

### **Primitive Pots**

Category: Historical Arts  
Time: Tues at 11:45 - 1:15pm  
Date: Sept 14 through Dec 7, 12 sessions (first semester)  
Jan 11 through March 29, 12 sessions (second semester)  
Capacity: Limited to 6 students, fourth grade and older  
Instructor: Janine Frizzo

More Mud and mayhem. This time students will use locally harvested clay to make a 10 inch coil built pot, with a lid, in three stages. Then they will help me build the pit kiln and fire their pots. If all goes well we will also work on a second pot to be fired off site. A really active class, and a great way to see art history in form, fun, and function.

#### **FIRST SEMESTER**

1. Intro....farm/classroom rules. Contact forms, hold harmless etc. Discuss firing responsibilities. Ethics of making art objects in a primitive manner. Please note, pit firing is subject to a number of conditions: temperature, work rate of students, drying time/weather. The plan is to fire during a double class time so that students are involved with the process. ( Sat Nov 13 or Mon Nov 15- parental supervision required) This may shorten the dates of class sessions, weather permitting. There will also be a project scheduled for an off site firing with purchased clay. Students should always dress for outdoor work and will be asked to help prepare pit kiln/digging, and fuel/carrying wood.
2. Prepare harvested clay. What is clay, where can you safely find it? How do you test it for firing temp etc. Students will have hands-on experience with grinding and re-hydrating native clay. Will set up storage and workstations possibly in the barn studio or pavilion. Discussion on impurities, pollution and foreign objects.
3. Start to build the base by coils. Smoothing interior and making a secure /solid foundation. Cleaning of tools and storage of artwork. Start to prep the pit kiln, digging out old ash, securing sides and fire brick, placing roof so that site is stable. We will view ancient and modern pitkilns in the studio so that they can see previous successful styles and better know what to expect.
4. Build second level of pot Continue to prep pit kiln
5. Third level of pot and plan to bisque fire with or without primitive glazes and decoration'

6. Finish the pot and make the lid. Identify pot and start decoration, burnishing plans
7. Collect and store fuel. Dry and finish pots
8. Fire pots
9. Continue
10. Remove pots. Lecture on anthropomorphic pots Draw and make a plan
11. Build second pot
12. Decorate and set it up to dry. Fire off site, Set up collection times.

## SECOND SEMESTER

This time we will work on building boxes. Using the slab technique, several different clays will be used. If students attend both semesters they should be able to build a pitkiln and fire at home successfully.

1. Intro as above Firing to be done in the Spring as weather permits An early fimo pot, and a pot from purchased clay fired off site while weather keeps students inside. Pit firing will be done in March in another double class.
2. Slab construction of fimo clay mini box Fire in toaster oven.
3. Build a small slabwork box with purchased clay and fire off site. Reinforce construction issues, leather hard clay, lids, warpage, drying, accuracy, shrinkage
4. Continue
5. Prep native clay and finish decorating boxes from previous week
6. Start building native piece to be pit fired.
7. Continue
8. Dry to leather hard and decorate, discuss glaze and color options
9. Prep pit kiln

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10. Fire pit kiln
11. Continue - fire pit kiln
12. Open pit and retrieve pots.