

ARROWMONT

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Medium: Ceramics

Instructor: Stephen Biggerstaff

Dates: October 11-16, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this workshop, students will use porcelain slips to create layers of color and pattern. Painted onto newsprint and peeled away once dry, slips will be pressed onto earthenware slabs, then rolled and compressed to build surface and depth. Cut into strips, the slabs can then be 'woven' into bowls; creating textures that recall the look and feel of rag rugs. Using molds, much like in coil building, students will shape the forms to explore a truly unique approach to ceramic design in this hands-on workshop. This process blends elements of painting, printmaking, and traditional hand-building. As time allows, students may apply the same innovative approach to other forms, including cups, vases, and platters. This workshop is ideal for intermediate participants with some prior experience working with clay.

WHAT TO BRING

- 1 Each: Wooden rolling pin, pony roller, and wallpaper seam roller, bubble level, spray bottle
- 8 White cotton dishcloths at least 24"x24"
- 1 Package of fine grade steel wool pads. Pack of fine sandpaper.
- 1 Dust masks
- 4 Wooden thickness guides: (2)24"x2"x1/4"thick & (2)24"x2"x1/8"thick
- 2 18"x30" rolling mats; or similar sized sheetrock ware boards
- 1 Dolan knife or similar good cutting knife (not Xacto blade)
- 1 Round stainless steel cutters set
- 1 Newspaper or newsprint sheets. I use old free 'local city papers' like Mtn. Express in Asheville that are 12"x21"
- Good plastic sheeting to wrap slabs
- 10 Quart sized plastic storage containers with lids
- 1 Collection of your personal pottery tools, aides, creature comforts
- 8 Chip brushes 4" wide
- 1 Heat gun - Arrowmont has in studio
- 1 Turntable at least 12" diameter – arrowmont has in studio

MATERIALS FEES | **\$120.00-\$190.00**

Fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class, this keeps your out-of-pocket costs lower than a typical flat fee. Fees include all provided studio materials as assigned by the Instructor. Material fees are to be paid in the Supply Store no later than midday on the last day of workshop instruction.

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Please be advised that the above course description and materials list has been written and approved by the instructor.

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Instructor Contact
Email: stepbigg@me.com