



Ishta Wilson

Ceramic hand building for alternative firings /Foundations

Workshop Summary

Learn hand-building techniques using coils, slabs, methods for joining clay and modelling techniques. The material properties of clay and the considerations for low-fire alternative firings (paper kilns, pit firing, bon firing) will be explored along with traditional surfacing materials and processes such as slip, terra sigillata and burnishing.

Workshop Outcome

Participants will make and surface 1 - 3 ceramic hand-built forms, depending on the length of workshop, form size and individual inclination.

Educational Component

Learning experiences involve students in research, development and resolution of ideas related to hand-built ceramics. Students consider the intrinsic qualities of clay, glazes/slips, firing cycles and construction techniques.

Approaches to ceramics could be individual or collaborative, utilitarian, expressive, sculptural, decorative or ephemeral and could include such techniques as modelling, assembling, carving and such surface manipulation as glazing, carving, burnishing, sgraffito, slip etc.

Responses in ceramics could be as diverse as utilitarian ware, sculpture, murals, body-wearable visual art and visual art in public spaces.

Length

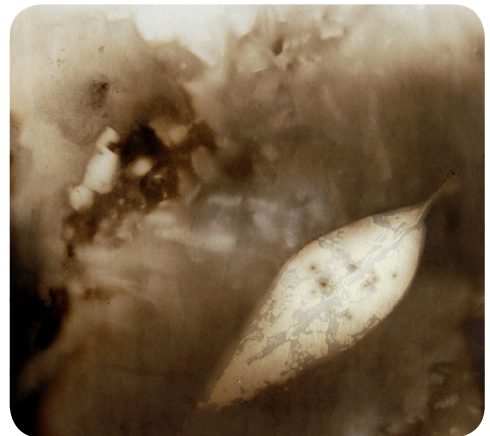
1 - 2 days

Audience

Age: Adults and Secondary School, may be suitable for younger participants

Group: Community groups and Festivals and Events

Max No. Participants: 15



Materials List

Participant Requirements:

- Lunch
- Old, comfortable clothes and apron
- Wooden work board approx 50 x 50cm
- Forks, skewers, rolling pin etc; things that can be used as clay tools
- Small/medium bowl
- Paint brushes
- Smooth polished rock or crystal (fitting snugly in your hand) or spoon for burnishing

Venue Requirements:

- First Aid kit
- Tables and chairs
- Access to water and power
- Tea and coffee facilities
- White board (if possible)

Materials Levy:

\$6 each + freight/excess baggage charge

Levy Includes:

- Clay
- Terra sigillata and slip for surfacing
- Tools



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Workshop Outline

Day One:

- Welcome and introduction to handbuilding for alternative firings with tutor sharing their work and experience
- Alternative firing techniques
- Clay and form considerations when creating work for an alternative firing
- Demonstration of hand-building techniques appropriate to alternative firings
- Creation of hand-built works and exploration of various forms by each participant

Day Two: (if applicable)

- Introduction to traditional surfacing materials - slips and terra sigillata
- Demonstration of burnishing technique and the making of terra sigillata
- Continuation of hand-building
- Surface techniques and burnishing of the completed pieces



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 adults' ceramic tile making workshops. 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 in Queensland and New South Wales as well as in Singapore and Denmark.