



Clay Times

The Newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 8: November / December 2007

Paint something special for Christmas 2007

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Hand-painted pottery makes an excellent present. We now have a several new lines of pottery available including the superb penguin money box. Other new money boxes are shaped like frogs, hippos, princesses and teddies. You can also paint your own tree decorations or even paint regular pottery with a Christmas theme. Check out our Web site's Gallery section for some ideas.

We have also set up a series of events for the weeks leading up to Christmas. With a short school holiday, we will be holding Kidz Painting Academy sessions on Friday after school and Sunday mornings during December. This will cover three separate projects. New workshops for children will also run during the first week of 2008.



Christmas pottery available

We now have special Christmas pottery available for painting. This includes snowmen and Santa figures, shaped tree decorations and baubles and Santa and snowman plates.

Alternatively, why not paint a mug, plate or vase with a Christmas scene as a present or a decoration for yourself.

The only limit is your own imagination.



For adults there will be one-off Painting Academy sessions to complete a snowman platter.

Following the success of our Kidz Halloween Party we have decided to host another party but this time it is for grown-ups. Our first Girls' Night Out Christmas Party promises to be a lot of fun. We will provide food, hot & cold drinks as plenty of inspiration. This event on Thursday 20 December from 6pm will be advance ticket only.

We will also provide as much time as possible to paint Christmas presents or just have fun painting. We will be open until midday on 24 December

and we will guarantee that items painted by 21 December will be glazed and fired by the morning of 24 December. That said, it will be best not to leave present painting until the last minute.

Halloween Painting Fun



KIDZ Christmas Painting classes

How about painting a superb mug for your hot drinks over Christmas? Our Kidz Painting Academy workshops during December enable children to paint a snowstorm mug with snow gathered around the base of the mug. Two other sessions will teach children how to paint a robin mug or Christmas hands dinner plate.

Advance booking is essential for these Kidz Painting Academy workshops. The course fee includes pottery, paints, glazing and firing, all tuition and a certificate of achievement. Each workshop costs just £13.50 or attend all three for £36. As ever, 10% discount is available for Clay Friends members.



Week 1: Sunday 2 December at 11am or Friday 7 December at 4pm - Snow Ruffle Mugs

Week 2: Sunday 9 December at 11am or Friday 14 December at 4pm - Robin mug

Week 3: Sunday 16 December at 11am or Friday 21 December at 4pm - Christmas hands dinner plate

All items painted during these workshops will be available for collection in time for Christmas.

Painting Christchurch scenes

The Clay Studio has commissioned Mark van Wingerden to paint a series of plates with well-known Christchurch scenes. These make excellent presents or why not keep one for yourself. The scenes includes Christchurch bay by night, Christchurch Quay, Mudeford spit and Friar's Cliff.



Snowmen platter

The snowman platter from our Painting Academy course has been so popular that we are running workshops at 2pm on 9 and 16 December to paint it.

This is ideal for beginners. Not only does it showcase several different painting techniques but it is easy to learn. Contact us to book your place.



Masterclass: Sponging

There are all sorts of different ways to achieve stunning effects. One of the easiest, and most impressive, techniques is sponging. This uses a natural sea sponge (the odd-shaped ones) to apply the paint.

Firstly, wet and rinse the sponge. Use the paint neat for borders or for strong foreground colours. A sponged background can also look good and, in this case, use a light-coloured paint or water down the paint before applying. It is also possible to use more than one colour paint on the sponge or apply a second coat of a different colour using the same sponging style for interesting results.

In this case it is not necessary to apply three coats of paints so bear that in mind when choosing your colours.



Don't leave painting until the last minute

The last painting day for collection before Christmas is 21 December. We will be open until midday on Monday 24 December so that glazed and fired items can be collected.

First Impression clay imprints can be made up to 7 December and plaster outprints on 14 December at the last in order to be ready before Christmas.

Girls' Night Out Christmas Party

Join us on Thursday 20 December 2007 at 6pm for our first Girls' Night Out Christmas Party.



This will be advance ticket only. A £5 ticket includes a buffet and Studio Fee. Choose and pay for your pottery painting on the evening. We can provide hot and cold drinks and you are welcome to bring a bottle of something stronger.

Any pottery painted this evening will be ready for collection by Monday 24 December.

Stuck for Christmas gift ideas?

The Clay Studio offers a number of present ideas for friends or relatives who may enjoy pottery painting. Clay Studio vouchers are available and can be used against pottery, Studio Fees, food & beverages and even gifts.

Another present idea is an annual Clay Friends membership or a Painting Academy course; we will have new courses starting in January.

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 December, 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 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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