

ON CENTRE 2019



January 6th – March 30st 2019

DESCRIPTION and OUTLINE PROGRAMME

AIMS

The course has three main aims:

1. The MAJOR aim is that participants achieve the CONFIDENCE and FLUENCY which come from the PLEASURE of being able efficiently to REPEAT THROW items in quantity. This acquirable SKILL underpins the achievement of all thrown forms of quality, whether these are unique or the result of repetition.
2. A secondary aim is that participants' KNOWLEDGE of the qualities, possibilities and limitations of the MATERIALS used will be extended so that clay bodies, slips and glazes can be selected, adapted and used with increased CONFIDENCE.
3. A third aim is that participants KNOWLEDGE and CONFIDENCE in the use of KILNS will be developed.

STRUCTURE

The twelve week programme is divided into two phases.

In the FIRST PHASE, of seven weeks, all participants will work on exercises of PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT (varying and refining forms) and REPEAT THROWING of specified items, covering a spectrum of functional objects, requiring a breadth of throwing skill. In addition participants will undertake different INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMES of tests of CLAY BODIES, SLIPS and GLAZES so that information can be shared by the group.

In the SECOND PHASE, of five weeks, each participant will work on an INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMME of THROWING devised and agreed to develop their particular interest and skill. Participants wishing to do further MATERIAL TESTING may devise and agree a personal programme of experiments with clay bodies, slips or glazes.

Throughout the course, under supervision and instruction, participants will learn to PACK and FIRE the KILNS for BISCUIT FIRINGS and GLAZE FIRINGS in OXIDATION and REDUCTION.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

In the first phase, each day commences with a DEMONSTRATION to the group of a particular topic, which is followed by INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE as necessary. Each week has a written programme of EXERCISES, designed to develop SKILL, and of PROJECTS, intended to assist the refinement of QUALITY. In the second phase, demonstration and individual assistance continue in relation to the personal programmes agreed with participants.

Each week, throughout the course, there is a VISUAL TALK covering the diversity of FORM, MATERIAL, CONTENT, MARK MAKING, QUALITY, SCALE and FUNCTION evident in pottery from different periods and cultures, ancient and contemporary.

There is a series of talks on TECHNICAL TOPICS, all in the first phase of the course: designing and adjusting clay bodies; formulating and adjusting slips; materials and glazes; modifying and pigmenting glazes; biscuit firing; oxidation and reduction firing; kilns and fuels.

While the primary focus of the course is on THROWN FORM processes relevant to the DECORATION of forms using clay, slip, pigment and glaze will be demonstrated.

TEACHERS

Tony Clennell (Can) is the main instructor of the course. He holds an MFA and RCA and is a second generation potter that has been making pottery for over 35 years. He is an experienced instructor who has held workshops in Canada, USA, Japan, China, Korea, Wales and Italy and a professor at Sheridan College (Toronto). He holds a Master of Fine Arts from Utah State University and is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. He is author of "Stuck in the Mud" a book of irreverent tales, BS and nonsense. <http://smokieclennell.blogspot.it/>

Franco Rampi (It) is the assistant instructor. 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 works mainly in stoneware, whilst continuing his research on clays, slips and forms. For the past ten years he has been collaborating with La Meridiana. www.francorampi.it

FIRING

All glaze firings are at STONEWARE TEMPERATURES, as appropriate, from cone 7/8 to cone 9/10. Throughout both phases of the course BISCUIT and OXIDISING and REDUCING firings will occur, as and when necessary, in the ELECTRIC and GAS kilns. One WOOD firing is scheduled towards week 10 or 11.

GROUP SIZE

A maximum eight students will be accepted.

OPENING TIMES and TEACHING HOURS

The workshop is open from 8am to 8pm on Mondays to Fridays and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays.

Teaching hours are 9am to 12:30 and 2.30pm to 5.30pm. There is no teaching on Saturday mornings.

FIELD TRIPS

Visits to the Museums in Faenza and to two local potteries are scheduled into the course.

EXCURSIONS

Students may want to explore our beautiful area. Florence, Siena, Luca and Pisa may be reached easily by train and are fine destinations for a one day excursion. Sunday shuttles to the Certaldo train station will be available four times during the course. Some optional Sunday excursions will be offered for a small fee.

Students may plan additional weekend excursions at their own liking. Our staff will be helpful in arranging taxis or other transportation. Rental cars are available locally.

ACCOMODATION

There are two main possibilities for accommodation.

Five participants are housed in single rooms in a large apartment which is 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. Alternatively, there are self-contained private apartments. Selecting one of these incurs an additional cost of 1.500 € and metered heating is also additional to this.

LUNCHES

Lunch is served Monday through Friday, during the 12 weeks of the course. Breakfast and dinners and all other meals can be prepared in the kitchen of the apartments.

A Welcome dinner and Farewell dinner will be included.

CLIMATE AND HEATING

Tuscan winters are short, but tend to be humid. Snow is rare but is not unknown. When the north east wind blows occasional days may be very cold. The chart of average temperature gives an indication of normal weather.

Month	High Season	Low Season
January	11 °C (52 °F)	3 °C (37 °F)
February	13 °C (55 °F)	3 °C (37 °C)
March	16 °C (61 °F)	6 °C (43 °F)

The main studio is heated to a good working temperature with a wood stove. The large apartment with accommodation for five participants is centrally heated.

The two on-site apartments are centrally heated.

Participants are advised to bring very warm clothing and warm shoes. Housing is built bearing in mind the hot summers, rather than the short winters. This makes it difficult to reach room temperatures above 18°C.

Week-by Week Outline Programme

WEEK1: CLAY PREPARATION and the BASICS of THROWING; CYLINDERS

Clay Preparation; Centring, opening and thinning cylinders of even thickness; repeat throwing CYLINDERS from measured weights of clay; repeat throwing cylinders for slip tests; mixing small batches of CLAY BODY TESTS; mixing and applying SLIP TESTS.

WEEK 2: MUGS, JUGS and HANDLES

The pulling and application of different types of HANDLES; prototype development and repeat throwing of MUGS and JUGS; glazing slip tests.

WEEK 3: BOWLS: TRIMMING

Prototype development and repeat throwing and trimming of BOWLS; further prototype and repeat throwing of jugs and mugs; mixing and applying GLAZE TESTS.

WEEK 4: LIDS and LID SEATINGS; TEA and COFFEE POTS

Throwing of various edges and of LIDS and LID SEATINGS; prototype development of TEA and COFFEE POTS and other LIDDED CONTAINERS.

WEEK 5: CUPS, SAUCERS and PLATES

Prototype development and repeat throwing of CUPS, SAUCERS and PLATES.

WEEK 6: SETS and LARGER THROWING

Prototype development of SETS OF DIFFERENT TYPES in which forms and/or sizes differ. Throwing of LARGER FORMS; two and multipart throwing; bowls with added thrown feet.

WEEK 7: PORCELAIN THROWING

Throwing and trimming PORCELAIN; Meetings to agree individual programmes.

WEEK 8, 9, 10 & 11

Individual programmes commence and continue. WOOD firing.

WEEK 12.

Individual programmes conclude with final firings.