# CERAMICS CLASSES

## SUPPLY LIST

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION
Cultural Places, Natural Spaces

## DOUGHERTY ARTS SCHOOL

1110 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704 . 512-974-4040

## Figurative & Sculptural Ceramics

Melissa Mencini, Instructor

The goal of this class is to increase your knowledge of contemporary ceramics and help you think more creatively while working with clay. It is designed for students interested in investigating non-functional and figurative forms as well as a variety of surface techniques. Some of the techniques covered include: construction, idea building with additive and subtractive methods and raw surface techniques. Group discussion will help round out the class. All skill levels are welcome, advanced students may work on refining and improving their skills. **MINIMUM 6 STUDENTS, LIMIT 12 STUDENTS.**

## ATTENDANCE & STUDIO ACCESS

- Program attendance is the responsibility of the participant. Failure to attend does not entitle a participant to a transfer or a refund. Make-ups are not available for absences. Fees will not be prorated for absences. (See Enrollment Policies)
- Due to safety, CHILDREN, FRIENDS, and PETS (except official, certified assistance animals) ARE NOT ALLOWED in the classes or open studio hours.
- The studio/classroom is only open and available to registered students during their registered class time.
- Open studio is only available to students that are currently enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Open studio is not guaranteed and is subject to change.
- The studio cannot be used without supervision.
- If you arrive early and another class (not your class) is in session, please do not enter the studio out of courtesy for students that have paid for their time in class. Questions about class times can be directed to the registration office, program specialist, class brochure or found online.
- If your class session has ended but you still have bisque ware that needs to be glazed, you can glaze it 1) by requesting permission from the program specialist and 2) your former instructor allows you to attend 1 class ONLY during next session to glaze. You may NOT attend another instructor's class to complete the work.

## SUPPLIES

Students must bring their own tools. Basic tools (buckets, sponges and bats) are available in the studio.

- Other supplies may be added as the course progresses, as suggested by the instructor.
- Please keep your receipts in case the class is cancelled or to return unused supplies.

### SUPPLIES FOR FIRST DAY OF CLASS

- 50lbs of Cone 10 high fired stoneware: Grande preferred or Balcones/Balcones Dark/Balcones White
- A variety of soft bristle brushes
- Various wood tools
- 1 – sketchbook
- 1 – Fettling knife
- 1 – flexible serrated rib
- 1 – rubber rib
- 1 – flexible metal rib
- 1 – needle tool
- 1 – small towel
- 1 – metal fork
- 1 – wire cut-off tool

### CLOTHING & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Appropriate clothing & closed-toe shoes
- Apron to protect your clothing
- Dust mask: protect student from breathing in dust particles
- Glasses: protective eyewear
- Plastic, Nitrile or rubber gloves (no latex gloves due to allergies): when working with glazes

### OPTIONAL & SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

- Amaco underglaze – instructor will discuss this during class.

### SUPPLY STORE(S)

Armadillo Clay 3307 E. 4th St 512-385-7311

## PERSONAL CAUTION & SAFETY

**FOOD & DRINKS:** are not allowed in the clay studio or kiln courtyard. Students and instructors may eat and drink in the lobby. Vending machines are available for student use. There is no change in the registration office.

**ART WORK PRODUCED:** All clay items produced, fired and glazed in the Dougherty Arts School are recommended for decorative purposes only and are NOT "food safe." Raku glazes are not "food safe."

**PERSONAL BELONGINGS:**

- DO NOT bring valuable items to class.
- DO NOT leave valuable items exposed in plain site in your vehicle.
- Keep handbag and backpack and supplies near your workstation.
- The City of Austin, Parks and Recreation Department, and Dougherty Arts Center staff is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please report loss or theft to a staff member.

## STUDIO CLEAN UP

Please keep the studio clean and safe for everyone! Students are responsible for cleaning their area and common areas.

- **Wheels** – Wash off wheel head, shelf area, stool, surrounding area and splash pan with a sponge. Turn off the main wheel power located next to the wheel. Place the stool on top of the wheel head.
- **Trimmings** – pick up and dispose of all trimmings.
- Wedging Table – scrape off excess clay, wipe off and leave free of debris.
- **Tables** – Scrape off dry clay and wet sponge the canvas. Place the stool on top of the table.
- **Pug Mill** – Clean area around the mill and clean all clay placed in the mill.
- **Slab Roller** – Wipe clean with a cloth and remove all debris from the surface
- **Studio** – Please clean and return all items to their original storage area.
- **Glazing Area** –
    - Clean up all spilled glaze from the tables, floor and buckets. Use newspapers on the glaze table for faster clean Up.
    - Use wet sponge to ensure the removal of all glaze splashes or drips. Dried glaze/clay particles when airborne are unhealthy to breathe.
    - Wash all utensils to avoid glaze contamination (brushes, buckets, tubs, mixing sticks, dipping tongs, etc.)
    - Use gloves and goggles when glazing.

