

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/adults 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 or Sunday, 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.

- No outside clay or materials allowed.
- The studio is not a commercial or production studio and is for educational and recreational use only.
- **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.
- **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. Long, thin pieces such as animal tales etc. are particularly prone to breakage.*

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.
- **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 into the next term. After that, the work will be recycled.
- **GLAZEWARE** remaining in the studio will be held for two weeks into the next term. After that, the work will be recycled.
- **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, Family Clay Friday/Sunday 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 2 weeks from the last class of the first session or two weeks into the next term for second session classes, 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 Visual Arts Coordinator. 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 the work to Family Clay Friday/Sunday. Please see The Arts & Culture Guide for details, the schedule, and fee.

SAFETY

Many glaze, slip and stain materials are hazardous and should be handled with care. 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 and glazes

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 is also posted in the studio.