



Wheel Throwing

G26030409

with Barbara Campbell

March 22-April 4, 2026

Welcome to Wheel Throwing!

The art of making pottery has a long history that dates back to ancient times, and it has been an essential part of many cultures throughout history.

Pottery-making involves a creative process that requires skill, patience, and attention to detail. When making pottery, the potter uses their hands to shape the clay into a vessel, and each piece is unique, reflecting the potter's creativity and skill.

The spiritual connection that pottery invokes is related to the fact that pottery has often been used for ceremonial purposes in many cultures. For example, Native American tribes used pottery in their spiritual rituals, and the ancient Greeks used pottery in their religious ceremonies. Pottery has also been used to hold sacred objects, such as water or food, and as such, it has become imbued with a sense of reverence and respect.



In addition to its ceremonial use, pottery-making itself can be a meditative and spiritual practice. The act of creating something with one's hands can be a form of meditation, and the process of making pottery can be therapeutic and calming. The repetition of the movements involved in pottery-making can help to focus the mind and create a sense of inner peace.

Overall, the connection between the art of making pottery and the spiritual connection it invokes lies in the cultural and ceremonial significance of pottery, as well as the meditative and therapeutic qualities of the process itself. Pottery-making is a unique and ancient art form that has the power to connect us with our past and evoke a sense of awe and wonder in the present.

In our ceramic arts classes at the Ghost Ranch we will be focused on our spiritual connection with the earth both literally and figuratively. I always encourage my participants to create whatever comes to mind, heart or spirit. This means that our focus is not necessarily on the functional aspect of building with clay. I might be on decorative wall pieces, non functional sculptural yard or garden pieces. Certain kinds of clay work best as indoor object d'art and other types are perfect for outdoor display.

In this letter welcoming you to Ghost Ranch, I would like to extend a few pieces of information. Always bring layers as the weather here can be changeable at a moment's notice. I always encourage my students to bring cotton or linen long pants just in case of participation with the firing process. Long pants are also valuable for hiking and evenings. A pair of closed toed shoes are always



valuable for working around the firing process should we be doing that in your particular workshop, but they are also valuable for walking on the dusty paths around the ranch. A long sleeved cotton or natural fiber shirt is helpful in many cases as well. We have a few aprons in the studio that I keep clean and ready for use, but if you have a favorite, then please bring it along with any tools that you think you might need. The pottery studio is reasonably equipped with tools so it is not necessary to bring any unless you are truly partial to your own.

Feel free to contact me (bcampbell@valornet.com), if you have any questions or concerns about your upcoming stay at the ranch.

See you soon,
Barbara Campbell

Schedule Information:

This spring the ranch is offering a two week wheel throwing workshop in the new Pot Hollow building, which is having its finishing touches put on as I write this. We are all very excited to be moving into this new space.

This two-week session on wheel throwing will be the first class held in the new building so I am very excited to open this up to classes.

After your Check in on the 22 of March we will meet for a brief orientation. Starting on the 23rd will hold classes from 9AM until noon each day with



another few hours of instruction in the afternoon. Our mornings will consist of demonstrations and one on one instruction at whatever level you wish or are ready for. The afternoons are open studio time with some instruction to be determined when we see how everyone is doing. This is a time when there will be more one-on-one instruction.

There will be plenty of open studio time for your convenience. For the first several days we will work on centering. The centering process is both internal and external. What I mean by this is that getting centered on the inside helps immensely with the physical act of centering the ball of clay itself.

Once we have a few pieces per person, we will do a bisque firing so we can have a glaze demo and a glaze firing. I like to do this early on so you all know where you are headed and will have time to correct any glitches that might show up. We don't usually get second chances during our summer workshops as there is never quite enough time. We are very fortunate that the ranch can provide this two week seminar to enhance our learning experience. As you each progress we will be adding additional techniques to the mix.

I cannot guarantee what sort of firing we will be doing as our kilns have not yet been moved and tested, but I can guarantee that we will all end up with finished, functional, glazed pieces.

Rest assured there will be time in these two weeks for other ranch activities if you so choose. It is best not to schedule these other activities for the first

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three or four days as that will be the intensive instruction time. After these initial days we can be much more flexible about other activities.

I am very excited about the prospect of a two week wheel throwing class and I look forward to our time together.