

# Empty Bowls

## THE STORY & THE MISSION

In 2008 a group of forward-thinking folks at WAC came up with the idea of partnering with Marion Polk Food Share to give back to our community. WAC had just come into being as a non-profit in the new location on the Fairgrounds, and it was a challenge to settle in while coordinating a whole new fundraising concept.

We have gotten better and better at putting the event together for our big two-day sale the weekend before Thanksgiving. Over the last 15 years the volunteers in the studio have stepped up and donated their time and skills to make anywhere from 1200 to 1500 bowls and other interesting items each year for sale.

We have had much needed and appreciated support from Salem Electric, The Grand Hotel, Dutch Bros., and Salem Health to help fund clay and firings. We've also partnered with Willamette Valley Woodturners, The Capitol Woodcarvers, stain glass and other art medium artists. Our customer base is loyal and every year they line up, rain or shine, to have first choice of the clay art, paintings, and wood carvings. There's a lot of pot-hugging in the line up to pay for the goodies.

2021 was amazing. The State Fairgrounds gifted us the use of Cascade Hall, and we were able to spread out our wares in a space three times larger than the studio. Everything sold out in a day and a half, and we were able to give the Marion Polk Food Share over \$27,000 that year.

It's a wonderful experience to volunteer for those two days. This project allows us to hone our skills in clay, learn new techniques, forge friendships, and give back to our less fortunate neighbors.

From January to November the WAC hosts Clay-a-thons on Saturday or Sunday afternoons once or twice a month, and the volunteers gather to work the clay. With baked goods on the treat table and good music, the studio is a buzz of activity. Instructors are there to help guide volunteers on projects. At the end of the day, the ware cart is full to overflowing. Each pot must be trimmed, bisque fired, glazed, and then high-fired. The items may be sold in a day and a half, but it takes us all year to make the inventory. It's a big effort on the part of the WAC community, so it is not surprising to see people creating Christmas ornaments in February. We welcome everyone and anyone to join us if you have some clay skills. We also gratefully accept any donations of clay pieces you may want to put in the sale. Join us, won't you?

*Margrethe Gregg*

*Empty Bowl Chair*

Our next scheduled Clay-a-thon Sundays from 12- 4PM

5/14	6/18	7/2	7/23
5/28	6/25	7/16	7/30



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hello WAC community,

Our spring term has begun, and creations are filling the shelves. Soon, I hope, it'll feel like spring so we can comfortably leave the doors open and spread outdoors. Looking around the studio you'll notice a wide variety of work. We are busy with open studio, classes and workshops. We are planning our summer schedule with a combo of classes and workshops. The WAC hosts Empty Bowls,

State Fair Artisan Village, parties, and schools. Our day-to-day operations depend on the community we serve to keep us healthy, creative, and thriving. Our volunteer Board, staff, monitors and special project volunteers keep the WAC functioning every day. Thank you, WAC community, (and the clay also). Enjoy spring and let your creativity flow.

*Doug Dacar*

*WAC Executive Director*



# Quick Bits

## CLASSES

Please remember, if you'd like to be placed on a waiting list for a class that you could not get into because it was full, please call the studio and a Monitor will be happy to help you.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available for classes. You can find the application for children or adults online: [www.willametteartcenter.com](http://www.willametteartcenter.com).

## DROP IN PAINTING

The WAC invites you to join Deanna Edwards on Mondays in the classroom to paint or work on any art medium that you enjoy. The cost is \$3, and it is from 11:00am-2:00pm. Enjoy the camaraderie of sharing your work with other artists in a relaxing, supportive atmosphere.

## OUTREACH PARTY

On March 19, the WAC hosted a 75-member group from the Dallas Community School. Students and their families made Bunny Bowls. If your group would like to arrange a party at the WAC, contact Doug Dacar at (503) 365-3911.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Wanted: Volunteers for Family Clay Sundays. If you're looking for a feel-good, positive, fun activity, Family Clay is looking for a few good volunteers. Duties include setting up or tearing down, helping families with clay projects, maintaining supplies like clay and tools, and cleaning up spaces. There are available volunteer opportunities for every scheduled Sunday or even once a month. Please sign-up on the poster in the studio, and an instructor will contact you to share details and schedule you in.

## DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS "MAGIC PAPER!"

So, you've got a cool floppy brush, a glazed pot, lots of glazes, and lots of fancy flippy moves in mind to decorate your pots? Check out the Magic Water Paper on the glaze counter. Wet your brush and practice your swishes. It IS magic because the water marks soon disappear, leaving another clean slate to splash on. Enjoy!

## KUDOS

• Thank you Diane Munley, Ann Coskey, Michelle Blumenthal, Claudia Hill, and Deanna Yeakle for making 20 handbuilt cats for the kids to paint at a studio Birthday Party.

• Thank you Sue Karnosh for your hard work on the new, updated Website! It's awesome!

• Thank you, Sara Jennings and Tea Fihe, for coming down from Portland to throw some Empty Bowls at the last Clay-a-thon. (Sara and Tea are part of the Portland Mudpie Co-op)

• Thank you, Christine Lamoureux for volunteering as greeter/cashier for Family Clay Sundays.

• Thank you, Margrethe and Greg Gregg, for amazing jobs cleaning up at the end of Family Clay Sundays.

• Thank you, Claudia Hill, for keeping the studio calendar updated.

• Thank you Monitors for volunteering your time and expertise every week.

• Thank you, Heather Skinner, for fun and informative postings on social media.

• Thank you, Cindy Nelson, for over and above volunteering and your dedication to the WAC.





# Glazing

## BEST PRACTICES

- Only bisqued pots should be glazed.
- Take your bisqueware off the shelves, store, and glaze often.
- Grind off rough spots with the grinding stone.
- Damp sponge the pots inside and out before glazing.
- Carefully wax the bottom of the pot and ¼" or more up the sides.
- Allow the wax to dry for about an hour before glazing.
- Put a paper towel under the waxed area if you leave the pot for a day or so.
- If you accidentally get wax in the wrong place, try sanding off the spot. You may need to put it on the greenware cart to be re-bisqued. The wax will burn off.
- Be sure utensils are clean before you use them in a glaze to avoid contamination.
- Mix the glaze with a clean whisk. You can use a large spoon or ladle to get the heavy glaze off the bottom of the bucket. Mix thoroughly.
- Check the lid for a note that the glaze might run. If it does, use it on the inside or the rim, only.
- Dip into glazes for about 5 seconds. If you can still see the clay body after one dip, you might want to dip it again.
- Let the glaze dry before putting another glaze on top.
- You might choose to paint on the glaze.
- Wipe all glaze off the bottom of the pot and around the foot.
- If you have unwanted drips or pinholes, finger-sand them when the glaze is dry.
- If you use tongs, put glaze on the dry spots left by the tongs.
  - Put the pot on the Hi-Fire cart for Cone 10 glazes. Don't let it touch other pots.

## Some Go-To Glazes

Here is a list of dependable Cone 10 glazes for light colored cone 10 clay bodies. These are recommended by several instructors and students. If you are new to the glazing game, give these a try.

- Noxema
- Chun White
- Temuku
- Black by Popular Demand
- Amber Celadon
- Ohata Plum
- Woo Blue

- Put the pot on the Mid-range cart by the desk for Cone 6 glazes. (glaze buckets under the windows)
  - Thoroughly clean your utensils and sponges.
  - Carefully clean around the glaze buckets, the counters, and the floor.

GOOD LUCK!

## Instagram A WAC GLAZE TOOL

Some people say, "I don't do Instagram or Facebook." Well, that's okay. But, if you're a WAC potter, there's a little-known informational spot-on Instagram that might save you time when deciding which glazes to use. Search #wacglazes. Boom! You will discover a collection of photos of pottery pieces glazed at the WAC. Most people post not only the picture, but also reveal which glazes or techniques they used. Even though some of the glazes have changed or disappeared, many remain, and #wacglazes is a visual treasure house. Please post pictures of your own new pots and describe the glaze. Help your fellow potters navigate the sometimes-puzzling task of glazing.

## SPRING TERM OPEN STUDIO SCHEDULE

APRIL 3 - MAY 27

Monday.....12:30pm - 8pm

Tuesday.....12:30pm - 3pm

Wednesday.....12:30pm - 5:30pm

Thursday.....10am - 8pm

Friday.....12:30 - 5:30pm

Saturday.....12:30 - 4:30pm

Sunday.....Closed



# Spring 2023 TERM CLASSES





# Hot Pots



Gordy Minten



Jen Lassen



Jim Ransom



Stacey



Rachel Rise

# Inlay Clay Plates

Place dots, coils, stamped cutouts together in a pleasing pattern, roll over them slightly, and form the unit into a plate or bowl shape.

