

During Open Studio, we welcome those with previous ceramic experience to share our space, equipment, and materials to create with clay. Open Studio is recommended for those who are already familiar with the ceramic process or those who feel confident learning independently and don't need hands-on instruction. An Open Studio monitor will be present to assist with orientation to the studio. **This is not a class and instruction is not provided.**

The Floyd Center for the Arts offers excellent ceramics classes. Please check our website or ask for more information at the office.

Reclaimed clay, use of studio equipment and glaze are all included in the Open Studio \$5 fee. This fee does not include firing, please see firing fees below.

This community studio is based on respect, teamwork, and a shared love of ceramics. We are pleased that you have joined the studio; realize that in doing so you are taking ownership in the comfortable atmosphere, cleanliness, and overall functioning of the studio as a community resource. It's important for you to observe the following rules as repeated violations may result in a loss of open studio privileges. We're here to help, so please don't hesitate to ask the assistant on duty for further clarification or email studio manager at staff@floydartcenter.org

Studio Etiquette

- Treat the people, studio, and equipment with care and respect and kindness.
- Be considerate of others work, do not touch, move or otherwise jeopardize work that does not belong to you.
- It's a good idea to bring your own towel each time you come to the studio (wash your towel regularly).
- No clay or glazes are to go down the sink. Use the bucket in the sink to clean off tools and supplies. When the bucket is full, empty it in the appropriate area outside.
- Instead of running fresh water, use the water already in the bucket and a large sponge for the bulk of your cleaning. Save running the fresh water for the final rinse.
- After use, *everything* needs to be cleaned and returned to its correct place.
- Clean as you go, always make sure your last wipe is with a clean wringed-out sponge.
- No 'holding' of pottery wheel while you work on something else.
- If you are done in one area, do not move to another without cleaning up first.
- Place purses/jackets on door hooks, not on counters or table.
- After you are done on the wheel, clean wheel, splash pan, table (in front of wheels), wheel legs, chair, water bucket.
- Place clay scraps & slip/slop in recycle bucket; nothing from the floor or sink goes in the recycle bucket. Put it in the trash instead.

- Rinse out any sponges you've used and put them away clean. Large sponges stay at the sink, small sponges go back with the tools.
- Make sure ALL clay and greenware is labeled with your name & date on masking tape or paper.
- Make sure all greenware is signed on the bottom before putting on the 'to-be bisqued' shelf.
- Bats are not for storing your work, please remove work from bats before leaving open studio. There are other boards and shelves to store your pieces on. If it must stay on a bat (wide piece that can't be lifted), plan accordingly and use one of the brown plastic bats. Wooden bats will swell and warp when pots are left to dry on them.
- Bats are stored upright under the plaster table. Do not lay bats flat, they warp and absorb moisture.

General

- Everyone who signs up for open studio must have, or be accompanied by someone who has, some ceramics experience. You should be familiar with the ceramic process, not be in need of hands-on instruction, and feel confident working independently.
- Sign-in each time you come to open studio; print both your first and last name.
- Open studio patrons must be 15 years and older or accompanied by a supervising adult unless approved by studio manager.
- Start cleanup at least 20 minutes before the studio closes; you should be totally cleaned up by class or open studio end time.
- Wear clothing you don't mind getting dirty; certain clays or glazes may stain.
- Open Studio provides reclaimed clay. We try to wedge clay but occasionally you may have to wedge the reclaimed clay yourself.
- Dependent on availability, you may purchase additional clay. Clay costs \$20 per 25lb bag (pay with cash, credit card, or check at the office).
- No foreign objects allowed to be fired in clay without permission of the studio manager.
- No glazes, slips, tools or Arts Center equipment of any kind may be removed from the studio.

Storage

- We do not have the facilities to accommodate production work (in this case the definition of production is high-volume work). More than 20 mug sized pieces per month is considered production and is not allowed.
- Please take your finished work home with you as soon as possible. Finished work may be discarded, sold, or given away if not removed within 30 days.
- Abandoned, dried out or unlabeled pieces will be discarded after 30 days.
- Regular studio purges occur at least 4 times per year, everything must be taken home during a purge.
- Cover and clearly label & date any greenware and place on appropriate shelves (excluding kids class work which goes on the tall bookcase by the front door).

Glazing

- We fire 2 L&L electric kilns to cone 6 oxidation for glazing.

- We do not do any single firings - all work must be bisque fired first.
- Use glazes only at the glazing table or the outdoor table on crowded days.
- Thoroughly stir all glazes making sure to scrape the bottom; improperly mixed glazes result in altered glaze composition over time.
- Do not cross contaminate glazes; if a glaze is accidentally poured in another glaze, let an assistant know immediately.
- When finished glazing, wipe down glazing table and any excess glaze you've spilled on buckets or floor.
- Keep bottom ¼" of each piece glaze free, make sure to wipe any glaze off bottom with clean sponge.
- Improperly glazed pieces will be put on 'risky business' shelf in kiln room and *not* fired; see an assistant.
- Push glaze buckets back under counter when you are through with the labels facing out and clearly visible.
- You are responsible for repeated or excessive kiln shelf damages caused by improper glazing. Kiln shelves cost \$75 ea.

Safety

- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Do not eat in the studio. This is about safety, not etiquette.
- Kilns are loaded/unloaded by the studio coordinators and those with special permission only. If you are unsure if you have permission then you do not.
- Glaze chemicals (found in the big blue bins and various bags in and around the same area) **are off limits!** Do not open, touch, move, or smell any of them.
- Some glazes can be harmful to your skin. We have rubber and latex gloves available in the studio. Minimize skin contact with glaze slurries, use of dipping tongs is recommended.
- If you are injured, inform an assistant immediately; band-aids are located in the first aid kit that hangs on the wall in the bathroom.
- Any accidents/broken items need to be reported to a studio coordinator ASAP.
- Keep dust down - this is imperative for everyone's safety.
- No sweeping/sanding in the studio, it raises silica dust which can stay airborne for days.
- If you do any sanding use a mask and go outside.
- Clay is very drying to the skin, wash your hands and use moisturizer when you get home.
- Any questions, concerns, ideas, clarifications, etc. should be taken directly to the studio manager at staff@floydartcenter.org

Firing Fees

- Bisque and glaze fire is \$5 per half shelf, \$10 per whole shelf. Very tall pieces may incur a double fee. These fees are in addition to the open studio fee.

Renting Ceramic Studio Time

- You can rent ceramic studio time by contract from the office.

- The studio will be checked after each rental time to make sure all the rules have been followed. If the rules are broken or if the studio is not clean you will lose rental privileges.