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CERAMICS I - Art 310 Winter 2007

This beginning level Ceramics class consists of a series of projects and individually contracted work (a body of work which students will develop toward the end of the quarter with emphasis determined by the student's interests). Students will be expected to **attend all classes** as well as put in time in the studio outside of class. Each student will write a book report (**Due Feb. 22nd**) on a book relating to ceramics that is of interest to the student. Students will participate in the running of the studio, including helping to load and fire kilns, and to mix glazes.

We will have demonstrations and lectures on different technical aspects of ceramics, such as various techniques for handbuilding, mixing glazes, firing kilns, and wheel throwing. We will learn about safe handling of ceramic materials and equipment to prevent health hazards. There will be a field trip--- highly recommended but not required (On **Sat. Feb. 3rd**) to museums and galleries of Los Angeles to see ceramic and sculpture exhibitions. You should take every opportunity to visit galleries in Bakersfield or elsewhere, if you go out of town. Also, read ART WEEK, CERAMICS MONTHLY, AMERICAN CERAMICS magazines which are all available in the library and which I'll bring to class. Keep **a journal** of readings, ideas, drawings and a log of projects including time worked outside of class.

We will have several critiques during the semester to discuss the projects and individually contracted work. Participation in class, as well as working outside of class is of utmost importance. Mid - and end-quarter each student will fill out a self- evaluation form, describing projects completed, books and periodicals read, exhibitions seen, kilns loaded, glazes mixed, etc, Students will be graded on a combination of **effort, attendance, ambitiousness of undertakings, creativity, and the ability to see projects through to completion. If a student misses more than three classes, their grade will be docked a half a letter grade. With each successive missed class, your grade will be docked a further half letter.**

The second day of class (Thursday) you will need to **bring in the following**: a lock for a locker), a gallon bucket, a sponge, plastic bags of various sizes, a paring knife, a beginner's set of ceramic tools and things to make interesting textures (such as plant parts, hardware, kitchen supplies, etc). Also, one of the first things I want you to do, is design a tool for textures. You can use clay (and bisque fire it), plaster, wood, or wrap something with string, or whatever else you devise.

Last day of class is March 8th. Final Crit is March 15th.

Class projects for Ceramics I students are as follows:

1. On **Thurs. Jan 4th**. Make a series of ten test tiles utilizing different textures to test glazes. Also, make a pinch pot, or two, which we will use to try the raku glazes and process. Also, make one tile where you collaborate with another student on the texture.

2, Handbuild a vessel or sculpture at least 18" inches tall utilizing any handbuilding techniques (coil, slab, extruded forms, molds or a combination of techniques). Be aware of relationship between the form and surface (texture). Slides: Handbuilt work of African potters, early Chinese, contemporary U.S. and English potters, techniques of pueblo and Mexican potters.

Start work January 9th Crit. end of class Jan. 11st

3. Special workshop on **Jan. 16th**--please bring in drawings and/or photographs of family, etc. of high contrast (B & W works well) for workshop combining photo & ceramics.

4. Design and handbuild a teapot/coffee /pot/sculpture. Can be functional or purely sculptural. If it is functional, it should function well, and may include cups.

Slides: Teapots of H'sing dynasty (China) tromp l'oeil, Tea ceremony Japan (raku), 19th century English and German commercial teapots, contemporary U.S. and European teapots. Slides **Jan 16th** Critique of teapots: **Jan. 23rdth** .

Wheel throwing demonstrations **as soon as students complete teapots**.

5. Using either handbuilding or wheel throwing (or a combination), do a **series of** three to five vessels or sculptures, with the number depending on how involved the project is. Do the first one and then choose some aspect (form, texture, etc.) that you want to incorporate in the second piece and some aspect that you want to change. From that second piece follow the same procedure incorporating some aspect into the third, etc. **Critique Feb. 8th**

6. Do a second series, either related to the first, or totally different. Consider relating them by enfolding each other, or by having two elements, which mirror or echo each other. Also use at least one of the following techniques for decoration--scraffito, misima, underglazes, stencils. If you are more interested in doing larger, more time consuming work, instead of a series, talk to me! Critique for second series, **Feb. 20th**

7 Do a sculpture or vessel which incorporates some element from a historic vessel or ceramic sculpture, and some contemporary or personal element. (examples include Peruvian stirrup vessels, Aztec animal vessels, etc). Or do a figurative

sculpture. Or find an object of interest to you, and replicate it in clay (an old purse or shoe etc).

Slides of historic figurative work, (Haniwa, African, Mexican figurative work).

Critique: March 1st

8. The final project is totally of your own choosing. (You can start this project as early as you want in the quarter. Do an ambitious large project or series

Final critique will be of all other work that we haven't seen **March 15th—same as class time. Be sure to talk to me before if you can't come to the final crit.**