

# LA MERIDIANA

International School of Ceramics in Tuscany



## PICCOLPASSO TUTORED RESIDENCY

Cipriano Piccolpasso, 1524 - 1579, author of *Li tre Libri dell'arte del Vasaio*

*October 22<sup>nd</sup> - December 16<sup>th</sup> 2017*

### History of the course

For over 30 years La Meridiana has run a wide range of courses which have earned international recognition for their professionalism. In 2015 we run our first long course of 12 weeks duration "On Centre" and this is now in its third year. "On Centre" is an intensive taught course focussed primarily on throwing, with an introduction to the nature of materials. The first version of "Piccolpasso" ran, as an off shoot of "On Centre" in 2016.

### Nature of the tutored residency

"Piccolpasso" is a tutored, individual developmental work experience, structured around the proposals of applicants. In this it is fundamentally different to a structured taught course. Participants should already have a good level of competence and be clear how they wish to refine and develop this. Whatever the individuals interest, which may be anywhere in the rich and diverse field of throwing and stoneware firing, the course is about focussing on development and refinement through sequential progress assisted by a schedule of tutorials.

### Structure of the course: Tutorials; Talks; Demonstrations

Being based around the individual work proposals of participants the structure consists of scheduled tutorials and talks, and of requested demonstrations.

Tutorials: weekly tutorials are scheduled to consider past and current work and to plan forthcoming work, (see Outline programme). Spontaneous advice is, obviously, available outside the schedule of tutorials.

Talks: five visual talks are scheduled covering aspects of visual quality, (see Outline programme). These talks focus on form, function, finish and decoration as elements of visual quality, and are illustrated with contemporary and historical images. There are also talks on kilns and firing.

Demonstrations: in relation to their agreed programme, particular demonstrations of any aspect of throwing may be requested by individuals and, where appropriate, these may be seen by other individuals or the group. Group demonstrations are not scheduled but will occur if and as necessary, when, for example, glazing or firings are being done.

## Materials

Three standard clays will be available: Ambra, usually used for reduction firings; Bianco DOC usually used for oxidised firings; and Porcelain. Standard slips and the Meridiana range of oxidation and reduction glazes will be available.

## Firings

All firings will be to stoneware temperature. Oxidised firings will be to Cone 7 and 8. Reduced firings will be to Cone 9 and 10. At the start of the course group firings will occur but after this, under supervision, participants will undertake the packing and firing of their work.

## Tutors

There is a course tutors and an assisting tutor. Each of them will focus on certain aspects of the programme.

**John Colbeck** has taught full and part time at Ceramics degree courses in the UK throughout his working life and was for many years Head of Ceramics at Bath Academy of Art and, in addition, has taught many short courses and given lectures and seminars in the UK and abroad.

He is author of "Pottery, the Technique of Throwing" (1969), "Pottery, Techniques of Decoration" (1983) (both of these still available as Classic reprints from Axner Supplies USA) and "Pottery Materials" (1988).

He produces unglazed, polished thrown forms in stoneware and porcelain.

**Franco Rampi** was born in Domodossola. He started working as a potter in 1981. After an apprenticeship in England and a cycle of studies in Italy he opened his own studio in Tuscany. He produces both functional objects in small series and one off pieces. He works mainly in stoneware, whilst continuing his research on clays, slips and forms.

For ten years he has been teaching and also collaborating with La Meridiana for five years, mainly assisting John Colbeck in throwing courses. [www.francorampi.it](http://www.francorampi.it)

## Working Hours

The working hours for the course are 9.00am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 6.00pm and, when needed, teachers are available in these hours Mondays to Fridays. The workshops are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 4 pm on Saturdays and are closed on Sundays.

## Group Size

A maximum of eight students will be accepted.

## Accommodation

Participants are housed in single rooms in a large apartment at five minutes walking distance from the studio. Each room is furnished with a bed, chair, small work table and clothing storage. There is a large kitchen with cooking facilities, two fridges and a washing machine. The large sitting area has an open fireplace, for which wood is provided. Bathrooms are shared with a maximum of two people per bathroom. The apartment is centrally heated. Use of this accommodation is included in the course price.

Requests for housing in private accommodation should be discussed writing to [info@lameridiana.fi.it](mailto:info@lameridiana.fi.it).

## Lunches

Lunch is served Monday to Friday, during the eight weeks of the course. All other meals can be prepared in the kitchen of the apartments.

A Welcome dinner and Farwell dinner will be included.

## Climate and Heating

Tuscan fall is splendid and there may be many warm and sunny days until December. However, there may be also times of wet weather and humid air. The chart of average temperature gives an indication of normal weather.

	High	Low
November	61 °F (16 °C)	45 °F (7 °C)
December	54 °F (12 °C)	40 °F (4 °C)

The main studio is heated to a good working temperature by a highly efficient wood stove. The large apartment with accommodation for five participants is centrally heated and can be regulated.

Participants are advised to bring adequate warm clothing to be comfortable walking from the studio to the living accommodation and on shopping trips.

## PICCOLPASSO : Outline programme of the Course

Week 1	<p>Introduction to La Meridiana and the course. Initial tutorials to finalise initial individual programmes.</p> <p>Visual talk 1.</p>
Week 2	<p>First biscuit firing. Visual talk 2. Tutorials to discuss the weeks work and to agree the next weeks work.</p>
Week 3	<p>Visual talk 3. Talk on firing. Firings as necessary.</p> <p>Tutorials to discuss the weeks work and to agree the next weeks work.</p>
Week 4	<p>Visual talk 4.</p> <p>Firings as necessary.</p> <p>Tutorials to discuss the weeks work and to agree the broad outline of future work.</p>
Week 5	<p>Visual talk 5.</p> <p>Firings as necessary.</p> <p>Interim tutorials to discuss progress.</p>
Week 6	<p>Firings as necessary.</p> <p>Talk on kilns.</p> <p>Interim tutorials to discuss progress.</p>
Week 7	<p>Firings as necessary.</p> <p>Interim tutorial to discuss progress and conclusion of work.</p> <p>Final biscuit firing.</p>
Week 8	<p>Last glaze firings</p> <p>Thursday – last tutorials to discuss work. Friday – packing.</p>