

A Beginning Approach to Functional Ceramics

Essential understanding

The word ceramics come from the Greek word /κεραμικός/ (keramikós), and just as the Greek language itself, it is one of the oldest art form of the human being. Many of our most basic daily objects come from this ancient craft. Ceramics has never stopped evolving, and with the development of new technologies, the world of pottery has been greatly impacted as well.



“Working hard is important. But there is something that matters even more: believing in yourself.” – Harry Potter

Overview

In this introductory course about ceramics, we will acquire a basic comprehension of the history of ceramics and pottery as well as learn about the materials and the process that involves working with clay to produce a ceramic object. Additionally, the class is designed to encourage students to explore their creativity and potential through clay. The course will introduce you to old traditions but also encourage interdisciplinary work. We will learn techniques of coiling, hand building, and slabbing. Students need to follow their own work through a series of steps, from creation to drying and finishing the piece. There will be a final critique of the best pieces of each student.

Guiding question 1: What’s the importance of ceramic in our modern world? Is it still relevant?

Lessons

(*Submit all group work through Google Classroom)

Week 1 Wednesday, August 29

_____ Lesson: What is ceramics and why it is important?

_____ Introduction to the materials and the steps we will follow in class

_____ Demo: Pinch demo 1

Group work: Pair up with a classmate or two and choose 1:

- Research about the history of ceramics and create a timeline with your findings
- Search for pictures of old pottery and write together a short description of your findings

Individual work: Create 3 almost identical cylinders. We will cut them in half to see how even the walls of your cylinders are.

Week 2 Wednesday, September 5

_____ Lesson: Most important archeological places

_____ Demo: Pinch demo review and texture

Group work: Pair up with a classmate or two and, together, research about an old object and brainstorm some of the reasons you think humans created the object.

Individual work: 1. Create more than one cylinder. 2. Find at least 3 different original tools that you can use to decorate your piece

Week 3 Wednesday, September 12

_____ Lesson: Diversity of ceramics around the world

_____ Demo: Coiling demo

Group work: Select a country and do research about the ceramic art in that country.

Individual work: Inspired by your group work, create a piece inspired by a culture (present the piece to class in 2 weeks)

Week 4 Wednesday, September 19

_____ Demo: Coiling demo

Group work: Create a project together with one classmate or two. Submit proposal form for approval.

Individual work: Work on a coiling project

Additional resources

- Weekly handout activities posted on Google Classroom (Drive)
- Weekly videos posted on Google Classroom

Links

- Google Classroom code: yx79w4

group work

Timeline of the development of ceramics

individual work**assessment****extensions**

readings

links