

## **Access Arts' Ceramics Department Artist-in-Residence Description**

*Please be sure to read the general information pdf about the Artist-in-residence program.*

Access Arts hosts two spacious, well-lit Ceramics studios on its campus. One is a large, active class studio, complete with adjacent glaze room and kiln room. In the classroom, there are typically 10 electric wheels available for use, as well as a large wedging table, slab roller, and multiple table surfaces for handbuilding work. There is an abundance of shelf space for storing finished pieces and/or greenware waiting to be fired. The glaze room is stocked with various compounds used in preparing glazes, and has a well-ventilated spray booth and large work table. The second studio is a smaller, more private work area that is often utilized by Artists-in-Residence to develop their own work. It contains five electric wheels, one kick wheel, a slab roller, and two electric kilns. There is also an area to do glaze work and room to store work in progress and finished pieces. Both studios have a lot of windows that provide natural light year-round. Artists in Residence are encouraged to use both studios for their own art-making, as each studio has a different dynamic. The classroom area is a very social place, with classes ongoing and students making use of extra practice times. This atmosphere promotes discussion in a range of topics (form, functionality, etc.) and a sharing of ideas and inspiration between instructors and students. The smaller studio provides an area for quiet reflection and individual focus. Artists are encouraged to spend time in both spaces in order to provide guidance to students as well as produce a solid body of their own work.

The local ceramics community offers many diverse firing options. Access Arts routinely fires electric kilns to cone 6 or higher for student work. Artists in Residence are welcome to use these kilns to fire their own work. We also have a sophisticated setup for raku firing. In addition to these in-house firing options, there are also ties to local artists with gas kilns, wood kilns, and the ability to conduct pit firings, salt firings, etc. These artists enjoy collaborating with Access Arts Resident Artists, and are eager to work out community firings if desired. One of the benefits to Access Arts' program is this collaboration and how it enables students to experience a diverse range of firing techniques. This network also is a benefit to Resident Artists in that it allows a greater range of options for developing their work.

### **Requirements of Ceramics Artists-in-Residence:**

In exchange for the benefits received, artists will work 10 hours per week for Access Arts. The Executive Director will supervise the artists in the program and assign their responsibilities.

Duties will include:

- Teaching classes

The primary responsibility will be teaching classes (an average of 2-3 classes per term, maximum class size 10 students). Artists in Residence are expected to teach a range of ability levels, from beginning handbuilding to advanced sculpture and wheel throwing, as well as to work with special needs students. The opportunity to teach such a varied student body has provided past artists-in-residence with new inspiration and provoked many group discussions. The Executive Director will discuss the specific needs of each class with the Artists and determine which Resident is best suited for each instructor position.

- Helping maintain well-functioning studios

The Artists in Residence will work closely with the Ceramics Studio Manager to provide an efficient, safe work environment and maintain an inventory of adequate supplies. Upon occasion, Artists may be asked to fire kilns, prepare glazes, pug clay, or other tasks as needed to keep the studios running smoothly. It is important that Artists have good communication skills to coordinate these tasks with the Studio Manager.

- Representing Access Arts at in-house activities and community events

Artists are expected to participate in community events such as workshops and demonstrations that are for the promotion of the Ceramics program. One such event typically occurs each month, and Artists-in-Residence share the responsibility of representing Access Arts in a suitable capacity (i.e. demonstrating ceramics techniques or assisting visiting artists with presentations).

### **Benefits Specific to Ceramics Artists-in-Residence:**

In return for 40 hours of service to Access Arts each month, Artists-in-Residence receive:  
Opportunity to network with diverse ceramic art community connected to Access Arts

- Use of either Ceramic Studio at any time class is not in session in that studio
- Storage space for greenware and finished artwork
- One bisque kiln firing per month
- One glaze kiln firing (with shop glazes) per month
- The amount of stoneware (cone 6) needed to fill one kiln load (around 3,000 cubic inches) per month

These amounts are basic calculations. It is understood that if the resident will be using materials that are not typically stocked in the studio, they will be allowed to order supplies through Access Arts' suppliers and receive the organization's usual discount. The amount of clay and glazes included as a benefit may need to be adjusted if the resident wants to use materials that are priced higher than what is typically stocked. Other individual costs, such as those associated with alternative firing methods, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to maintain fairness. Artists are encouraged to produce as much work as they like. If materials or firings in addition to those included in this list of benefits are needed, the artist may purchase them at cost. Artists also may have the option of serving Access Arts additional hours in return for any additional costs accrued. All such decisions will be made by the Executive Director with input from the Artist and the Studio Manager.