This advanced level Ceramics class will meet at the same time as the beginning class (unless prearranged with instructor). It consists of individually contracted work (a body of work which students will develop over the quarter with emphasis determined by the student’s interests) and a few projects. At the beginning of the quarter, the student should write a contract describing how they see this work developing, and should turn it in to me by the end of the second week of class. This can be altered as the quarter progresses. Students will be expected to attend all classes as well as put in time in the studio outside of class.

Each student will also do research and a presentation for the class on some technical aspect of ceramics (such as a type of firing or glazing or construction technique), in connection with their individually contracted work. Please give me the topic of your research & presentation by October 4th. This should be an ongoing project—not something pulled together at the last minute!

Each student must test one glaze with 3 colorants and mix at least one glaze (large batch) during the quarter, and show the fired results in their final critique. Also, students will participate in the running of the studio, including helping to load and fire kilns, and to mix glazes. Watch the bulletin board for Critique dates.

We will have demonstrations and lectures on different technical aspects of ceramics, such as mixing glazes, firing kilns, wheel throwing and different types of handbuilding. We will take a field trip to see Elaine Carhartt’s (with 2 other artists) exhibition at Bakersfield College on October 13th (Wed). There will be a field trip to museums and galleries of Los Angeles to see ceramic and sculpture exhibitions (Probably Oct. 30th.). Also, please be sure to come here to our workshop by Elaine Carhartt Friday October 15th—10-12 am.

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. Keep a journal of readings, ideas, drawings and a log of projects including time worked outside of class. Turn in your log at the end of the quarter.

We will have several critiques during the semester and will discuss the individually contracted work and projects. Participation in class, as well as working outside of class is of utmost importance. Mid-quarter and during the last week of class, each student will fill out a self-evaluation form, including information on projects completed, books and periodicals read, exhibitions seen, kilns loaded, glazes mixed, etc. Grading will be on the individual’s body of work, as well as on the presentation of research. Work will be graded on a combination of effort, attendance, ambitiousness of undertakings, and ability to see projects through to successful completion. If student misses more than three classes, grade will be docked by half a grade point. Further absences will result in a half a letter grade being docked for each class missed.
Last day of class Nov. 22nd, with a final crit Nov. 29th at regular class time. Presentations of research will be made Nov. 15th & 17th. During class (not during Finals week).

For your first project, do a sculpture or family of vessels which do at least one of the following: 1) relate to each other by nesting or enfolding each other. 2) Have two elements which mirror, echo or shadow each other. Use at least one of the following forms of decoration: scraffito, misima, underglazes, stencils. Consider incorporating letters, words, numbers (you can borrow my stamps) into your pieces.

First critique Sept. 29th.

Begin with your contracted work. Decide what you are interested in, and focus! If you are interested in functional work, for example, take it five steps further—do a dinnerware set, or some really large vessels. If you are interested in tiles, do some architectural tiles for a wall. If you are working in figures, do a life size figure or series of smaller figures. At some point, trade a partially finished piece with another student to finish. I want you to do a substantial body of work—of whatever type you are interested in. Write a contract & hand it in by the Sept. 20th.