

## Summer ceramics workshops offer options

5/27/15



The School of Art and Design at Alfred University (AU) is again offering a series of summer workshops designed to meet the needs of students and teachers interested in working with clay. Summer Ceramic Art at Alfred, a series of workshops/courses running Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 24, will include two-week workshops, a four-week workshop, a two-day short course, and a one-week teacher&s workshop.

The programs will give students/teachers the opportunity to learn from internationally recognized artists on their own turf, sharing their facilities, libraries, and community.

John Gill, AU professor of ceramics, and In-Chin Lee, a professor at Hongik University, South Korea, will conduct a Four-Week Intensive Studio June 29-July 24. Their workshop is intended for students and seasoned learners looking for an intensive ceramic art experience, whether to prepare for graduate school or to have an opportunity to reconnect with their studio practice.

Participants will work independently in individual workspaces with daily input from Gill, Lee, graduate teaching assistants. They will also have the potential to explore a full range of ceramic techniques.

Gill is a professor, potter, storyteller, and avid library user. His hand-building demonstrations are renown, conjuring up ways to play with clay while entertaining with stories and thought-providing insights. This year Gill was elected to the American Craft Council of Fellows in recognition of his work and influence as a master of ceramic art.

Lee has taught in the Department of Ceramics and Glass at Hongik University since 1991. He developed his understanding of Western and Eastern ceramics as a product of his childhood upbringing in both cultures. Lee is internationally celebrated for his wood-fired work and well known for mentoring students by structuring non-traditional learning experiences.

Course fee: \$1,600; Materials fee: \$150; for-credit option available at additional cost

Wayne Higby, professor of ceramics and the Robert C. Turner Chair of Ceramic Art in the College of Ceramics at AU, will conduct a two-week Raku Workshop Monday, June 29 through Saturday, July 11 with a raku firing event July 11.

Higby is a renowned ceramic artist, teacher, and recognized raku master. His unique fusion of concept and raku technique has been recognized worldwide. This workshop is a rare opportunity to study the dynamics of this unique art form. Open to all skill levels.

The workshop will include hand building, wheel throwing, glazing and firing demos. Enlightened amateurs are

especially welcome. Course fee: \$850; Materials fee: \$75

Looking closely at the language that issues forth from hand, tools, and material will be the focus of Timeless/Timely running from Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 10. Led by Linda Sikora, professor of ceramics at AU, and Matthew Metz, a studio potter, the workshop will begin with the making of primary, singular forms on the potter's wheel. These will be the basis for studying and making compounded pottery form and considering what it means to "finish" a form whether this implies additional surface work (decorative) or a re-evaluation of touch in forming.

Initial exercises will take participants through morphologies witnessed in history and reveal the foundation of contemporary archetypes and proclivities. Gill will join the group on a trip to Scholes Library's Rare Books Room to study the Eumorfopoulos Collection where he will share his expertise and knowledge. Subjects will include a vase, pitcher, teapot, jar/box, and cup. Studio processes will include throwing, building, sgraffito, polychrome glazing, and firing (cone 10/salt/soda).

Sikora is a studio potter and professor. She studied and apprenticed in British Columbia and then attended Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University and the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. She has published articles in Studio Potter and Ceramic Review. Residencies include Archie Bray Foundation; Chunkang College of Cultural Industry, Korea; Tainan National College of The Arts, Taiwan; and Clay Edge, Australia. National exhibition venues include Ferrin Gallery, LaCoste Gallery, The Clay Studio, and AKAR Gallery. Her work is included in collections in the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts.

Metz has been a studio potter for 20 years. He is the recipient of a NEA Crafts Fellowship and two McKnight Fellowships. He shows and sells his pottery throughout the United States and internationally, including through the St. Croix Potter's tour, the Old Church Pottery Show, and the Philadelphia Craft Show.

Course fee: \$850; Materials fee: \$75

In the expanded field of contemporary sculpture where material options are completely open, unfired clay, moist and visceral or dry as a bone, holds fantastic, untapped, expressive potential. In "Big Clay: Raw" Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 17, Walter McConnell, professor of ceramics at AU, will give participants the opportunity to explore the possibilities, to experiment widely and build large-scale, raw clay sculpture and installation that embraces impermanence as the end point.

McConnell is best known for his moist clay installations housed in plastic enclosures that address the relationship between nature and culture. His work has been widely exhibited internationally and in venues across the United States including The Denver Art Museum, MassMoca, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Course fee: \$850; Materials fee: \$75

In a one-week offering - Monday, July 6-Friday, July 10 during the MostArts Summer Music and Art Festival - Jason Green will present "The Teacher's Studio. This workshop is designed to give teachers the time and space to explore and experiment with clay.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn new processes while also concentrating on their own studio practice. Demonstrations will encompass a range of techniques, tools, and processes that can be applied to thrown, hand-built, and molded forms. Studio conversations will focus on how artists arrive at form and surface using experimental methods. Ideas about developing projects, solving technical problems, and teaching art will be shared.

Green taught ceramics and sculpture to high school students for 11 years and now teaches Freshman Foundation and ceramics courses at AU. His work with architectural ceramics and sculptural tile has evolved in the studio combining traditional, digital, and experimental processes. He has led workshops internationally and across the United States and recently received an award from the Zanesville Prize for Contemporary Ceramics exhibition.

Course fee: \$450; Materials fee: \$45

"Ceramic Science for the Artist" is a short, two-day course, Friday July 10-Saturday, July 11, presented by Dr. William Carty, professor of ceramic engineering and materials science at AU, who will present an introduction to the science and technology of ceramic bodies and glazes.

This course is intended for artists to understand some of the underlying chemistry to their work. The goal is to develop tools to predict the behavior of materials to solve problems in the studio. Starting with the basic premise that most firing defects are rooted in the making process, this class will demystify the science behind ceramics. Participants are encouraged to bring examples of defects or problems for discussion.

Carty is the John F. McMahon Professor at the University. He and his research group have conducted research in all aspects of traditional ceramics. He has authored and co-authored more than 80 papers and is a frequent contributor to NCECA.

Course fee: \$200

For information on any or all of the summer ceramics programs, please visit: [www.art.alfred.edu/summer...](http://www.art.alfred.edu/summer...) or [www.alfredceramics.com](http://www.alfredceramics.com), email [summerceramics@alfred.edu](mailto:summerceramics@alfred.edu), or call 607.871.2413.