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**Open Studio Policy**

In order to use Open Studio you must be familiar with clay or have taken a few of my classes. Clay Open studio is designed for those who would like to explore their art further and have fun independently along with other artists. It’s also a great opportunity to increase your skill set by putting in the practice time. I will be sharing the studio space as well. I’m usually either preparing for a show or a gallery order so please respect my time. Thank you!

If you have taken one of my classes and you’re not sure what to make the first time in Open Studio, this could be a good opportunity to make the piece you learned in class a second time. It helps doing a project a couple of times to gain some muscle memory and apply some of the techniques you’ve learned. From there, work to bring what you learned into your own art in a way that is true to you, rather than as a direct copy. This originality and uniqueness manifests from taking whatever it is that inspires you and pushing it until you enter a new realm that’s entirely yours.

I have a wonderful collection of art books that you are more than welcome to peruse through to get inspired. Perhaps prior to coming to the studio you have something in mind that you would like to make. This is meant to be a creative space where you learn and grow as an artist through your own discoveries, and to bring your talents and ideas to fruition through self-exploration.

**Studio Hours:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tuesday** | **Thursday** | **Saturday** |
| 10am – 2pm | 10am – 2pm | 10am – 2pm |
| 2pm – 6pm | 2pm – 6pm | 2pm – 6pm |

**Firing Schedule:**

The kiln gets fired when there is a full Bisque/Glaze load.  
You are responsible for *repeated* kiln shelf damages caused by improper glazing.

**Clean up policy:**

Clay contains silica which can be a health hazard in the dry form. Keeping a clean & dust free studio is important to any clay studio and is a must to keep it sustainable. At the end of every open studio & class session, be sure to follow the proper clean up procedures.

**Clean up:**

* **Clay Scraps** – Please place your clay scraps that you are not going to use into the large round white bucket under the sink in the plastic bag. Make sure the lid is closed. I recycle all my clay scraps. Even though I recycle my clay, please be mindful about your waste. Use as much clay as you can.
* If your clay is “bone dry” (the driest state), please place in the silver garbage can under the sink or the white garbage can beside the refrigerator
* **Table** - Wipedown your table area with a large clean wet sponge.
* **Floor** - The floor around your work area must also be cleaned. Please sweep the floor area under and your surrounding workspace lightly. Try to eliminate as much clay dust as possible and follow-up sweeping with a wet mop or sponge. The floor sweepings are to be emptied in the silver garbage can under the sink or the white garbage can next to the refrigerator
* Please clean around your glaze container with a sponge when you are finished using the glaze
* **Sink** – Please clean your tools over the catch buckets that are in the sink. Rinse out your glaze and clay containers over the catch bucket as well. I would like to eliminate as much clay and glaze debris as possible flowing through the pipes!
* When the catch bucket gets full you may dump the water…you’ll see the accumulated materials in the bucket
* Wash down the sink after use
* When you are finished with the dry wall please lightly sponge off any clay with a large sponge and place it back under the taller table by the large window.
* Clean and put away any community tools, glazes (along with test-tile), brushes, texture and glazes in their proper places
* After using newspaper for glazing, if it has no glaze on it, you may fold it and put it back for the next person to use. If there is glaze on the newspaper, please discard in the silver garbage can under the sink or the white garbage can next to the refrigerator
* If you need to refine or smooth your piece, the best time to do this is at the  
  **leather-hard** stage, not the bone dry or bisque stage
* Sanding at the bone-dry stage or bisque stage creates a dust cloud of silica which over long periods of time can be dangerous
* If you would like to sand at the bone-dry or bisque stage, please do it outside
* There is drywall under the tall table by the window to use as a works surface
* When the studio is full this is your designated work space on the table
* The clay is under the tall table by the window as well
* There is **Timberline Clay** available: It has great strength, it has 10% fine grog, can go outdoors and is good for medium sculpture
* There is **Trail Mix Clay** available: Is Georgies’ most popular clay. Sand is included in the formula for structure and strength. If you are wanting to go big, I suggest using Timberline because it has grog
* When using the slab roller, take the entire 25lbs of clay out of the bag. Using a clay wire you can cut up to 4 slices from the block of clay.
* When you are glazing the interior of a piece for instance a vase or birdhouse where the interior won’t be as visible, please water down your glaze in a **separate** plastic container (located at the sink) then pour into the interior. This saves on glaze usage and is less wasteful.
* After you are finished with the clay make sure to put it back in the bag, turning the bag right side out, the way you began
* When you are finished with your piece place it on the “READY FOR FIRING” shelf
* Make sure all greenware is signed on the bottom before putting on the “READY FOR FIRING” shelf **(Greenware & Glazed can go on the same shelf).**
* If there are thinner precarious appendages on your piece, make sure you wrap in plastic so the drying is consistent
* If you do not finish your piece by the end of the session, Wrap it in plastic so when you come back it will still be wet and workable

**Studio Etiquette:**

* Please **do not touch or handle other individuals’ work**. When clay is **Bone Dry** (*the clay will appear lighter in color*) it’s at its most fragile state!!
* If pots on the “TO BE FIRED” shelf need to be moved please notify me if I’m home or leave your piece on your shelf with a note “TO BE FIRIED”.
* Be mindful about sharing space when the studio is full.
* If you are bringing in a new glaze make sure it is Cone 6. If you are not familiar with how a particular glaze fires, please **place your piece on a bisque tile** just in case the glaze runs
* Kiln Shelves are expensive to replace. It is up to you to provide your own bisque tile which can be purchased at Georgie’s. They sell 4x4 or 6x6 bisque tiles.
* Please do not glaze the bottom of your work.
* Do not cross contaminate glazes; if a glaze is accidentally poured in another glaze, please let me know.
* **Chairs:** Please lift your chair if you are getting up rather than dragging your chair. The floor gets scratched when you drag your chair
* Constructive suggestions are always appreciated in a private setting directly with me via email: [steph.l.burton@gmail.com](mailto:steph.l.burton@gmail.com) or in person.