



willamette  
art center

*A Place to Learn  
& Grow in the Arts*

Issue 23 • Feb/Mar 2023 info@willametteartcenter.com • 503-365-3911

# Message FROM SAGE DUNHAM

Hello Fellow Artists! As the new President of the Board of Directors, I am excited to face the challenges of helping to run such a vibrant and inspiring organization. Since my first class in 2020, the wonderful experiences and people at the Willamette Art Center have enriched my life. I am enjoying getting to know this community and hope to meet many more of you in the near future.

Although I have played with clay since childhood and have always been a creative person, I really discovered my passion for pottery during college; the wheel offered a great distraction from my Chemistry classes! Pottery keeps creeping farther into my life (and home), much to the chagrin of my wife.

## WAC Gift Cards ROCK!

Birthdays, anniversaries, thank you's, Spring's coming someday? Celebrate with a gift card to make your potter consider doing handstands! At the very least, they'll be quite pleased. Potters need clay and firing tickets all year long. Firing tickets never expire, so consider buying a bunch so your potter never runs short. Or let them choose, and they can flash their gift card as payment. Purchase online or in the Studio today!

As President, I hope to help the WAC continue to be an inspiring and accessible place to do art.

My goals are to:

- Build and foster the Willamette Art Center community through increased member engagement
- Maintain affordability
- Expand our class and workshop offerings
- Expand our open studio options to meet the needs of all (including those of us with day-jobs)

Thank you to everyone, especially our wonderful volunteers, for making the Willamette Art Center a fun and inspiring place to play with clay. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts, suggestions, or criticisms. Drop me a message at [wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com) or leave a note in my box in the office.

I hope to see you in the studio soon!

*Sage Dunham*



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hello WAC community,

Winter term is in full swing; the studio is bustling with creative energy. Family Clay Sunday returned with success after a three-year break. A wood and soda firing workshop with East Creek will happen in March. We had the first Empty Bowls Clay-a-thon and Artisan Village planning is underway.

Looking towards our spring break, we are planning a few workshop opportunities as well. Thank you to everybody involved in the WAC for making our organization a thriving creative community. I look forward to seeing everyone and your creations in the coming weeks.

*Doug Dacar*  
WAC Executive Director





# Family CLAY SUNDAY

We invite the whole family to the Willamette Art Center studio for some quality together time. Simple hand-built projects are fun for everyone to create. This is an affordable family activity--\$5 per person and kids 3 or younger are free. Paint your bisque fired pieces, make a new project, and enjoy spending creative time with your family!

**JOIN US FOR THE NEXT FAMILY CLAY SUNDAYS: 1-4 PM**  
• March 12, 26 • April 2, 16, 30 • May 7, 14, 21, 28

The art center is very grateful to the City of Salem Cultural and Tourism Promotions Advisory Board for providing operations grant funding to help support the Family Clay Sunday program.

Families waited outside 15 minutes early for the studio doors to open. Finally, in they flooded, all ages, combinations, heights, with one characteristic in common---smiles! Kids big and small, rolled coils, scratched and attached, and drew faces. By closing at 4pm, over 80 adults with children had settled into every available seat and created their own unique snow person.

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of a prettily wrapped, 3 # box (yes, I said 3 # box!) of See's Chocolates by a young man named Holden, who also included a letter. On week two, the snow people bisque fired, families returned to paint their pieces and then made a valentine wall hanging. The attendance was even larger, but everyone snuggled in and seemed to have a great time.

### 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, once a month, or helping prep clay for Family Clay. Please sign-up on the poster in the studio, and an instructor will contact you to share details and schedule you in.



