



Ishta Wilson

Alternative firings /Foundations

Workshop Summary

Learn about pit and paper kiln firing techniques. Build your own kiln, learn how to pack your work into the kiln with sawdust, wood shavings, organic materials and oxides, then fire to create that unique piece of work.

Workshop Outcome

Making of either a paper or pit kiln, the firing of work with an understanding of kiln packing, firing and the cleaning and waxing of the finished pieces.

This workshop complements Ishta Wilson's Hand building for Alternative Firings workshop.

Educational Component

Learning experiences involve students in research, development and resolution of ideas related to ceramics. Students consider the intrinsic qualities of clay, firing and finishing techniques.

Approaches to ceramics could be individual or collaborative, utilitarian, expressive, sculptural, decorative or ephemeral.

Responses in ceramics could be as diverse as sculpture, murals, body-wearable visual art.

Length

1 - 2 days

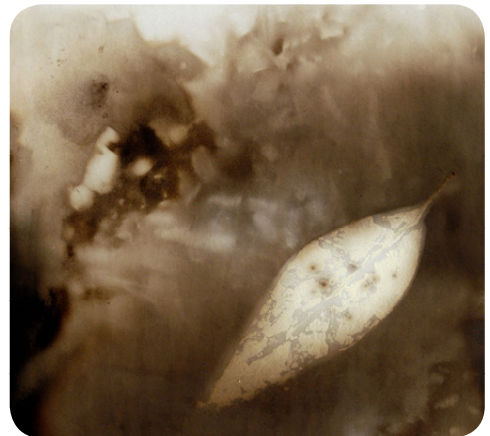
Audience

Age: Adults and Secondary School.

Level: Beginner and Intermediate

Group: Community groups

Max No. Participants: 15



Materials List

Participant Requirements:

- Non-flammable cotton clothing.
- Hat
- Work for firing; preferably from previously attended hand-building workshop

Requirements for group to share:

- Pick and shovel, if pit is to be dug.
- Sawdust and Wood
- Newspaper and cardboard
- Organic material for firing eg banana skins, sea weed etc.

Venue Requirements:

- First Aid kit
- Safe, open outdoor area for making and firing of kilns
- Access to water and power
- Tea and coffee facilities

Materials Levy:

approx \$2 per person

Levy Includes:

- Wax and Oxides



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Workshop Outline

Day One:

- Welcome and introduction to alternative firings
- Sharing their work and experience
- Introduction to alternative firing techniques
- Kiln packing considerations and the use of organic materials and oxides for surfacing firing effects
- Outline of process used to build and pack the kiln
- Building and packing of either a pit or paper kiln
- Firing the kiln

Day Two: (whole day or half day)

- Unpacking of fired kilns
- Cleaning up and finishing waxing (if desired) of ceramic works
- Discussion of firing and its ceramic surface effects
- Question and answer time



Artist Bio

Ishta Wilson is a ceramic artist from Lismore in northern New South Wales. Since finishing her visual arts degree, Ishta has run several children's art classes and ceramic tile making workshops for adults. She also spent a two-month residency at the Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Centre in Skaelskoer, Denmark. Ishta has exhibited her works in numerous galleries within New South Wales and Queensland as well as in Singapore and Denmark. She has an extensive knowledge of alternative firing techniques.