John Evans

'jevceramics.co.uk'



These workshops provide an opportunity for participants to experience the fun and excitement of raku-firing ceramics. No previous experience is necessary and full instruction will be given by the Workshop Leader. For Health & Safety reasons participants must be aged over 18 (or 16 if accompanied by a participating adult). There are the possibilities —

1. Glazed Raku, Make, Fire & Glaze Workshop (two half days)

You make the pots and return at a later date to glaze and raku fire them

During the first session (3 hours) you will be introduced to the raku process and then go on to make 3 pots using simple hand-building techniques. All tools and materials will be provided. After drying the work will be 'bisque-fired' to change the clay permanently into ceramic and ready to be glazed. You will return at a later date for a second session (2.5 hours) to decorate your work using glazes and materials provided. The work will then be fired very quickly in the outdoor raku gas kiln to a temperature of about 1000°C and removed from the kiln red-hot. It will be placed into a metal bin with sawdust and newspaper which reacts with the glazes and is the essence of the western raku process. After cleaning they will be ready for you to take home the same day.

2. Glazed Raku – Glaze and Fire Workshop (Whole Day or Half-Day)

You bring bisque pots which you glaze and are then raku fired

During this workshop you will have the opportunity to raku-fire about 8 pots (whole-day 10am – 4pm) or 4 pots (half-day – 2.5 hours). You will bring your own work made from a suitable clay and bisque-fired. You can bring work already glazed if you wish or use our glazes and decorate the work here. You will be introduced to the raku process and instructed on how to use the selection of glazes which will be available for you to decorate your pots. They will then be fired very quickly in the outdoor raku gas kiln to a temperature of about 1000°C and removed from the kiln red-hot. The pots will then be placed into a metal bin with sawdust and newspaper which reacts with the glazes and is the essence of the western raku process. After cleaning they will be ready for you to take home the same day. In addition, if you bring one or two bisque pieces which have been burnished to give a smooth surface, you will be able to experience horsehair/feather raku where you will make marks on the hot pot using the coarse hair from a horse's tail or feathers from a bird.

Other Matters

The workshops will take place at 'Suncroft', 23 Bath Road, Worthing, BN11 3PA. Lunch is not included in these workshops – please bring your own for a full-day workshop. Tea/Coffee will be available. Participants who wish to be invited to participate in the firing process should wear long cotton trousers, long sleeved cotton tops, and closed footwear (ie no sandals). Long hair should be tied back. These workshops may not be suitable for people who are significantly affected by smoke.

The firing area is roofed but open-sided. Glazing will either take place outdoors, in my studio, or in the marquee depending on the weather. We normally go-ahead except in the event of very strong winds or very heavy rain. Please check the weather and bring appropriate clothing