# Cheri Posedel

## VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Cheri Posedel came to our very first Clay-a-thon and threw 65 beautiful bowls. Each one is the same size, perfectly formed, and requires no trimming. Her volunteer assistants simply wiped them and wrote Empty Bowls and her name on the bottoms. Cheri throws for Empty Bowls every year, and it's fascinating and inspiring watching her throw bowl after bowl with such precision. She is a delightful member of our Empty Bowl team, and we are so grateful for her dedication to the cause. Cheri has been working in clay since 1970 when her sister convinced her to try a 6-week art class at a local art school. After marrying Dave in 1973, they established The Mud Pie Pottery Studio and continue working together at their South Salem location. Stop by and shop their Gallery for beautiful, functional and decorative pottery at 2302 Kuebler Road.



## CLAY-A-THONS

Hey potters, please rendezvous in the studio on Saturday, March 18 and 25 any-time between 12-4pm to throw and hand-build pots for our annual Empty Bowls sale. Our

goal is 1,500 completed clay pieces by early November, and it's never too early to start preparing for the big day. While bowls make up most items, we welcome all well-made,

functional or decorative pots. This year, instructors will be on board to share how-to-instructions to make unique clay pieces. Bring your ideas for reshaping and

texturing

bowls. Please plan to glaze your own Empty Bowl pots. Join us for inspiration, laughter and, of course, treats. Let's get fired up and play with clay!



# 2023 Winter TERM CLASSES



# BRIAN NICHOLAS

# Workshop

On January 7, Brian Nicholas held a workshop on Geometric Sculpting on Large Clay Bodies. As he did last year, Brian graciously donated the proceeds from the workshop to the Willamette Art Center Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Brian! You can find Brian's stunning work on Instagram. Search [brian\\_nicholas\\_pottery](#) and message him if you're interested in purchasing one of his pieces.

## SO, WHAT DID ATTENDEES THINK?

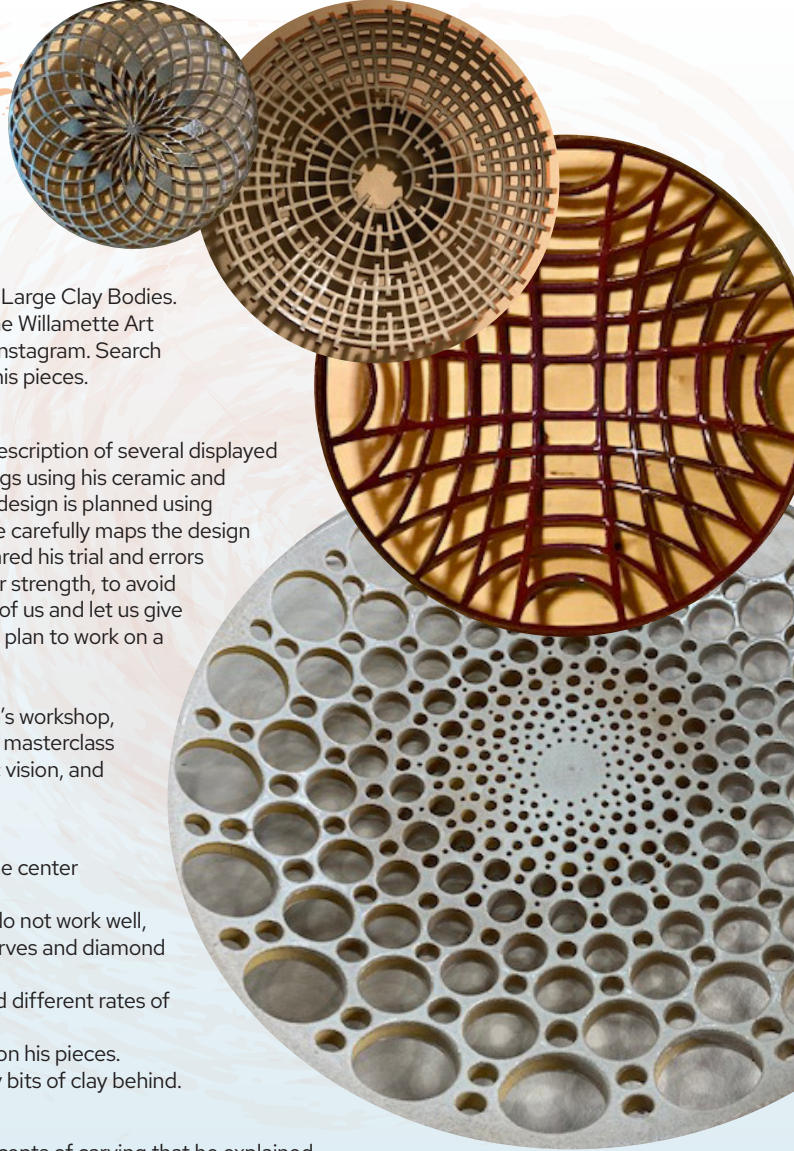
"We all sat silently in awe listening and watching Brian's power point and detailed description of several displayed pieces. After years making functional pottery, he was inspired to create wall hangings using his ceramic and engineering design skills and tools. Brian throws 10-25 lbs. of clay for each bowl. A design is planned using specific repeated measurements crafted by hand, computer and copy machine. He carefully maps the design onto leather hard clay. With precision and sharp tools, he cuts the design. Brian shared his trial and errors and years of experience. He gave us details on how to technically design a piece for strength, to avoid cracks and to safely get it to the kiln. He had a demonstration piece he cut in front of us and let us give it a try. I think we were all inspired to incorporate one or another of his techniques. I plan to work on a smaller maybe 5-10 lb. piece. A big thank you, Brian!" - Christine Lamoureux

