

Multnomah Arts Center YOUTH CLAY STUDIO POLICY

We welcome you to this unique and vibrant community and encourage you to keep it a safe, clean and fun place! All participants in MAC's Youth Clay Program are required to read and follow this policy. By registering for a class or signing up for Family Clay Friday, you are agreeing to follow studio policy. Ask your instructor or a studio tech if you have questions.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

- Do not drop off your child early. The door to the classroom will open at the scheduled class start time.
- Unless otherwise stated, parents/guardians are not to attend class but may stay up to *20 minutes of the first class only*.

CLAY MAKING PROCESS

Working in clay is made up of a series of separate tasks necessary to complete ceramic objects. These tasks result in several stages: greenware, bisqueware, glazed work, and finished work.

- **GREENWARE** - Greenware is the term given to clay objects when they have been shaped but have not yet been bisque fired, which converts them from clay to ceramic. Greenware may be in any of the stages of drying: wet, damp, soft leather-hard, leather-hard, stiff leather-hard, dry, and bone dry. Once the work is bone dry it is ready to bisque fire. Really wet and/or thick pieces may take longer than a week to reach this state.
 - ▶ *Never put glaze on greenware. This can cause work to explode, destroying your work and others.*
- **BISQUEWARE** - Bisque refers to ware which has been fired once and has no chemically bonded water left in the clay. Bisque is a true ceramic material, although the clay body has not yet reached maturity. It is at this state that glaze application occurs.
- **GLAZEWARE** - Glazeware is ware that has been fired and glazed in order to give it a layer of protection. The outer layer also serves as an attractive shiny surface on the outside of the piece.
 - ▶ *Never glaze broken or cracked bisqueware.*
 - Please note: *Work that is not formed properly (e.g. overly wet, bad attachments, thick glaze) will occasionally break in the firing process.*

EQUIPMENT USE & CLEAN-UP

Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves—if you use it, clean it and put it away where it belongs.

- Dress for mess and be ready for a good time!
- Wipe down workspace with a wet sponge after project completion. Remove any materials from the floor that might cause an accident.
- Wash hands before leaving the studio.
- Raw materials and MAC clay tools must remain in the studio.

WORK PICK-UP

- **FIRING SCHEDULE** - Allow 2-3 weeks for work to be bisque fired and another 2-3 weeks for it to be high fired during the term.
 - ▶ Note: Some work not ready for firing until late in the term may not be fired until the following term, when there is enough work to load a kiln.
- **GREENWARE** must be completed and on the greenware cart by the end of the second-to-last-week of each term, or else taken home. After the final greenware date (listed on the adult ceramics page in the catalog), work will be recycled.
- **BISQUEWARE** remaining in the studio will be held for two weeks after the last class. After that, the work will be recycled.
- **GLAZEWARE** remaining in the studio will be held for two weeks after the last class.
- **PICK-UP TIMES** - Please remember to take home any finished work by the last class.
 - ▶ Pick up work *only during* your child's class time or Open Studio hours. ***We recommend your child be present during pick-up to help identify their work.*** Between terms pick up times will be the same as the Open Studio hours.

UNFINISHED WORK/UNCLAIMED WORK

After 3 weeks from the last class of each session, unclaimed work will be recycled due to the studio storage limitations. (Greenware will be recycled *immediately* after the last class.) If you have special circumstances, please request an extension, in writing, from the Youth Art Director. Include the student's name and contact information, number of pieces fired and a description of the work.

COMPLETING WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS

If your child wishes to complete unfinished work and is not able to sign up for the next session of clay classes, the work can be completed by bringing your work to our open studio and paying the hourly published rates.

SAFETY

Many glaze, slip and stain materials are hazardous. The glazes used in our youth clay program are limited, to ensure the highest levels of safety.

Inhalation of all clay materials, especially silica, can permanently damage one's lungs. Long term exposure leads to a form of silicosis called "potter's asthma," in which the lung tissue becomes scarred causing an irreversible loss of breathing capacity. Potters are exposed to clay dust (silica) when grinding or sanding bisque or greenware, or wiping towels. Exposure also may occur in the studio air when clay and glaze spills are left to dry. Most exposure is avoidable with proper cleaning and use of tools and equipment.

To further protect yourself:

- ▶ Do not eat around clay dust or glazes
- ▶ Wash hands after working with clay

DISCLAIMER

Students should be aware of the risks and unpredictability of the ceramic process. Any number of problems may occur and students assume all risks implied or otherwise. For more detailed studio information please see the studio policy listed on-line and also posted in the studio.