## LAST 2 WEEKS OF CLASS

- The 5th week of a 6-week session is the last week to produce new thrown or hand built "wet" pieces. The last week of class is for finishing and trimming pieces only.
- The studio is cleaned out twice a year and all unclaimed work will be discarded.

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

The studio / classroom environment contains potentially dangerous materials and equipment. DAC students, staff, instructors and contractors should not consume alcohol before or during class.

- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in all areas of the Dougherty Arts Center except the Julia C. Butridge Gallery under special circumstances. Alcohol will only be available in the Gallery if the renter or organization **hosting the event** provides alcohol for consumption to the general public; has provided liability insurance and an alcohol license; and the Parks Department Director has given approval.
- No alcohol may be taken from the gallery into the studio / classroom or other areas of the Dougherty Arts Center.
- Students should not drink alcohol at the reception and return to the classroom. If alcohol is consumed the student will be asked to leave and no refunds will be given.

## EQUIPMENT & CHEMICALS

The Clay studio consists of several working tables (with under table storage) and a wedging table; 12 electric wheels; a slab roller, pug mill, hump molds, bats, shelving, basic tools, kilns; and stains and glazes.

**Electric Wheels –** There are 12 electric wheels with variable speed foot pedal controls.

**Firing & Kilns -** The clay studio does not have the capacity to allow outside pieces or production work. The Dougherty clay studio has:

- Two electric kilns that are used for bisque firing and cone 06
- One gas kiln for cone 10 glaze firing only; and
- One gas raku kiln used for raku firing only.
- Only trained staff will load, unload and fire the kilns.

**Wax** – A hot wax skillet is provided in the studio.

- Do not set it above 200 degrees.
- If the wax starts smoking, please turn it off immediately.
- Do not leave the wax unattended – Be responsible and assist everyone by making sure it is TURNED OFF AT THE END OF EACH CLASS and OPEN STUDIO.
- Students are welcome to purchase cold wax resist if needed for their projects.

**Glazes & Clay Bodies**

- An approved list of chemicals and clay bodies is posted in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Notebook available in the clay studio. MSDS contain the makeup chemicals used and safety information.
- Glazes, stains, overglazes and underglazes are mixed and maintained by the Studio Technician.
- No outside clay bodies, glazes, stains, overglazes, underglazes or other chemicals are allowed without prior approval of the Studio Technician and the Arts School Administration. All requests must be in writing and include a copy of the SDS.
- **Glaze problems:** Pinholes, cracking and excessive glaze thickness near the wax areas are considered a problem. If the glaze is not appropriate for firing, it will not be fired and will be returned to the glaze shelf for correction.
    - Each instructor should examine all glazed ware to prevent student work from being rejected.
    - The studio technician will not remove glaze from pieces before firing.
- Glazing workshops will be provided at various times of the year.
- ***As per the Texas Hazard Communication Act, Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, requires public employers to provide employees with specific information on the hazard of the chemicals to which employees may be exposed in the work place. Employers may be subject to administrative penalties and civil or criminal fines ranging from $50 to 100,000 for each violation of this act.***

# ENROLLMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## REGISTRATION

**When can I register?**
Registration dates are located on the back cover of the brochure, on the Dougherty Arts School website www.austintexas.gov/dougherty, and are also available from staff in the registration office. Each participant must complete a registration form (front and back), available on the Dougherty Arts School website. Full payment is required to secure a spot in a class. Registrations will be accepted in person at the Dougherty Arts School or by telephone. No registrations will be accepted prior to 9AM on the first day of each registration date (refer to registration dates prior to submittal). Registrations received prior to 9AM on the first day of registration will be returned without being processed.

## REFUND

**Cancellation / Refunds**
**Program attendance is the responsibility of the participant.** Failure to attend a class does not entitle a participant to a transfer, make-up, prorate or refund. Substitutions, including family members, are not permitted. Registration fees are refundable in full only if the Arts School has cancelled the class. Registrations cancelled at least 7 days prior to the first day of class may be issued a refund, minus a $35 non-refundable deposit. If the receipt amount is $35 or less, the refund will be half of the class fee. **No refunds are issued for registrations that are cancelled without 7 days advanced notice of the first class day.** Refunds are issued to the charging credit card, by check from the City of Austin (please allow 4 - 6 weeks for processing) or you may apply the credit to your account, which may be used by any immediate family member for any program offered at the Dougherty Arts School for up to one year of the date placed on the account. Please note that refunds under $10 will only be made to the charging credit card or to credit your account. We are sorry that we are unable to process refund checks under $10 at this time. There is a $25 cash fee on all returned checks.

**Transfers**
A transfer requires a cancellation and re-registration into another class. All procedures listed for cancellations apply to transfers. Failure to attend a class does not entitle a participant to a transfer, make-up, prorate or refund. Substitutions, including family members, are not permitted. If the Dougherty Arts School cancels a class due to low enrollment and you wish to transfer to another class you will not have to pay the $35 non-refundable deposit.

