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Workshop hosting information - scheduling now for summer 2024

Teaching workshops is one of the most fun things that I do as an artist. I find it exciting to meet new people, see new studios, and talk about ceramics in-depth with other artists. My workshops are appropriate for both beginning students looking to advance their technical skill, and advanced artists looking to further develop their voice in clay. I have been a teacher for more than 15 years at private, public, and academic institutions, — and I've received awards both nationally and internationally for my work. I'm currently an Assistant Professor of Ceramics at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois. I love to talk about wheel throwing, hand building, slip trailing, water etching, kiln firing practices, and finding your voice in clay. Mostly, I love to travel and I would love to visit your studio! My workshops are catered to the needs of students and the requests of hosts, but here are some sample workshops:

The Hand, The Eye:

Hands-on Exploration of Form and Surface

2 or more-day participatory workshop. (week-long schedule available upon request)

Often, the most effective method for assimilating new techniques into your artistic practice is through direct hands-on experience. In this workshop, Mike will work alongside students to demonstrate and guide the investigation of various techniques. Students can expect to practice hand construction techniques, slip trailing, water etching, gold luster application and learn about spraying glazes application for atmospheric effects. Students are encouraged to bring a small amount of clay of their choosing and a few pieces of leather hard and/or bone dry work on during the workshop.

-Day 1

-In the morning, Mike demos wheel throwing and hand-building construction techniques and talks about his handle-making philosophy and finding your voice in clay. Students can spend time working on or off of the wheel alongside Mike and will receive feedback during work time. Students determine the amount of time spent demoing vs making. Students receive handouts including written process overviews, glaze recipes, and other technical info.

-In the Afternoon, Mike will do a water etching demo on bone dry ware. Students will practice shellac/wax painting as these pieces need to sit overnight before abrading. Mike will give an introduction to the slip trailing process and distribute some tools for this.

-In the evening, Mike will give a slide presentation about his work and philosophy (approx 40 minutes). This can also be moved to the morning or scheduled at the convenience of the host.

-Day 2-

-In the morning, Mike will demo finishing up multicomponent forms and give an in-depth slip trailing demo. Students will practice slip trailing on their own work made during Day 1. Students can also apply shellac to work made during Day 1. Mike does quick demos throughout the day relevant to the students interests and to illustrate suggestions.

-In the afternoon, water-etched pieces from the day before will be completed, and a short glazing demo with some basic information about glaze chemistry and the application of lusters will be included. Individual critiques are optional, but students will be provided with contact information to receive feedback from Mike in the future if they wish to do so.

COST: Daily honorarium plus expenses - travel, food, lodging (negotiable). email mikestumbras@gmail.com for information or a quote. Artist provides tools and some materials.

Investigating Ornament:

Constructing and Considering the Functional Object

1 or 2 day demonstration-only workshop example schedule (can be extended).

Workshops are catered to the particular interests of the host institution.

There are numerous technical challenges involved with using hand processes to create exceptional functional objects in clay, particularly when using porcelain. Mike will demonstrate techniques used in his ceramic process including wheel throwing, hand building, altering, slip trailing, image transfer, water etching, and glazing techniques.

During the demonstration, Mike will discuss key elements of designing multicomponent forms and planning for the use of various ornamental techniques. Students can ask questions to guide the material covered in the workshop and participate in discussing the relationship between ceramic techniques and their conceptual and historical relevance to studio ceramics.

Evening before:

Slide lecture open to the public - optional (I can show slides during the hours of the workshop or on the evening of a workshop day, depending on your schedule). 9am to 5pm each day. **For a one day workshop**, I usually like to spend time in the studio preparing work for the following day to expedite the demo processes in order to demonstrate my complete process.

-Day 1. Wheel throwing, hand building, assembling multiple component forms and slip trailing. Mike will speak about design considerations and strategies for creating integrated and nuanced surfaces.

-Day 2. Sprigging, water etching, glazing considerations. Mike will speak about technique, craft philosophy, historical ceramics, and professional development. Individual critiques can be an option for this format if requested.