"Brian is incredibly generous with his knowledge and experience! Throughout Brian's workshop, I was inspired by both his structural engineering expertise and his attitude. It was a masterclass on what can be accomplished with curiosity, a willingness to make mistakes, artistic vision, and structural engineering.

Here are just a few of the valuable technical details I learned:

- Intricate designs are carved using a simple template, which is rotated around the center of each piece.
- Some shapes hold up better than others through the rigors of firing: triangles do not work well, as they do not allow for the expansion/contraction that happens in the kiln. Curves and diamond shapes are much better. Pieces with circular rims hold up better.
- Drying is critical! Let the center of the piece start drying before the rim to avoid different rates of shrinkage, which lead to cracking at the drying stage.
- A square blade with a double bevel is key to carving all those beautiful corners on his pieces. The traditional X-Acto knife blade, with its acute angle, inevitably leaves untidy bits of clay behind. This level of detail about what tools to use was incredibly helpful!

His ability to throw large amounts of clay is far beyond mine, but the structural concepts of carving that he explained can easily be applied to my own smaller pieces. I left the workshop feeling excited to create and carve my own designs! I found one little phrase Brian used incredibly liberating: "Don't let perfect get in the way of good enough." I've been thinking about it ever since and will use it as reassurance to pursue my own pottery dreams!" - Amanda Ohr



