

Day in Clay

Cliff Mendelson

16 Lavender Lane
Tomkins Cove, New York 10986

Phone: 845-786-2243
Email :cliff@day-in-clay.com
Web:www.day-in-clay.com

Hands-on Multicultural Ceramic Programs/Theme based programs

There are some simple and profound ways to have students connect to various cultural diversity in a 45- 60 minute session.

The Day in Clay program is effective way to include clay medium in your arts curriculum, as some schools do not offer ceramics. The term ceramics means fired Clay in Greek it comes from the word Keramos. Fired clay adds another dimension to learning about working with clay. It completes the whole cycle of what a pot or clay sculpture must go through to be completed. Nothing can create the look of a fired glazed piece of pottery/sculpture. The students experience the whole process/cycle from the source of where clay originates to the finished product.

It is recommended that you do the Multicultural Potters Wheel Demonstration Program first so the students have an understanding of the whole ceramic process and its cultural connections. Its a great catalyst for the programs to follow. Many schools invite me back to follow up to instruct the multicultural hands-on clay programs. However it is not a prerequisite that you must have the Potters Wheel demo program first,

The hands on program is a great follow up to the wheel program for those schools that want to bridge the gap between knowledge from the wheel program to the actual experience of working with the materials to create their own unique piece of ceramics. All students make a finished piece during this program. It opens up the diversity of the themes that can be created to meet the needs of the individual schools curriculum. The multicultural hands-on programs explores the uniqueness of a particular culture through making a variety of traditional three dimensional forms in ceramics. *Cultures included are Native American, Asian, Japanese, Egyptian, African, and Greece.*

Hands-on approach in the class room

The goal is to make a piece that can be taken home at a later date. Student finish the project that they start within the 60 minute period. Art teachers are amazed at what is accomplished in that time.

My intensive focused instruction, through multiple hand building demonstrations introduces the students to quite a few ceramic techniques. The students are readily handed clay and are utilizing these techniques under my supervision.

All the students will use clay to make work in the manner and techniques of a specific culture. I will demonstrate many techniques for making pottery by hand as well as any free-form work which will also include coil techniques, multiple pinch pot method, trivets/ relief 3D tiles (using natural objects and tools to design/decorate the piece), slab- made cups with handles, figurines/masks, ceramic jewelry, self portraits, South American bird whistles and more. Students learn how to integrate symbols and imagery into a vessel, pot, mask, totem tile...

The need for work tables, demo area, sinks, storage, and facility to finish the work are inherent in the program.

Goals of the hands on program:

- Explore the limits of materials in a way that allows for a successful creation.
- Everyone make a piece that can be taken home.
- Culturally specific patterns, symbols and imagery are explored
- Sculptural 3'd techniques. Explore new tools.
- Fired or non fired clay can work with all levels if you do not have a kiln
- Drawing references to the culture that we are exploring. Learning how clay can function to tell a story or make reference to their lives.
- Finishing works (fired or non fired techniques) expose students to the full range of the ceramic process.

Some cultures/forms that can be addressed in the curriculum are:

- Large vessels making - i.e. Greek pottery, Korean coil techniques and working in sections.
- Greek pottery forms- also explore, symbols , drawing, and mythology
- Egyptian canopic jars
- Relief designs on pottery
- Native American pottery – stories through patterns, symbols and imagery
- Japanese ceramics: form and function of the Japanese aesthetic.
- Latin American ceramics
- African ceramics
- Mask making – The mask as a form of expression, in theater and other cultures. i.e. Japanese Kabuki, African, Native American, Greek
- Mayan / Aztec
- Tile designs