

Handbuilding with Elaine Sheppard Bolt

Weekly small-group sessions with specialist guidance from Elaine in working with porcelain and stoneware.

The group will be no more than 4 people

When

Tuesday afternoon 3.30-6pm
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

£300 per person for a block of six sessions each 2.5hrs long
The cost includes clay, glazes and firings *

What will we do

I will demonstrate techniques as well as guiding you in what you'd like to make. The sessions will be tailored to you as much as possible. Techniques can include slab building, coiling, pinching, decorating with slips, glazing and using oxides, alongside more advanced options such as colouring clay and using mixed media.

The focus of the sessions will be on hand-building. Separate sessions are available to book for throwing if you would like to try that.

There will be a stool available for each of you around a central workbench for demonstrations and for working on hand-building projects.

In the sessions you will be able to bring your own ideas and projects but an example of topics can include the following:

- making spoons and plates
- making pinched and coiled cup with a handle
- Making platters and wall plaques
- colouring and mixing clay
- building with hard slabs
- working with mixed media and found objects
- finishing and glazing your work

Clays and glazes available:

- Porcelain
- Stoneware

- Coloured slips and oxides
- A satin opaque glaze and a transparent glaze

* Very large pieces and/or large quantities of work made may have to be charged a little extra if necessary. This will need to be discussed with me during the sessions.

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. Alternatively, where further 6-week courses are available, you can carry on to follow-on classes and continue making.

All fired work will be available to be collected from the studio within six weeks of the end of the course. A collection day, when you can all meet up to see each others finished pieces, 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.

If you can bring a notebook to keep notes on what we cover, that will be a great help. In addition, if you have a sketchbook or images of ideas you'd like to try and make, please do bring these.

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 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. 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 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.