

NORTHERN CLAY CENTER STUDENT GUIDE

Northern Clay Center's mission is the advancement of the ceramic arts. Our education program includes classes and workshops for adults, children, amateurs, and professional artists. The information in this guide will help all students have an enjoyable and productive experience at Northern Clay Center.

MAKING WORK

Wet Work

You may make new work except during the last 2 weeks of class. For example, if you are taking a 10-week class, you have 8 weeks to make new work, and 2 weeks to finish it. Your last class on the 8th week is your last day to work wet. Your last class on the 9th week is your last day to trim. Please do not leave all your glazing until the end; you will learn more if you glaze throughout the course.

All work must be made at Northern Clay Center. Production work is not allowed. You will be charged extra if your work occupies a large volume of kiln space.

Carefully sign all your work or it will not be fired.

Glazing

All high-fire glazes are located in two glazing rooms on the other side of the kiln room. Low-fire glazes are in Studio C. Wheel classes usually use the high-fire (cone 10) glazes. Please check with your instructor if you have questions about what glazes to use.

- Glazing must be completed by your last class meeting. If you glaze beyond that date, your work will not be fired. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- If glaze is too close to or on the bottom of a pot, it will be placed on the "Whoops" shelf. If you find one of your pots there, clean up the bottom and put it back on the glazeware rack.
- You may not bring in outside glazes or other materials. There is one exception to this rule, which is Amaco Velvet Underglazes, which may be purchased at Continental Clay Company. If you plan on using these materials please contact either Pete Scherzer or Aimee Munson.
- NCC has a limited supply of Amaco Low Fire Gloss Overglazes available for purchase. Again, if you plan on using this material please contact either Pete Scherzer or Aimee Munson.

Firing

- Place your work on the correct shelf to make sure it is properly fired in a timely manner. Separate shelves are clearly marked for bisque and glaze firing.
- Glazed earthenware must never be placed with objects to be fired to cone 10 (it will melt). Bisque firings are done continuously. Glaze firings are done when there is enough work to fill a kiln.
- Check the racks on the other side of the kiln room for finished bisque and high-fire glazeware. Finished earthenware is placed on the racks in Studio C.
- Many factors can delay the firing or unloading of a kiln. Please keep this in mind when waiting for your work.
- Cracked or broken pieces will not be fired.

Fired Glaze Work

- Fired Glaze work is held for four weeks after the end of the quarter. The cut-off date is posted on the student bulletin board. Any work left at the Clay Center beyond that date will be discarded.
- Take your work, tools, and leftover clay home with you on your last day of class, even if you are returning the next quarter. Items left on shelves and wareracks will be discarded.

Open Studio Hours

Students may use the Clay Center's facility and equipment outside of class during posted Open Studio hours. Only adult students currently enrolled in classes may use Open Studio hours. Children, friends of students, and pets are not allowed in the classrooms during Open Studio hours. Open Studio hours do not extend past our regular quarterly schedule. For safety purposes, the classroom entrance will be locked at 8:30 pm. Please arrive for open studio before this time.

Open Studio hours can change on short notice. It is your responsibility to check the bulletin board for changes. There is monitored open studio on Thursday and Friday nights, and Saturday and Sunday mornings, afternoons and evenings.

CLEANUP PROCEDURES

It is very important to keep the classrooms and glaze areas clean. Clay and glaze left on the floor will dry and become a fine, nearly invisible silica dust, which is circulated and suspended indefinitely in the air. Although not a problem for visitors, this dust can cause health problems for people who spend a lot of time working in the studios. Please make sure you clean up your trimmings and spills before they become dust.

Here are some general cleanup guidelines:

- Clay should NEVER be discarded in the sink. Pour off water and put heavy slip in the large slop buckets.
- Thoroughly clean wheels, catch pans, tables, and bats after each use. Do not leave work on tables. Ask your instructor if you need help moving your work
- Scrape and clean wedging and plaster tables after using them.
- Return glazes to their proper places and clean glaze counter after you are done.
- Return tools to their proper places.

OTHER INFORMATION

Building Information

- Our facility is handicapped accessible.
- Northern Clay Center bans guns in these premises.
- Lock up your personal belongings.
- Report any problems/concerns immediately.
- Bathrooms are in the hallway near the classroom entrance and near the entrance to the sales gallery. Clean up after yourself!
- A phone is on the other side of the kiln room; dial 911 to get an outside line. Call 911 in an emergency.

- Notices for students are posted on a bulletin board in the hallway near the classroom entrance. It is your responsibility to check this board for important student information.

Evaluations

Class evaluation forms are distributed at the end of each quarter. We rely on these for guidance in designing our classes and selecting faculty, so please share any suggestions or concerns you may have.

Exhibitions and Sales Galleries

New exhibitions open in NCC's galleries every two months and students are encouraged to attend the free opening receptions. Our sales gallery features work by selected regional and national artists. Both are open T,W,F,S from 10 am to 6 pm; Th from 10 am to 7 pm; and Su from 12 to 4 pm. Galleries are closed on Mondays.

Membership

Members of Northern Clay Center receive discounts on classes, workshops, and some shop purchases. Please contact our staff if you are interested in becoming an NCC member.

Transportation

- Parking is available in a large lot on the west side of the building. Lock your vehicles and hide any valuables. Enter through the door marked "Classroom Entrance."
- MTC bus service (2 and 8) is available just west of the Clay Center.

Private Studios

NCC rents space to professional artists, whose studios are on the east side of the building. Please respect their privacy and do not touch anything in artists' studios.

Canceled Classes

NCC does not prorate, refund, nor reschedule missed or cancelled classes due to inclement weather or other natural or man-made disasters.

Comments

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to stop in, call, or leave us a note. If you have an immediate problem or concern, please stop by the office or leave your name and telephone number and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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