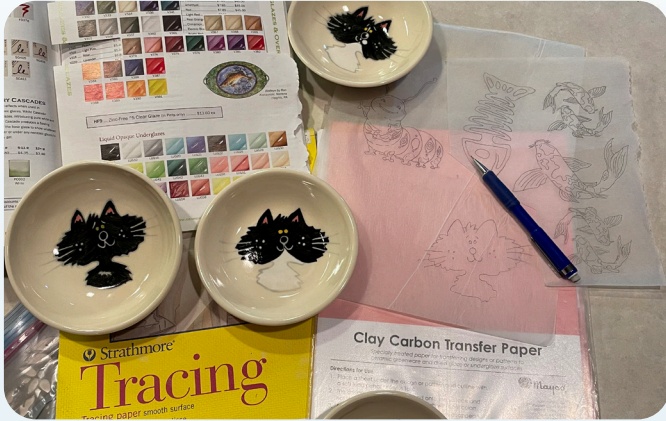
## Remembering Hal

"We met Hal Mathew at The Willamette Art Center, where we meet so many of our artist friends. He was active at the WAC for several years. During that time Hal lived about six blocks from us on Elm Street in West Salem, and we had the opportunity to visit him at home and look over his tiny studio. We got a chuckle from his referral to West Salem as "The Left Bank". His specialty was making pottery that featured drawn figures, combining 2D and 3D art forms. He was also an editor and writer. Being proficient in several media is kind of like being a utility infielder in baseball. You never know what position you will be playing, so it is a tribute to Hal's art that he could "figuratively" play second base and shortstop at the same time. His work inspired others including us to experiment with multime dia work. He was a regular at the State Fair Artisan Village, working the Raku kilns as well as helping with whatever else needed to be done. He will be missed." - Margrethe and Greg Gregg

"I was saddened to hear of Hal Mathew's passing. He began his career in his hometown of Billings, Montana as a sportswriter for the Billings Gazette before transitioning to the art community in Missoula. He spent several years at the WAC, and finally joined the clay co-ops in Eugene. Hal and I bonded over the fact that we both went to the University in Missoula at the same time in the 70's with lots of mutual hangouts and friends. Hal was a quirky character. He was a witty wordsmith, a punster, and a fine writer and videographer. At times a spontaneous prankster, he could make me laugh till I cried or shake my head with frustration at his shenanigans. For sure, Hal was a very talented potter, always ready to assist studio friends and struggling beginners. He taught wheel classes, glaze workshops, and was the lead Instructor for Family Clay Sunday (the adults and kids loved him!). His pottery vessels were beautifully formed, and the detailed drawn faces took hours to glaze. My Hal mug is my favorite for morning tea, and I think of him each time I partake. Hal will live on in his pottery. Hal wanted no memorial service. Instead, he asked that anyone remembering him, buy a piece of pottery from a local artist. Hal was a truly memorable character, and I'm grateful that I knew him." - Pam Baldwin



# HOW TO TRANSFER IMAGES FOR *Underglazing*



First of all, thank you, Karen Hackney, for teaching me so well. This is the procedure I used to glaze my Kitty Bowls:

- I started by finding a design that I liked online and made a copy of it.
- I traced over the copy image onto "Tracing Paper".
- I placed a sheet of "Clay Carbon Transfer Paper" under my tracing paper with the design and put both on my bisqueware.
- Using a soft lead pencil or stylist, I traced over the design to transfer the design onto the surface of my bisqueware. (Don't worry about any tracing lines or extra marks from the clay carbon paper. They disappear during the firing.)
- I used "Amaco Velvet Opaque Underglazes" to paint on the faces.
- I painted "Amaco zinc free clear" over the top of everything.
- Remember to paint on 3 coats of both underglaze and clear. I know, it takes time for each coat to dry, but it's worth it.
- I placed the bowls on the mid-range cart to fire.
- Voila! Kitty bowls. Have fun!

*Gordy Minten*

## Wood Firing FOR BEGINNERS

Members and friends of the Willamette Art Center are invited to participate in an East Creek Art event.

A wood-soda firing will begin March 10, 10am through March 12, 7 pm at East Creek Art in Willamina, OR. The kiln will be unloaded on Sunday, March 19.

If you are interested in attending this event, go to [astcreekart.org/wac](http://astcreekart.org/wac) for more information and registration.

