

Throwing with Elaine Sheppard Bolt

Work on your throwing skills at my Sussex studio over the course of six weeks. Each session lasts for 2 and a half hours and at the end you will have developed your throwing and trimming skills and will have a set of pieces to take home.

This course is suitable for those who have some existing throwing experience that they would like to build upon, or those who have thrown before and would like to try throwing with porcelain.

I have two wheels so each session will be for no more than 2 people

When

Thursday afternoon 3.30-6pm
In a block of six-weeks

5 September to 17 October (not including 19 Sept)
and
7 November to 19 December (not including 19 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

£375 per person for a block of six sessions each 2.5hrs long
(Please note: the price will rise to £450 for bookings taken after July 2024)
The cost includes clay, glazes and firings for up to 12 pieces*

What will we do

About the course:

Improve your throwing skills with porcelain or stoneware with this two person, throwing course at my studio. The six-week course, is suitable for improvers or those who have tried other clays but would like to try throwing with porcelain. The sessions can be tailored to your needs, focusing on what you would like to work on, but can include getting to grips with centring on the wheel, throwing cups, bowls and jugs, improving your techniques, turning/trimming vessels and adding handles.

Resources:

The sessions include clay for throwing, professional throwing tools and equipment, tea and biscuits, and full tuition from me. I have two Shimpo wheels and have 'Audrey Blackman' porcelain and a white stoneware available to use.

*You can choose up to 12 finished pieces from the course to be fired by me using simple slips and glazes in use at the studio. Additional pieces can be fired on request for a small additional cost. Finished pieces can be collected 6-8 weeks after the workshop date.

Firings

All firings will be to 1270c in my electric kiln and I will fire the work for you.

Items made during the six week course will be fired for you. Finished work will need to be biscuit fired in week five (if sufficiently dry) and you can glaze them (if required) in week six. Or I can glaze the work for you if required.

All fired work will be available to be collected from the studio within eight weeks of the end of the course. A collection day, will be arranged.

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, as it can get dusty or splashy.

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 class. 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 provided at each session.

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

NOTE: Please let me know before the start if you would like cows milk or oat milk and if you'd like vegan or GF biscuits.

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 course 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 cancelations 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. If you need to miss a session during the course, I won't be able to offer an additional date or partial refunds. It's also difficult for me to recap content covered in missed sessions, so if you do miss a session that is part of a course, please be aware I won't be able to cover that topic for you as part of another session.

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 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 it's 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.