



Centering On and Off the Wheel

G26070109

with Barbara Campbell

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Welcome!

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 yards 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:

Each day classes begin at 9 am...there is instruction from 9-12. There is a lunch break the length to be determined by the students. There is another one and half hours of instruction in the afternoon or evening depending on the consensus of the class. There is open studio time the rest of the time.

After your arrival and check in on July 3rd, we will have a brief meeting after dinner in a location that will be posted in your arrival packet.



On Saturday morning we will meet in the new pottery building in Pot Hollow at 9AM. Please be on time so that you don't miss anything.

On Saturday, Sunday and Monday I will be doing demos and working with you each individually on learning to center the clay, center the body and center the psyche.

By the third day you will all be able to center the clay and make different forms on the wheel. There will be plenty of open studio time for practice.

From Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday morning we will be finishing work and getting all our pieces dried out and ready to load into a bisque firing.

Thursday will see us glazing our work and getting it into the kiln for the final glaze firing.

Friday we will clean the studio, unload the kiln and have a class critique. In the afternoon we will set up the art show for the evening's final events.

Our class time on the first three days will be more intense than on the final few days.

We will work together from 9 to noon and 2PM to 5PM. The evenings will be open studio for practice. We can hone this a bit more when we meet and each individual has had time to organize other events on the ranch that interest them. I would, however, recommend that the other ranch activities



happen on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon as those will be tie times when I am loading the kiln and you all will be free to explore other offerings.

I look forward to this first wheel throwing class in our new building in Pot Hollow.