shop:

Pottery tools, pottery knife	Rough paper or sketch pad, and pencil
Wood or plastic ruler	Callipers metal or plastic
Natural sponge	

Please bring any of the items listed on page 2, if you have them, and in addition:

Overall, old towel

Cardboard boxes are useful if taking raw pots away

Books of interest

Images or pots of interest: personal or by other potters

Clean plastic shopping bags

PLEASE BRING A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED POSTCARD WITH YOU (or a card with your name and email address) if you wish to leave your work at the College for glazing and firing, so that we can let you know when your pieces 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.

Firing and glazing of raw, finished 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 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 firing and glazing 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.