**Minimum Enrollment**
Each class needs a minimum number of students to enroll before the class can "make". If the minimum enrollment has not been met 2 business days before the class begins, the class will be cancelled. All students who enrolled in the class will be notified by telephone or email, and may transfer to a different class or be issued a refund (see refund procedure). We encourage all students to enroll as soon as registration begins. Class receipts confirming processed registrations will be sent along with a copy of the Dougherty refund policy. Please check your phone and email messages in case a class is cancelled after the payment receipt has been sent.

**Waiting Lists**
One way to deliver quality service is by limiting the class size to provide a good student / teacher ratio. If a class has reached the maximum limit, names are placed on a waiting list and students are called in order received as openings become available. Students will be notified by telephone if the class is full and has a waiting list.

## ADULT & SENIOR ARTS PROGRAM SPECIFICS

**Safety**
The Dougherty Arts Center promotes an environment in which all participants feel safe, secure and without obstacle to participation in their registered classes and other programs and activities. Unless accommodation arrangements have been made in advance with our Inclusion Office, adult and senior students must be able to participate independently in class. Family, friends, children and pets are not permitted to attend with the enrolled student. Students must be dressed appropriately and safely for the class, including wearing appropriate shoes, clothing and jewelry that fits properly not to catch or cause safety hazards around art supplies, chemicals, classroom tools or equipment.

**Conduct**
Each student is responsible for his/her own conduct. Students who are disruptive, who threaten, attempt injury or damage to people or property, who use abusive language, ignore staff instructions, or behave in a manner deemed inappropriate or unsafe by staff will be removed from the class for the remainder of the session without refund, transfer or make-up. Students are required to comply with all policies, procedures and direction of Dougherty Arts Center staff to ensure the safety and productivity of classes for all students. Students who violate these requirements may be suspended and / or removed from the property for a specified period of time to be communicated verbally or in writing by a City of Austin employee.

## ADULT & SENIOR ARTS FORMS

**Teen Request Form**
This form is for students ages 15-17 years old that are interested in signing up for Adult Arts classes because they are in homeschool, developing their portfolio for art school or interested in general arts enrichment. Ages 12-14 are not considered. Requests to attend classes with descriptions that state students must be 18 years old and up will not be approved. Waivers for students under the age of 18 must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian before the student can attend class. Request must be submitted at least 5 business days before the class begins.

**Adult Independent Study Request Form**
This form is for students that are interested in signing up for our Independent Study/Open Studio time but have not completed the 4 prerequisite classes at the Dougherty Arts School. Students must demonstrate competency with: college classes/degree and/or professional experience. Experienced students might be asked to complete one Dougherty class for a current reference if they have not worked in a studio setting for over 3 years. Studio policies are available before registering by request.

## PAYMENT

**Adult and Senior Arts Programs**
Adult and Senior programs require full payment at the time of the registration.

June, 2014

Dear DAC Customer:

This letter is to serve as official notification from the City of Austin, as per TCEQ requirements, to parents and other customers of the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) about the presence of an old landfill under and adjacent to the DAC. There has been no change in the conditions of the Dougherty Arts Center building or the landfill; we are simply providing information so that you can make informed decisions.

The landfill lies under the majority of the building and extends under the lawn to the east of the building. The landfill has been thoroughly investigated for the safety of everyone involved. The City's Investigation and Evaluation Team included staff from the Health and Human Services Department, Watershed Protection and Development Review Department as well as outside environmental experts. The investigation has not identified an exposure risk to users of the DAC but we want parents and other customers to be aware of the situation and to know that the assessment is ongoing.

The City discovered this previously unknown landfill during the initial construction of Butler Park in April of 2006 and took immediate action by cordoning off the contaminated area and starting its investigation. Health risks from old landfills such as this would primarily be from direct contact with the buried materials or from landfill gases such as methane or carbon monoxide.

The results of the investigation indicated:

The landfill materials appear to be over 75 years old and relatively benign. The only identifiable materials are glass bottles, ceramic pieces and pieces of metal.

The materials are covered by a layer of soil that ranges from 8 inches to 6 feet in depth.

**No methane gas nor carbon monoxide have been found in seven years of monitoring.**

Based on initial testing, the primary contaminant of concern is the elevated lead levels within the buried materials. These elevated lead levels have not been identified in the surface soil where they would pose a health risk. We have contained the contaminated areas.

Per EPA and TCEQ directives, the City of Austin will continue to monitor the situation with the use of methane, natural gas, and carbon monoxide detectors both in the building and at bore holes drilled through the foundation to check gas levels below the building. The playground area and the gas monitors are checked by daily inspections and by quarterly visits from the Parks and Recreation Safety Officer who has also contributed to the safety measures taken.

We will remain vigilant in our efforts to manage this issue. We believe that the DAC and its surrounding parkland are safe but we want to be sure all interested parties are aware of the situation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call:

Laura Esparza, Division Manager, History, Arts and Nature Division, 512-974-4001.
Mary Ann Vaca-Lambert, Supervisor, Dougherty Arts Center School, 512-974-4038

Sincerely,

Laura Esparza, Division Manager,
History, Arts and Nature Division
(512) 974-4001