

COURSE DETAILS – LONG WEEKEND LW0104

TITLE: POTTERY – HAND-BUILDING AND THROWING

TUTOR: ALISON SANDEMAN

LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

GENERAL CONTENT OF COURSE:

This is a general course for those who have already done some pottery, as well as an introductory course for beginners. On the first evening we start with an introductory talk and discussion, followed by slides or a film.

Beginners: Throughout the course the emphasis is on getting the "feel" of the clay and making pots. The first half of the course includes clay preparation (wedging and kneading), making thumb/pinch pots, learning the handbuilding techniques of coiling and slabbing, and simple decoration.

There will be good opportunities to try out the potter's wheel (throwing) for those who wish, in the latter half of the course. Anyone who wishes to spend the week learning to throw can do so, there are plenty of wheels.

For those who have done some pottery: This is a chance to develop and improve skills already learnt in handbuilding and throwing. New techniques will be introduced where appropriate. There will be opportunities to discuss glazes, glazing, kilns and firing, and any problems they may have met in pottery.

For all: Students are taught at their own individual level, encouraged to practise, and are introduced to new ideas and methods of making, where appropriate. It is good, but not essential, to come with some ideas - functional or decorative.

Health and Safety: The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

Course reading list: Those interested in reading about pottery may find the following books in their public library:

The Craft of the Potter by Michael Casson (BBC Publications)

The Potters Manual by Kenneth Clark (McDonalds)

The Complete Potter's Companion by Tony Birks (Conran Octopus)

Coiled Pottery by Betty Blandino (A & C Black)

The Techniques of Throwing by John Colbeck (Batsford Watson-Guption)

10,000 Years of Pottery by Emmanuel Cooper (British Museum Press)

THE TUTOR: Alison Sandeman is essentially a practical potter and has been producing functional pots and more individual work on the wheel for over 30 years. She also uses hand-building techniques for her stoneware and raku work.

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS

Clays and other materials: These will be provided by the College. The cost of clays, glaze materials and firings is included in the course fee.

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Firing and glazing of completed pieces: Students normally have three options at the end of the course.

1. Students may leave any raw, finished pieces that they wish to keep, for biscuit firing, basic glazing and re-firing by the College, for collection at a later date.
2. Students may leave raw, finished pieces for biscuit firing at the College. They may then book a place on a Glazing Day – the details and fee are advertised in the short course programme – and learn how to glaze their work themselves. This work will be re-fired and available for collection at a later date. (There is no additional cover charge for practical glazing days.)
3. Students are free to take away their unfired pots for glazing and firing elsewhere.

These items will be available for purchase in the College Shop:

Pottery tools, pottery knife
 Rough paper or sketch pad, and pencil
 Wood or plastic ruler and plastic set square
 Natural sponge

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Overall and old towel
 Books of interest
 Clean plastic shopping bags
 Cardboard boxes are useful if taking raw pots away after the course

PLEASE BRING A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED POSTCARD WITH YOU if you wish to leave your work at the College, so that we can let you know when your pieces are ready.

COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15–9.15	First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am	Morning classes.
	10.30	Coffee.
	12.45pm	Lunch.
	2.00pm	Afternoon classes.
	3.30	Tea.
	5.00	Classes finish.
	7.00	Dinner.
	8.15	Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms.
	3.00pm	Classes finish.
	3.30	Tea then departure.