Use a glaze that breaks well over texture.

The results are stunning.



Dianne Munley



# Gordy Minten's Big Pot Journey



1. 25# of Clay



2. Greenware



3. Design



4. Carving



5. Stained and bisque fired



6. Completed



7. Amaco Sapphire Float and velvet underglazes

# Quick, Easy to Make, and Cool!

One way to expand your clay toy box of tools is to make your own stamps. Form a small log of clay, tamp the bottom flat and carve into the greenware or roll out a slab and make impressions with a stamp. Bisque the stamp, roll out a slab, stamp, and you've created the reverse impression. Stamps add interesting detail to pots and the possibilities are endless!





# CALENDAR

(See our Website)

May 7	Family Clay Sunday	
14	EB Clayathon	1:00-5:00
21	Family Clay Sunday	1:00-4:00
27	Last week for Spring Classes	
28	EB Clayathon	1:00-5:00
June 1	AV Clayathon	1:00-5:00
4	Family Clay Sunday (Glaze only)	1:00-4:00
8	AV Clayathon	5:00-8:00
11	Family Clay Sunday (Glaze only)	1:00-4:00
12	Summer Classes begin	
18	EB Clayathon	1:00-5:00
25	EB Clayathon	1:00-5:00
July 2	EB -Clayathon	1:00-5:00
4	Closed for Holiday	
6, 7, 8, 9	Closed Marion County Fair	
16	EB Clayathon	1:00-5:00
23	EB Clayathon	1:00-5:00
24	Last Week of Summer Classes	
30	EB Clayathon	1:00-5:00

Our best people don't just fit our culture, they further it.

We are passionate about kindness and understand that being kind is very different than being "nice".

We believe self-awareness and self-care are the foundation of a kind culture.

We thrive on working together, believing in the strength of a diverse team and trusting individual contribution to the whole.

We value learning, creativity, growth and risk-taking. We apologize, forgive and learn from our mistakes.

We are passionate and fun! We value spontaneous laughter and hearty celebration.

be  
kind  
ben's bells project

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, feel free to chat with one of your WAC Board members. They represent you on the Board and will be happy to talk with you.

Sage Dunham--- President  
Kevin Herzberg---Vice President  
Claudia Hill---Secretary  
Jesse Breon---Treasurer

Directors at Large:  
Pam Baldwin  
Jennifer Beugli  
Jennifer Lassen  
Dave McConnell  
Heather Skinner



## GLAZING WITH FIRE

This winter WAC artists, along with the Willamette Ceramics Guild and Cascade Ceramics Studio, were invited to participate in a wood soda firing at East Creek Arts in the coastal mountains of Willamina.

The workshop started at the WAC with an instructional session with Joe Robinson, the owner of East Creek. This workshop focused on an introduction to wood soda firing, kiln placement, clay types, and firing information. Then the potters had about a month to create their works to be fired at East Creek.

Clay choices are very important for wood soda firing, and the WAC has many great clay options for this type of firing, such as porcelain, G-Mix, and Three Finger Jack. All options will have different finishes based on how the clay interacts with the wood soda firing.

In March, the potters traveled out to Willamina to fire. The first day, the potters prepared their wares for the kiln by adding liner glazes such as celadon, Shino, and Tenmoku. They also added wadding onto the bottom of each piece so that it wouldn't fuse to the kiln shelves. Next, the loading began.

Since this was an instructional firing, the potters were able to climb into the kiln and help load the shelves. Along with the pottery, they also added cone packs to see the temperatures the kiln would reach and draw rings to see the progression of the firing.

Early Saturday morning, Joe and the crew fired up the kiln. The kiln was stoked all day, Saturday night and into the morning on Sunday.

Once the kiln reached above 2300 degrees Fahrenheit, the soda was mixed into a slurry, layered onto wood planks, and added to the kiln. Next, the kiln was brought back up to Cone 12 and then shut down.

The following Sunday, the potters returned to East Creek. We lined up in a row and slowly unloaded the kiln. Each person was able to touch and see each piece as it came out. To learn more about the firing, ask one of the potters in the picture or visit: <https://www.eastcreekart.org/>

*Jennifer Lassen*