Allow extra time as these demos may sometimes exceed the time allotted.

*one day workshops follow an abridged format of the schedule above can be extended to three days of demonstration for a comprehensive look at constructing multiple types of vessels and a more in-depth discussion of relevant surface techniques.

COST: Daily honorarium plus expenses - travel, food, lodging (negotiable). email mikestumbras@gmail.com for information or a quote. Artist provides tools and some materials.

Atmospheric Style Glazing and Kiln Firing workshop

2 to 3 day workshop. Participatory.

The soda firing process can often appear to be as technically complex as the results are beautiful. Crucial to learning to easily incorporate difficult firing practices into your artistic repertoire involves participating in the firing process directly. In this workshop, students will learn about and participate in the firing of a Cone 10 reduction soda kiln. Mike will speak about strategies for glazing and preparing work for soda, as well as the many possible methods of influencing the atmosphere inside the kiln during firing. While the work heats up, Mike will talk about some of the considerations involved with making decisions in raw clay that can help take advantage of the effects of atmospheric firing — including wheel throwing, slip trailing, and water etching. Students interested in seeing finished work from the kiln should come prepared with some bisque ware for glazing at the start of the workshop.

-Day 1. Glazing demo, including layering sprayed glazes, dipping glazes, resisting, and flashing slip considerations for soda firing. In the afternoon, loading and candling the kiln. Optional — Artist lecture to be given the evening before or at the convenience of the studio.

-Day 2. Morning, soda firing considerations. Spraying equipment, reduction firing troubleshooting and considerations. Afternoon, wet work demos for dimensional processes — throwing, handbuilding, slip trailing and water etching. Evening, Soda spraying demon and participation.

-Day 3. Demos, unloading, and critique of work. Cleanup considerations. Exct schedule to be discussed. Some prep work by the hosting institution required.

COST: Daily honorarium plus expenses - travel, food, lodging (negotiable). email mikestumbras@gmail.com for information or a quote. Artist provides tools and some materials.

Testimonial:

"I highly recommend Mike Stumbras as a workshop presenter. He is thoroughly educated in ceramic materials and firing methods and is able to explain complex processes in an approachable way. He is skilled in throwing and decorating and his encyclopedia of techniques are shared with casual ease. Mike is knowledgeable and passionate about ceramic art and it shows. His entertaining and educational workshops are packed full of information; from inspirational resources, to planning a project, to fabrication and firing. Students at any level would benefit from his teachings and studio managers will find him a very professional artist and a pleasure to work with. We look forward to hosting another Mike Stumbras workshop!"

—Cindy Powers

Recent Workshops:

Visiting Artist Lectures and Workshops 2023

- Mike Stumbras Workshop*, Green River High School, Green River, WY.
- Mike Stumbras Visiting Artist*, Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville, IL.
- Form and Surface: Finding a Voice in Clay*. A 5-day workshop at the Touchstone Center for Crafts, Farmington, PA.
- Mike Stumbras – The Beauty & Horror of Existential Uncertainty*. July 21-23rd at Roadrunner Ceramics, San Antonio, TX.
- History, Production, and Practice in Clay*, Historical Lecture, National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center (NCERC). Edwardsville, IL.
- Hood College History of Ceramics Artist Talks*. Virtual Historical Ceramics Lecture, Hood College, Frederick Maryland.

2022

- Dubuque Museum of Art Craft Invitational one-day demonstration. Dubuque, IA. Regional
- Thanatopsis*. Lecture at Columbia College, Columbia, MO. Regional.

-*Negotiating Galleries and Exhibitions*. Internal lecture series at SIUE for Painting and Professional Development courses.

2021

-*History and Ornament: Constructing and Considering the Functional Ceramic Object with Kate Waltman and Mike Stumbras Demo and Lecture*. Historic Camden Foundation Symposium, Camden, NC.

-Untitled Workshop and Lecture at Waubonsee Community College, Waubonsee, IL.

-*The Quintessential Potter's Pot: The Mug*. invited virtual speaker at the Ceramics Congress international conference.