

## Frequently asked questions...



### **Do I need to bring anything along to the course?**

No, all materials and tools will be provided as well as aprons to protect your clothes.

### **Do you tell us what to make or are we expected to come up with our own ideas?**

I will demonstrate a technique at the beginning of each of the first four sessions. I encourage everyone to practise the technique by making forms which appeal to them. I have a good selection of ceramics books and magazines to inspire and educate and you can have a cup of tea and flip through to get some ideas. Some people prefer to research outside of the course time and bring along sketches/ photocopies/ cuttings of covetable objects to make most of their time whilst in the studio.

### **What will you teach us?**

In week 1 you will be shown how to make tiles by cutting and rolling slabs of clay. You will explore mark making techniques in the clay and surface additions. I will then show you how to shape the flat slabs/tiles by slumping over and pressing in plaster moulds. The tiles can be used to test out decoration techniques later on.

In week 2 I will demonstrate the coil building technique. Curvaceous organic forms can be built using coils.

When everyone is ready to move on from coiling I will explain and demonstrate a process called slab building. You can build a basic box from slabs or any shape which has flat sides and angled edges. I will show you a way to create a raised linear design on your slabs also.

You will be informed on your choices of paints for decorating your pieces at various stages i.e. when the clay is dry, fired, glazed etc...

There will be 2, 3 or 4 sessions (depending on your pace) to work on a process you would like to explore further.

The studio has one electric potter's wheel; participants will be given one-to-one tuition throughout the course.

During the final session you should be decorating your final pieces and I will show you some decorating techniques which can be applied to the fired glazed surface.

### **What kind of clay will we use?**

The studio uses earthenware clay; smooth white and grogged or smooth red (terracotta). The white clay fires to a creamy off white colour, ideal for painting bright colours on. The same glaze can look very different on the white base and the red base and through experimentation you will discover which you prefer.

### **Can I use stoneware clay?**

The course fee provides earthenware clay and firings to earthenware temperatures. If you want to use stoneware clay you can purchase your own clay and there will be an extra charge for the glaze firing.

### **Will the ceramics I produce be suitable for placing outside?**

No, earthenware ceramics are porous, they are only fired to 1100°C and they are not frost resistant.

**Can I mix up my own glazes?**

All the glazes are pre-prepared for you as for health and safety reasons there is no public access to the glaze mixing room.

**If I have work left at the end of the course which I didn't get round to glazing, will there be an opportunity to finish it off?**

Your fee pays for 8 sessions. There will be one extra session offered giving time to glaze final pieces. There is no obligation to use this session. There will be a charge of £10 for this extra access.

**When can I collect the ceramics from the final session?**

Work glazed in the final session will be ready to collect about one week later. Call the studio to arrange a time to collect your work as I am not always there regular hours.

**Are there any other costs other than the course fee?**

The fee covers all the basic materials you will need; clay, glazes, other decorating paints and firings. There are no other costs involved unless you want to buy your own specialist products such as a particular clay, special glaze or lustre.

**Are there any opportunities for continuing to learn ceramics at Deepfired after the course?**

At the moment the studio only facilitates the introduction course. In the past, students have returned to repeat the course and have continued from where they left off.

**Can I make work at home and get it fired at Deepfired?**

Yes, you can email the studio for a pricelist for kiln hire.

**Where can I buy clay, tools and glazes from?**

Deepfired buy clay and equipment from Alisdair Kettles Pottery Suppliers. He is based in Fife and delivers all over Scotland. Orders are placed over the phone, call 01577 862 551. He will send you a catalogue by request. He also sells glazes, slips, tools, plaster and new and second hand equipment.

Other recommended pottery suppliers are:

<http://www.ctmpotterssupplies.co.uk/>

<http://www.potclays.co.uk/> (Alisdair Kettles is their Scottish agent)

<http://www.potterycrafts.co.uk/>

<http://www.bathpotters.co.uk/>

