

SUMMER SCHOOL SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SSS08043 THROWING FUNCTIONAL, TRADITIONAL AND
CONTEMPORARY FORMS – POTTERY

Tutor: ALISON SANDEMAN

Dates: 6 DAYS SATURDAY 28 JULY – FRIDAY 3 AUGUST

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Within the inspirational environment of West Dean, you will choose to make traditional or contemporary work, exploring form and function. The course combines the opportunity to develop throwing skills, apply decorative techniques at all stages, along with glazing and firing.

The satisfaction of completing a handled mug or jug, a set of plates, a lidded casserole, along with its component parts, or creating non-functional work with detailed attention to form, fully justifies the challenge of the process.

In the ceramic world, vessels for food, storage and cooking go back at least 4,000 years. Right up to the present day they have been, and still are, a vital part of home life. Food and drink always tastes better and looks more inviting from a handmade pot while the character and feel of a non-functional pot, contemporary or traditional, is tangible compared to an industrially produced one. We will be discussing these ideas within the frame work of the Summer School.

The course starts with an introductory talk taking a look at historical and contemporary examples. The next step is to check out clay preparation techniques together, get the wheels ready for action followed by a throwing demonstration by the tutor.

Whilst the group start practising on the wheel, the tutor will look at your ideas on a one to one basis, and discuss which forms to work on, according to your level of experience. Earthenware, stoneware and porcelain clays will be available.

On the following days we concentrate on throwing, turning, and getting the most out of the clay. This includes making the component parts needed i.e. handles, lids, lugs, knobs, and more decorative additions. The tutor will demonstrate all techniques.

The drying of work ready for biscuit firing will start to take place from the end of Sunday onwards, with the glazing and decorating where applicable, following on.

On the last two days, we concentrate on the completion of any outstanding pots. On Friday the final firings will be unpacked.

For those with any outstanding work, these can be biscuit fired and collected at a later date or can be glazed for you. You can also return to the college to glaze you own work on a glazing day: see notes on page 3.

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. Where possible please bring your working ideas, sketches or photos of the forms 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. Students need to be able to centre their clay.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Alison Sandeman is a senior 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 has worked with University College London on a research project about ancient making techniques, and is currently involved with the wood fired kiln at the Cass Sculpture Foundation.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Please note: a detailed timetable covering all additional events and activities planned for your summer school week will be given to you on arrival.

Arrival day: Saturday 28 July

By 12.00 noon	Arrival and registration for summer school students (Please note: some bedrooms may not be available until 1pm)
12.15pm	Director's Welcome in the Stewards Bar, followed by lunch
2.00pm – 5.00pm	First teaching session
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.15pm	Tutors' talks in the Old Library

Other days: Sunday 29 July – Thursday 2 August

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes (except Wednesday afternoon which is untutored and free for excursions to Chichester, from 2–5pm)
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–10.00pm	Evening working or additional timetabled summer school events Workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been agreed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Friday 3 August

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Final teaching session
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Individual group reviews
12.45pm	Lunch
1.30pm–2.30pm	Displays of Summer School students' work in studios
3.00pm	Summer School ends
3.30pm	Tea then departure

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 (Conan Octopus)
The Techniques of Throwing by John Colbeck (Batsford Watson-Guptill)
Throwing by Richard Phethean (Blandford)
Throwing Pots by Phil Rogers (A & C Black)
Pottery in the Making by Freestone and Gaimster (British Museum Press)
10,000 Years of Pottery by Emmanuel Cooper (British Museum Press)
The Workshop Guide to Ceramics by Duncan Hooson and Tony Quinn (Thames and Hudson)

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm. On the first and last days (ie Saturday and Friday) of your Summer School week the shop will be open until 4.30pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first afternoon 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).

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

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

Overall and old towel
Books of interest
15 Clean plastic shopping bags or white bin liners.

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 six months 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE VISUAL ART & CRAFT SUMMER SCHOOL

Attending an intensive Summer School course allows you to experience a range of creative activities alongside your course. Special Summer School features:

- Inspirational talks by tutors and displays of their work.
- A swap-over session to another course of your choice.
- An optional evening at the Chichester Festival Theatre (pre-booked at a group rate, via a form we send you in May).
- A free afternoon on Wednesday to explore Chichester or other cultural highlights on offer in the locality.

- A special party with dinner, entertainment and music.
- Workshop displays of students' work and informal end-of-course group reviews.
- If your stay includes the weekend of 10–12 August, enjoy West Dean's Chilli Fiesta in the gardens in your free time and add a little 'spice' to your stay with all things chilli and live music from midday until 11pm on the front lawn.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS are expected to attend evening sessions (which may last up to 10 pm), so their fees include coffee, lunch and dinner daily.

RESIDENT STUDENTS: Residents staying on for more than one Summer School week will have the additional dinner, bed and breakfast between the Summer School courses provided free of charge.