## Dana Field's TEXTURE IT! WORKSHOP

Coming your way March 30

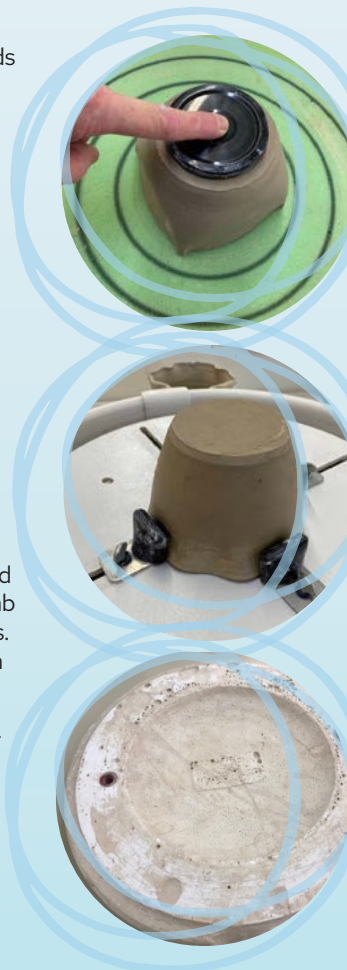
Dana will instruct and demonstrate the use of the wiggle wire to create a variety of exciting textures on wheel thrown and hand built pots. It will be a fun, interactive session. Stay tuned for more details!



## Studio BATS AND MOLDS

If you haven't already, check out the variety of trimming bats and plaster molds tucked into the studio cubby. Here are a few of the cool tool studio offerings:

- Trim on the foam bat for irregular shaped pots. Use the Fred Hamann bottle top trick to hold the pot in place.
- This trimming bat allows you to tighten each pressure point separately. It's especially helpful for irregular or off centered pieces.
- If your pot is round, the trimming bat whose holders close evenly works well. Put the bat on the wheel. Twist the top half of the bat until the holders close tightly around the pot.
- A plaster bat plate form can be attached to the wheel. Wet the form. Lay a clay slab over it and apply pressure to avoid cracks. The slab will pull away automatically from the bat when it dries.
- Large flat plaster bats are also great for throwing plates or platters. Wet the form and throw. The pot will pop loose when dry without wiring.
- The oval plaster form works well to make trays.



# WAC Opportunities

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### POTTERY IN THE SCHOOLS

Center artists are available to teach ceramic workshops in local schools. Instructors work with between 20-60 students in the classrooms, creating a variety of ceramic projects.

### FIELD TRIPS TO THE WAC

Throughout the year, schools as far away as Albany and Forest Grove bring elementary through high school students to the center where they experience a functioning art studio firsthand. Students participate in a variety of hands-on art projects. We are committed to providing lifelong learning in the arts!

### ART EDUCATION SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsor a guest pottery instructor or class field trip. With minimal art experiences available in schools due to budget cuts, the Willamette Art Center clay activities help fill the gaps and provide students with fun, memorable opportunities to share their creativity. If you would like to be a class sponsor and donate the cost of a field trip to the WAC or WAC Instructor visiting a school, please contact Director Doug Dacar at the art center. Join us in helping students express themselves through clay art.

## COMMUNITY PARTY OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS SUPPORT AND TEAM BUILDING

Could your employees use some R & R team-building time together to have fun? The Willamette Art Center provides businesses with a venue to strengthen leadership skills and promote team building through adventures in art. Bring them to the studio and let the WAC staff guide your crew through a creative clay experience. Choose from a variety of projects which can be custom designed for your specific goals.

### PARTIES

Get into Art! There is always something exciting to do with your group at the Willamette Art Center. Throw a one-of-a-kind birthday or office party. We are available for Scout troops, teams, clubs, and other groups. We have lots of options for party activities.

### RAKU PARTIES

Enjoy the immediate satisfaction of pottery pieces completed in one studio visit. We offer bisque ware ready for group members to glaze and Raku fire. An instructor will guide you through the exciting firing process which produces brilliant colors.

### VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTREACH EVENTS

If you have some clay experience and enjoy working with kids, the center needs assistants to help with in-studio parties and field trips and artist in-school clay sessions. If you are interested.

