

John Evans' Alternative Raku Workshops



Marcia Selsor – Soluble Salts Workshops

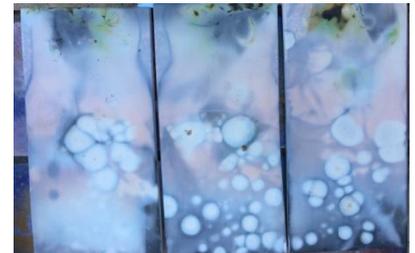


Having long admired the superb alternative firing work of Marcia Selsor, I am delighted to be hosting her for two master class workshops. Her mastery of the wide range of these particular processes certainly speaks volumes for her over 50 years as a ceramicist.

Marcia is Professor Emerita at Montana State University-Billings where she taught for twenty-five years and has received two Fulbright Scholars' Awards. She teaches world-wide and is in huge demand so it is a great privilege to host her in Sussex, UK.

Her award-winning work is in public collections in 11 countries on three continents and featured in numerous books and international publications. She has served on the Boards of the US National Council of Education of Ceramic Art (NCECA), the Potters Council (now ICAN) of the American Ceramics Society, and Ceramics Monthly Technical Staff. She lives in Red Lodge, Montana, USA. (see <https://www.marciaselsorstudio.com>)

In recent years Marcia has focussed her new work on the use of soluble chemical salts in low-firing techniques. Relatively few ceramicists understand the use of these chemicals to mark their work and those that do tend to do this on porcelain or bone-china at higher temperatures.



The main reference text on the use of soluble salts in ceramics 'Watercolour on Porcelain' Arne Ase (1988) has long been out of print but a few others, eg Gary Holt (US) and John Shirley (SA), have carried the work forward at higher temperatures. Marcia is now achieving similar stunning results but using the lower temperatures available in a raku kiln. You could join her when she focuses on these techniques during her Master Classes in Worthing.

Participants will need to be able to bring 8 small (not more than 10 cms wide) bisque-fired pots or sculptural pieces which have a very smooth surface and are made from a white stoneware body able to withstand the thermal shock of fast firing and cooling. Ideally the surface will have been finished with terra sigillata for best results. The 'Early Bird' workshop cost includes materials, lunch, and refreshments). The studio is close to Worthing seafront with its wide range of accommodation options, shops, and restaurants and easily accessible by rail from London (Victoria) and London Gatwick airport.



The numbers able to attend will be limited to two small groups with a full COVID distancing protocol in place.

John Evans' Alternative Firing Workshops



Marcia Selsor Soluble Salts Programme

We will be firing soluble salts 3 processes. Foil Sagger, Ceramic Sagger, No Sagger

You will be working with a variety of materials to make marks on your work. Chemicals may include - : copper chloride, copper sulphate, cobalt chloride, cobalt sulphate, ferric chloride, iron sulphate, potassium or sodium dichromate, Crystals of calcium chloride flake, Magnesium chloride flakes, table salt (Sodium Chloride), epsom salts (Magnesium Sulphate), sugar,

Additional materials may include: hairspray, organic material like leaves, seaweed, dried grass, cotton balls

Day 1

9.30 – 10.00 Participants arrive– Tea/Coffee available. Put your pots out on shelves ready for prompt start at 10am

10.00 – 10.30 Introductions and general briefing. We then go on to prepare work for firing

FOIL SAGGAR: Apply solutions to pots, wrap in foil, fire work. Hopefully, each person will have a chance to fire two times for foil firings.

SOLUBLE SALTS: apply first coat or 2 coats to pots. Apply crystal salts and spray several times with water. Allow to sit overnight.

CERAMIC SAGGAR: prepare saggars. Fire. Allow to cool slowly. About 1.5 hours.

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch (light lunch provided)

14.00 Preparation of work and firings continue

16.00 Review the results of the day's firings.

16.45 Clean up

17.00 Finish of the Day

DAY 2

10.00 am start

Fire first batch of soluble salts.

Fire second batch of soluble salts.

Prepare second round of sagger for more firing. Allow to cool.

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch (a light lunch will be provided)

Continue with firings

16.00 Review and discuss results

16.45 Clean up and Finish