

2023 McGregor Summer

Students' Materials List

Class: Exquisite Porcelain | Ceramics

Tutor: Shannon Garson

Please bring the following:

- **GREENWARE – (THAT IS UNFIRED PIECES) ANY CLAY BUT BRING SOME WHITE.**

*******WARNING***** BISQUED PIECES ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR THIS WORKSHOP**

- **6 unfired small to medium sized pieces**, they can be handbuilt or thrown or slip cast. Greenware is available at \$21 per 9cm high, 15cm wide bowl made by local maker. Please order bowls on her website [Greenware Porcelain Bowls | Summerholm Studio](#) by December 16.
- **10 unfired tiles at least 15cm x 15cm to decorate**, these can be handbuilt or thrown.
- Throwers need at least one bag of Keane's Lumina Porcelain, but more if they wish.
- Brushes (fat and thin at least 4 brushes I use calligraphy brushes but watercolour brushes are also good)



- 2 cheap acrylic brushes for shellac



- Sgraffito tools- pin tools
- 2 x metal ribs



- sketchbook
- pens and pencils
- scissors
- camera or phone camera
- paint palettes



McGregor Summer Workshops 2023 Schedule:

15 January – 21 January 2023

Explore the world of ceramic colour, drawing and pattern without using glazes! Learn to throw fine porcelain! This is a workshop for all artists from ceramicists to painters and sculptors, through the week we will circle between making with clay and exploring form and mark making on ceramic forms using composition, colour, line and pattern. Practical tips and techniques underpin your creative expression. Learn to work in an intuitive, expressive way making beautiful, fine ceramic vessels or dynamic, ceramic sculptures, getting layered, sophisticated surfaces and balancing form and drawing.

This workshop is designed as an adventure, Shannon will give you tools and techniques but where you go and what you make is your own journey. We will expand your techniques, every day builds on what your creative vocabulary, ranging from the importance of line, the true weight of volume, how to solve technical design issues, and what to do when you are at a creative dead end. Ceramics is our medium we look at colour mixing, using underglazes, slips and glaze stains to create pattern and texture, drawing on ceramic surfaces, simple glazes, (only one I promise!) working with porcelain, creating domestic forms, throwing, and handbuilding. Throughout the workshop we will flow between looking at form, exploring throwing, and handbuilding, working on the technical aspects of creating with clay and exploring mark making, drawing, patterns, and colours.

Designed as a creative boost for artists at every stage of their career, to germinate your ideas and give you techniques to create what you imagine!

Think about these questions.....

What is my favourite colour?

What do I love eating?

How does it make me feel?

What is my favourite time of day?

Write down some quotes from songs, poems, cookbooks that you are inspired by.

What flowers remind me of my childhood?

Stripes or spots?

Daily Schedule:

DAY ONE

INDUCTION

MAKING PAPER CLAY-

We'll explore the clay by rolling it into sausages and balls and then wedging toilet paper into it to make paper clay. This will encourage the students to explore the possibilities for

manipulating the clay. Becoming familiar with the material, squishing and squashing and having fun!

SPHERE FACTORY

Each student is to make 5 hollow ceramic spheres and pinch pots. This part of the project is to develop the student's skills with clay and start them on a process of interacting with clay as a material, finding the limits and of what the material can do. The spheres must be round and smooth.

Make forms out of white clay and out of speckled red clay.

BLIND TEST TILES

Make 5 blind test tiles, little clay objects. Think about how to use form with your eyes closed, flat, hollow, round, solid. This is the start of our exploration through form with our object diary, an inspiration activity that we will do every day of the workshop connecting our practical making mind to our imagination.

COLOUR MIXING

Using underglazes, colour mixing and oxides. This part of the program will set up easy techniques mixing colour you can use on a variety of clays and surfaces and provide you with the knowledge and confidence to mix your own colours using a variety of ceramic mediums.

We will practice on small tiles and our own bone dry work.

INTRODUCTION TO PORCELAIN THROWING

Demonstration.

DAY 2 - PATTERN

Today we will explore the use of pattern in our forms. We will decorate a series of forms using pattern and explore how the forms work together, how patterns bounce off one another in a group and the use of negative space while using three-dimensional forms with patterns. We'll be using shellac resist in combination with sgraffito.

Pattern making- every tool has it 's own language. Exploration of mark making with our tools and brushes

THROWING

This afternoon we will start exploring form with some hands on throwing. Beakers and teabowls, focussing on beautiful, resolved form, thin , strong rims and perfecting centering.

DAY 3 - INSPIRATION

Many times as an artist I have faced the unknown. With the tiniest thread of inspiration I've started a project only to get little way in and think " I don't know what to do". Fear of the unknown is a constant challenge for an artist and over the years I've developed a variety of techniques that help me navigate deeper into those exciting, murky waters. This class is about that vast interior space where art comes from. This is the day we talk about a really useful tool I call a "Creative Framework"

Field Notes

This is an exercise outside of the classroom. Starting with photography and collecting we are going to do a field trip around the school. The aim of this day is to kick start inspiration, to set a series of actions that will take you into the studio where a complex subject matter like landscape, leaves or architecture becomes a drawing, pot or design.

Our object diary today will include direct material from our field trip, this leads us into creating design and resolved artwork inspired by the natural world.

THROWING

Throwing lessons continue with one on one sessions for throwing porcelain. Demonstration of tall jugs and handles.

DAY 4 - HISTORY

Workshop participants can bring along images of ceramics that have inspired them and images of colours, patterns, textiles photos from nature or art that they want to include in their design. We will talk about ceramic surface design, how to relate the shape of your drawing to your ceramic piece, the role of texture and colour within ceramic design and how to integrate the surface with the body of the form.

THROWING

Turning demonstration and discussion of throwing historical forms and exploration of handles!

*Tonight, we have our final bisque going into the kiln.

DAY 5 - ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

This is the time to refine our skills and work on our projects. We will choose a theme and a series of objects that we want to work on and try to create a small body of work that shows resolution and the techniques we have learnt.

We will look at sources for inspiration, writing, images, and nature.

Layering techniques and setting our goals for final works.

Tonight, we will fire our final 1280 firing.

THROWING

Looking at throwing large bowls, focussing on stability of form, beautiful, resolved large bowls with thin but strong rims!

DAY 6 - FINISHING WORK

Finishing the work takes time and is a really important part of your studio life. Today we'll look at our work, I'll talk about how to finish, photograph and display work to it's greatest advantage.

DAY 7 - UNPACKING THE FINAL FIRING!

There is so much in this workshop and 7 days gives you time to stretch your creative wings. As well as the activities on the program we will do field trips, critical evaluations, talk about professional practice, slideshows, music, inspirational lunches, throwing demonstrations and so much more!

Please bring a coffee mug –regular black tea and coffee, full cream milk and sugar **are** supplied by the School. **should you require decaf, herbal teas, other milk types or artificial sweeteners please bring your own supplies. We will have ‘tea rooms’ set up around campus with small fridges that you can keep your own supplies in.*

N.B. It is advisable to mark your equipment for easy identification.

Workshop runs 8.30am to 4.00pm.