

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S5D08003 SLAB BUILT CERAMICS: RESPONDING TO PLACE

Tutor: ANNA LAMBERT

Dates: 5 DAYS SUNDAY 8 JULY – FRIDAY 13 JULY

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Working from the Sussex chalk landscape surrounding West Dean, learn how to use drawing to develop designs for simple slab built ceramic platters, bowls and wall pieces.

We will explore the local landscape on a walk; students will be guided to gather visual information and ideas about their impressions of the chalk downs surrounding West Dean using note taking and drawing.

We will also experiment with and practice the use of various mark-making techniques for use with tonal and coloured slips: relief embossing with lino; hand cut paper stencils; stamping using hand cut and found items; sgraffito drawing. Each student will be encouraged to find a combination of techniques that appeals to them.

Using our drawings and tests, we will progress to a series of simple hand built forms, followed by a longer study to develop ideas, using drawn and relief representations of landscape in clay.

There will be short practical demonstrations for each technique used and group discussions to encourage the generation of ideas and problem solving. Individual practical instruction and support will be tailored to each student's needs as the project develops. Techniques covered will include clay slab rolling and hand-building; painting with multiple layers of slips; making hand cut stencils and stamps, simple lino cutting; use of texture; producing a good finish on rims and feet.

Materials used will be pencil and crayons, graphite sticks or sharpies for drawing (plus camera if wanted); white earthenware clay mixed with Earthstone ES40 , coloured slips.

By the end of the course, students will have completed a major piece of hand-built ceramics – a large platter, bowl, or a non-functional piece, which represents their ideas about the local landscape. Pieces will be finished to leatherhard stage and can be left at West Dean or taken home for glazing and firing.

On the first evening, there will be a presentation about the use of drawing and landscape in ceramics, and a discussion about the timing of the various aspects of the course. Weather permitting, the second day will start with a short walk in the Sussex Downs, with note taking and quick sketches. Please bring appropriate clothing.

### 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 practice.

**ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:** Anna Lambert makes hand built earthenware ceramics for wall and table that relate to place. Using a range of techniques including altered clay slabs, modelling and painted slips, Anna's new work reflects a growing interest in her locality and to the fragile and constantly changing environment, responding to places as diverse as flooded valleys, degraded moorland and bird filled hedgerows. Inspired by Romanticism and new nature writing, she is engaging with a common language beyond pastoral sentimentality – interpreting memories and observation through drawing to make best use of the abstract nature of pots, their spaces, edges and surfaces, and developing a new range of techniques to alter, impress and colour the clay parts.

Anna studied 3D design and ceramics at Bath Academy of Art and University of Central Lancashire. A full time maker since 1980, her many solo exhibitions include The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Contemporary Ceramics, London and galleries in Europe and USA. She exhibits regularly at major ceramics fairs such as Ceramic Art London. She is a fellow of the Craft Potters Association. Anna is also a part time lecturer (MA Ceramics, UCLan) and occasionally runs short courses.

#### **TIMETABLE:**

##### **Arrival day: Sunday 8 July**

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> There will be a presentation about the use of drawing and landscape in ceramics, and a discussion about the timing of the various aspects of the course.

##### **Other days: Monday 9 to Thursday 12 July**

(Weather permitting, the second day will start with a short walk in the Sussex Downs, with note taking and quick sketches.)

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 up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

##### **Departure day: Friday 13 July**

(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:**

No preparation is essential for this course

#### **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 course fee includes: all clay, glazing and firing costs – large work in size and quantity may be charged extra.

**Available from the Shop:**

Drawing paper (min A4), small sketch books, and pencils/felt tip pens/other drawing implements:  
Sharpies, coloured pencils or graphite sticks  
Pottery tools, pottery knife  
Soft Cut lino sheets  
Lino cutting tools

**Available from the tutor:**

High grade tissue paper  
Coloured slips

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

Warm clothing and shoes suitable for a short walk  
An apron  
Any pottery tools you wish to use (optional – some are supplied in the workshop) cutting wire, small pointed vegetable knife  
Clean canvas cloth/J cloths  
Small sponge, water sprayer, potters needle, jar or plastic pot, slurry brush  
Hake brushes or soft mop brushes for slips  
Small sharp scissors or scalpel  
Ruler  
Box, plastic bags and paper, for transporting pieces home  
Camera (optional)

PLEASE BRING A CARD WITH YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS WITH YOU (or a stamped, self-addressed postcard) 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 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 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 additional cover charge made for practical glazing days.)
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.

**Please Note:** Please allow plenty of time for your journey as traffic will be heavier than usual, with some road diversions in the immediate vicinity, due to the Festival of Speed – the motor racing event taking place **July 12–15** at the nearby Goodwood Estate.