



Clay Times

The Newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 9: January 2008

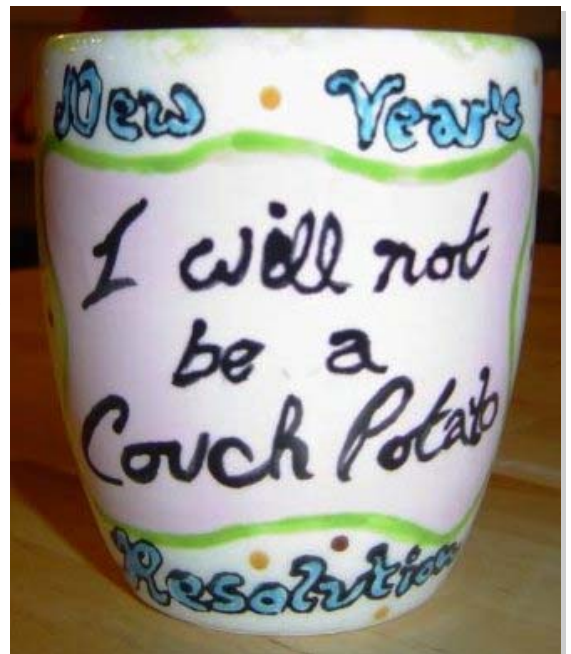
Happy New Year 2008 - what's your New Year's Resolution?

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It is January and time for New Year's Resolutions. A recent newspaper article reported on research that claimed a single resolution is far more effective than a series of different New Year's Resolutions. At The Clay Studio you can help yourself to stick to your New Year's resolution by painting a special New Year mug. Use the mug as a daily reminder, perhaps with your morning coffee, of your good intentions.

The mug can look very effective if a mix of writing and pictures is used. Our staff will help you to choose appropriate pictures and show you simple ways to transfer them onto your mug.



Alternatively, why not try to improve your pottery painting as part of a New Year's Resolution. Our Painting Academy courses teach simple skills that enable you to produce beautiful pieces of painted pottery.

The latest adult courses start during January 2008 (see page 2). This Pick & Mix flexi Course is suitable for beginners. No prior knowledge or skills are required.

Kidz courses will be running during the February half-term week and during the Christchurch Food Festival in May. These courses show children how to achieve great results by taking their time, following a plan and using simple techniques to create great effects.

See in the New Year with the bears



Painting Academy is flexible to your lifestyle

A hectic lifestyle is no longer a barrier to enjoying yourself while learning simple but effective pottery painting techniques. Our Painting Academy sessions starting on 22 January allow “students” to build their own pottery painting course. This is suitable for all abilities including beginners.

Each six-week course allows the student to choose six from eighteen projects that have been designed to highlight different pottery painting techniques. What’s more you can build your own course, not just through the choice of pieces but you can “mix and match” the times when you attend and even miss weeks. This way you can paint at times that suit you best and not miss any sessions if you are unable to attend for any reason.

Students pay a course fee and then choose their item of pottery each week from the large range available. The Clay Studio will recommend a particular item for a specific technique.

Check out the Painting Academy section on the Web site to view the range of different projects available. A few of them are shown to the right.

To enrol for the course call The Clay Studio on 01202 475000, e-mail us on info@theclaystudio.co.uk or just come and visit us in Christchurch.



Every piece is individual

One of the characteristics of hand-painted pottery is that every item is totally unique and individual. This was evident on a recent Painting Academy course where a sample plate was adapted so that there were a variety of plates but still maintaining the theme and humour of the original.



KIDZ Painting Academy

The Painting Academy will be running two Kidz courses during the February half-term break. This will teach simple pottery painting techniques to create the leafy mug.

Each session lasts 1½ hours and includes:

- Bisque pottery to paint.
- All paints, glazing and firing.
- Biscuit & drink.
- Tuition from trained Clay Studio staff.
- Certificate of achievement on completing the workshop.

Your masterpiece will be ready to collect within one week. Places on Kidz Painting Academy Half-term Workshops are limited and advanced booking is advised to secure a place. Each session costs just £12.00 with 10% discount to Clay Friends members.



Masterclass: Kemper tools

There are a number of different ways to create painted effects without using brushes. A simple yet effective way to create patterns is to use kemper tools. These are wire shapes with a wooden handle that can be dipped in paint and then applied to the pottery. The use of a pre-made shape makes it easier to achieve a standardised pattern than using brushes.



There are a variety of kemper tool shapes available. They can also be joined together to create more complex patterns. A teardrop shape, for example, becomes a petal when several are placed in a circle. Similarly, two teardrops placed side-by-side can be used to make a small heart.

TV Christchurch

Did you know that Christchurch is to have its own broadband television station? The Clay Studio was recently filmed for TV Christchurch's Family Channel. We welcomed young visitors from Amethyst Day Nursery who learned how to create an amazing looking underwater scene using simple painting techniques.

To view the programme point your Web browser at www.tvchristchurch.co.uk and select Preview.

Late night Thursdays

Don't forget that every Thursday is Girls' Night Out. Have you had a hard day at work or looking after the kids, then award yourself some "me-time" and relax with some pottery painting.

Boats galore



How To Find Us

The Clay Studio is right in the centre of Christchurch.

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Some recent masterpieces



Win a free Studio Fee

Every month there are ten free Clay Studio passes for Clay Times readers to win. At the end of January, ten readers will receive a free pass for a full fee Studio Fee at The Clay Studio.

Either leave with us in The Clay Studio or send the entry form by post.

Note that entries are limited to one per household.

Please enter me in the monthly draw for one of ten free studio passes

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Please send me Clay Times by e-mail every month:

Note that your details will be held by the Clay Studio and not passed on to any other organisation.

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