

James Diem



Mission Statement:

To develop and cultivate interest in clay as an artistic medium and expose students to the power of collaborative projects.

Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

Lives In:

Hood River, OR

Homestay:

Not required

Potter in Residence

The artist works on the wheel with small groups of 4 or 5 students at a time while the remaining class is occupied with other artwork. The students will experience what it feels like to throw a bowl. Depending on the size of the classroom this portion of the project can be last one to two days per class. The bowls are then trimmed and bisque fired. After the bowls are dried and bisque fired, usually a week to two weeks later, students will glaze the pots. Discussion about the history of ceramics, firing and glazing can be integrated into the residency per teachers' request.

Soft Slab Textured Flower Pots

In this project students create soft slab flower pots. Students are shown how to roll out a slab and then have a variety of materials to create texture on their slabs. Students are guided on how to cut out a shape that will "fold" into a vessel form. This process takes two consecutive days. After the vessels are dried and bisque fired a week to two weeks later, the students glaze the pots. Demonstration and glazing take two consecutive days after which the vessels are glaze fired. The fifth day would take place the following week and would involve unloading the finished product, critique, and/or review.

Facilities & Supplies

Classroom with sinks preferably, 50 lbs of clay per class of 30 students, Potters wheel (can bring one if necessary), Low fire clay and glaze, Electric Kiln (can fire at my studio if necessary), Drying Racks, Paint Brushes and Plastic Jello cups for glaze. Supply Cost – approx \$1.50 per student.

About the Artist...

James Diem holds a BA in Art & Design and K-12 art teaching certification from Grand Valley State University in Allendale Michigan and also holds an Oregon teaching license. James and his wife Anna, a speech therapist, moved to the Gorge four years ago. Prior to the move, James worked as the exhibits manager for a children's museum and was active in the art community completing various art residencies in scholastic and community venues. James is currently a full time ceramicist and metalsmith in the Gorge. His work can be viewed at the Columbia Art Gallery in Hood River.



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Cultural and Ethnic Heritage Tile Project

Students research their cultural, ethnic and family histories. Students are encouraged to find both interesting iconography and subtle imagery to compose and create on student made terracotta tiles. This could include imagery from holidays, festivals, traditional foods, geography, landmarks, historical events, pastimes, family history, traditional arts, or anything else related to history or culture. Individual tile imagery can be as specific or as general as the student wishes. Each student will create three 8"x8" terracotta tiles based on their research. One tile to include but not limited to impressions, one tile created mainly by appliqué of student made press or sprig molds, and one tile created by carving in low relief. Tiles evaluated on composition, technical skill, and research. The resulting tiles are bisque fired then stained and fired again – no glaze is used in this project. The best tiles are picked from the project and composed for a large scale permanent mural(s). Finally students are asked to respond to the project in a one page paper describing why they choose the imagery they did for their tiles. The resulting mural is most effective if at least seventy-five students participate. This is a two week project. Approximately eight consecutive days of research, demonstration, and tile creation followed by a week off to allow the tiles to dry and be bisque fired. One day of tile "staining" followed by one week off while the tiles are re-fired. The final day would involve "laying out" the finished product, critique, review and assimilating the experience.

Facilities & Supplies

Art classroom with sinks, Drying racks, 12" x 12" work boards (three times the number of participating students), 9lbs of terracotta per student, Metal oxide stain, Electric kiln (can fire at my studio if absolutely necessary), Rolling pins, Thickness gauges, Various hand tools, Canvas for rolling clay, 150 lbs of plaster

Materials Costs: Approximately \$3.50 per student, some supplies may be donated.

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Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

Lives In:

White Salmon, WA

Homestay:

Not required