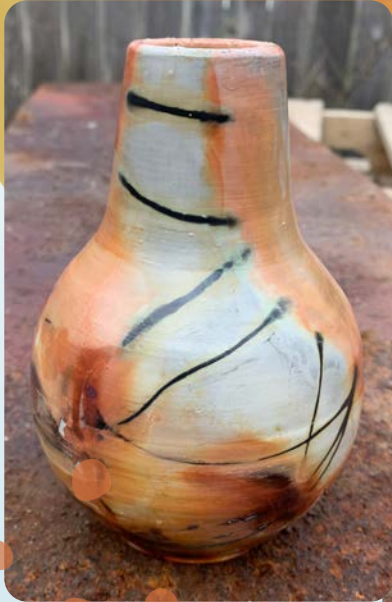
CONTACT: *Doug Dacar*  
(503) 365-3911



## WINTER TERM OPEN STUDIO SCHEDULE JANUARY 16 - MARCH 11

Monday.....	12:30pm - 5:30pm
Tuesday.....	12:30pm - 3pm
Wednesday.....	12:30pm - 5:30pm
Thursday.....	10am - 8pm
Friday.....	12:30 - 5:30pm
Saturday.....	12:30 - 4:30pm
Sunday.....	Closed

# Hot Pots



JESSE BREON



KEVIN HERZBERG



PAM STAUBER



SHAUNA TOBIASSON



OREGON POTTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SHOW & SALE • SINCE 1983

## CERAMIC SHOWCASE

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

April 28-30, 2023

OREGON CONVENTION CENTER





# Membership!

## JOIN THE WILLAMETTE ART CENTER

**B**ecome a 2023 WAC Member and help us continue to deliver our Mission to encourage lifelong learning and exploration of the arts. Your membership is a great way to support our programs, outreach, and be a part of our dynamic art community.

**2023 Annual Membership: \$30** (Purchase online or in the studio)

**2023 Membership effective: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023**

Current benefits included:

- 2 Firing Tickets with every bag of clay purchased.
- A numbered membership card for the year
- Be considered for a monitor position
- Vote in elections and on Bylaw changes
- Attend the annual General Membership meeting
- Run for a Board of Directors position
- Receive invitations to special events

We will continue to offer benefits and opportunities throughout the year. Potential member events include:

Spring Member Night - a short demonstration class followed by members-only open studio time.

Fall Member Raku Night - members-only open studio time, plus we'll fire up the raku kilns for members to raku their bisque-fired work.

Members Mother's Day Sale

If you would like to be on the membership committee or would like to share a membership idea, please leave your name and contact info with the monitor, and we'll reach out.

### *Kudos*

to volunteer Kevin Herzberg for cleaning the windows and hanging the shiny new blinds!



## BOARD COMMITTEES

If you are interested in joining any of the following committees, please email the chairperson, and they will contact you with the meeting schedule. Your input will be welcomed.

- MarCom** ..... Heather Skinner .....newheatherskinner@gmail.com  
**Strategic Planning** ..... Pam Baldwin .....pamwin4@comcast.net  
**Fundraising** ..... Doug Dacar .....director@willametteartcenter.com  
**Empty Bowls** ..... Margrethe Greg .....mudroom23@yahoo.com  
**Membership** ..... Jennifer Lassen .....jennifer.lassen@gmail.com

## COMING NEXT

Cool Tools (purchased or cheap and homemade). Please send us pictures of your favorite tools. What tricks and tips would you like covered in the next newsletter? Any feature story ideas? Have you found some new techniques or forms that you'd like to share? We know there are hot new creations coming out of the kiln. Send your pictures and ideas to:

Pam Baldwin  
pamwin4@comcast.net or  
Heather Skinner  
newheatherskinner@gmail.com

### Visit us soon!

We would love to give you a tour of the art center facility.

### Would you like to make a donation?

Go to [willametteartcenter.com](http://willametteartcenter.com) Support & Donate.

### Contact us:

Address: PO Box 7498, Salem, OR 97303  
Phone: 503-365-3911  
Email Director,  
Doug Dacar at [director@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:director@willametteartcenter.com)

### Have a question or comment?

Leave a message at:  
[info@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:info@willametteartcenter.com)

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# Thank you Contributors!