

Mike Stumbras

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Workshop hosting information - scheduling now for 2020

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 10 years at private, public, and academic institutions, — and I've received awards both nationally and internationally for my work. Formerly a Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of William and Mary and a Lecturer in Ceramics at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, I am currently a full time artist in Kansas City, Missouri. I love to talk about wheel throwing, hand building, and kiln firing practices overall. Mostly I love to travel, and I would love to visit your studio! You can check out some sample workshops below:

Investigating Ornament:

Constructing and Considering the Functional Object

1 or 2 day demonstration 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). email mikestumbras@gmail.com for information or a quote. Artist provides tools and some materials.

The Hand, The Eye:

Hands-on Exploration of Form and Surface

2 or more day participatory workshop

In many cases, the best way to learn to incorporate difficult techniques into your artistic practice involves firsthand 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, and glaze application for atmospheric effects. Students are encouraged to bring a few pieces of bone dry work and bisque ware to practice

-Day 1 (excluded in 2 day workshop, can be extended for 4 day workshop). Mike demos wheel throwing and hand building construction techniques and handle making philosophy. Students spend time working on or off of the wheel alongside Mike and will receive feedback during work time. 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.

-Day 2- Slip trailing Demo, students will practice on their own work. Students spend time working on or off the wheel and receive feedback during work time. Mike does quick demos throughout the day relevant to the students interests and to illustrate suggestions. Water etched pieces from the day before will be completed, and a short glazing demo with some information about glaze chemistry is included. Individual critiques are optional.

COST: Daily honorarium plus expenses (travel, food, lodging). 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). 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