

Work Shop With Bev Ellis

Quick and dirty Slabs -Quick Take Aways

It helps to get to know your clay and how far you can push it, best firing times, drying times, maturing temperatures

I use Lots of compression of the clay with a rib, front and back

Attention to details, remembering to take out the form at just the right time,
(Too early, and the clay slumps, too late and the clay will have shrunk)

Bottom needs to be the same thickness as sides to not crack, Due mostly to drying time, clay shrinks as it dries, and if you have two different thicknesses of clay joined together the one piece will dry faster, and there will be separation likely and cracking

Trip: allow clay to have a long drying time, and long bisque firing time
Quick drying almost always results in cracks

Don't overstretch clay=Cracks

Work while the clay is most malleable for large clay shape changes: clay has a memory, decide what shape you are going to put it into, and try not to change back and forth, or you will have struggles and likely cracking later

Let clay set up before adding details that need to be "sharper"

Poke a hole in the bottom if cylinder mold won't come out- lets air release, then fill in hole.

Low fire bisque molds, or plaster molds work well as slump or hump molds because they absorb the moisture of the clay and then the clay releases from them easily
-However- watch carefully as the clay shrinks as it dries, and if it is on the outside of a bowl, the clay will crack as it dries, if left on

- be careful when working with plaster, you do not want plaster to get into your clay, it will cause the clay to explode in the kiln

Suggested Supplies

Recycled Newspapers

Painters tape

Cylinder forms

Recycled forms/many shapes

Bisque slump molds - make your own or pay a local potter/ceramic artist to make

Bowl- plastic, or ceramic sink bowl

Plate

Plaster mold/slump mold- make your own or purchase from Totally Ceramics in Surrey

Hope you had a great time! Thank you for attending. The sky is the limit! Keep Creating! Feel free to invite me to come into your class to do a workshop! I love working with students of all ages!

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When You Can Use Specific Clay Techniques

Moist Clay

Rolling out slabs
Brush on Slips and engages
Impressing/stamps/objects
Slip trailing
Direct Carving
Pressing with open face mold
Pressing with carved plaster block

Leatherhard Clay

Brushing on slips and engages
Incising/Carving
Inlay
Shellac resist
Underglazes
Sgraffito
Screen-printing with underglazes

Bone-Dry Clay

Underglazes
Shellac resist
Sgraffito
Screen printing with underglazes

Bisque'd Clay

Underglazes
Screen-printing with underglazes
Rubbing on stains
Glazes

Glazed Clay

Overglaze
Lusters
Decals

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