

Self-directed Sessions at Elaine Sheppard Bolt's studio

Independent sessions for Handbuilding or throwing at my studio.

These self-directed sessions allow you to work on your own, following your own ideas and projects.

The studio will have porcelain and stoneware clay available, a selection of oxides and slips and a transparent glaze. Alternatively you may use your own materials with agreement from Elaine.

Sessions are open to a maximum of four people at the studio for self-directed working and must be booked in six week blocks, in advance.

You will need to specify if you would like to focus on handbuilding or throwing. There are two wheels available, so room for a maximum of two throwers and two hand builders.

The sessions are suitable for those with prior ceramics skills and experience and are able to pursue their own ideas. As the sessions will be at my studio and require a degree of experience, the sessions are currently available to those who have worked with me or met me already.

When

Tuesday mornings 10.30-1pm
In a block of six-weeks

3 September to 8 October
and
5 November to 17 December (not 19th Nov)

Where

My studio is a beautiful old converted barn on the edge of Ditchling Common.

The studio has on-site parking and can be reached easily from Ditchling and Burgess Hill by bike or car.

Find me at:

Pollards Farm Cottage, Ditchling Road, Ditchling Common, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0SE

How much

£180 per person for a block of six sessions, each 2.5hrs long, plus firing charged at £8 - £10 per kilo of unfired clay, depending on clay and glazes used.

What will we do

These sessions allow the freedom and flexibility to make what you would like to make and get on with your own thing. An introduction to the studio will be given when you start and then you may use the facilities yourself. I may be on hand to help if needed and to trouble shoot, but will mostly be working on my own things.

As with all sessions at my studio, you will need to ensure the space and tools you use are all cleaned before the session ends.

Firings

All firings will be to 1270c in my electric kiln.

Items made during the six weeks will be fired for you. Finished work will need to be biscuit fired once sufficiently dry and you will need to glaze them yourself (if required) using one of my glazes or a glaze of your own.

All fired work will be available to be collected from the studio within eight weeks of the end of the sessions.

What to wear and bring

I can provide an apron, towels and relevant professional protective equipment, so you don't need to bring those, but I suggest you wear clothes that you don't mind getting a bit of clay on.

Please wear flat shoes and note there are some trip hazards in the studio which will be pointed out to you at the first session.

It can be a good idea to have short finger nails as these can get in the way when working with clay.

Facilities and Refreshments

Studio

The studio is in an old converted barn with some low beams so if you have any mobility issues please let me know. There is a toilet on site in a separate building next door to the studio.

Parking

There are a limited number of parking spaces - room for a maximum of four cars, and if you are arriving by car, you may need to block others in, or be blocked in for the duration of the session. If you are arriving by bicycle there may be places available to store your bike in a covered area - please discuss with me if required.

Refreshments

Tea and biscuits will be available at each session.

NOTE: Please inform me if you have any allergies I should know about.

Terms and Conditions

Payment

Payment for a block of classes, stand-alone workshop or course must be made in advance and at the time of placing a booking.

This block of six sessions for workshop must be booked and paid in full at least four weeks before the start of the course. This can be done through my website (a link will be emailed) or by bank transfer.

Cancellation

Cancellation fees are necessary as it is rarely possible for me to fill the space at short notice. However, if you need to cancel but you have a friend who can take your place for the whole course, you may be able transfer the booking to them. Please discuss this option with me if needed.

All cancellations are subject to £10.00 payment processing/admin fee.

Additional cancellation fees on top of the £10.00 are;

- If you cancel up to 30 days before the class - 90% refund
- If you cancel between 30 and 14 days before the class - 80% refund.
- If you cancel between 13 and 7 days before the class - 50% refund.
- Cancellations less than 7 days before the start of the course cannot be refunded

- If the participant fails to attend, the course fee cannot be refunded.

If the course does not have enough participants to run, I may have to cancel or reschedule the course.

If for any reason I am unable to run the course, or it needs to be rescheduled, you will be offered the opportunity to have your place deferred or refunded in full.

Partial attendance

You must book for the whole course or set of self-directed sessions. If you need to miss a session during the course, I won't be able to offer an additional date or partial refunds.

Studio rules

Please turn up on time and leave promptly.

You must clear and clean your working area and tools within the session time. I recommend allowing around 15 minutes at the end of the session for packing up unfinished work, cleaning up your area and tools, and I will encourage you to stop making and start cleaning where necessary.

At the start of any course or block of sessions, I will guide students over studio rules including the best ways to clean up, where things go, how to avoid washing clay down the sink, etc.

If you are unwell and might pass it on to others, e.g. if you have flu or an infectious cough, please be mindful of your fellow students and don't attend.

There are a limited number of parking spaces and if you are arriving by car, you may need to block others in, or be blocked in. Please be considerate of others and move your car if needed.

The studio is in a residential area so please leave quietly and be courteous to others using the drive and the road.

Finishing Work

You will be encouraged to complete all your ongoing projects within the time you have booked to avoid leaving unfinished work. Continuing six-week sessions may be offered across the year, but this is not guaranteed.

Where clay and firing is included within the course, there are some limits to this - very large pieces and/or large quantities of work made may have to be charged a little extra. This will need to be discussed with me during the sessions but please note you may have to pay extra by weight if you make lots of work or very heavy work.

Where clay and firing is not included in the sessions and is charged by weight, there may still be limits set on how much you make and want fired in a session. This is because recycling large quantities of clay is very time consuming and firing lots of pieces can take up a disproportionate amount of space in the kiln. Please take note of the limits set in the course details and discuss with me if needed.

Please make sure you sign or stamp your work so that you can recognise and identify it once its fired.

I will aim to have finished work fired and available to collect within eight weeks of the end of the course. If finished ceramic work is not collected within 3 months of the end of the workshop or course I may have to dispose of it.

If you need to have the work posted to you, this can be done with an additional postage cost, but I cannot accept any responsibility for damage in transit.

Faults and breakages

Making ceramics always involves the risk of faults occurring or breakages happening. I will do my best to enable a positive result, but the potential for cracks, glaze faults, breakages etc. must be born in mind and the studio cannot be held responsible for such risks.