

Studio Policies

Welcome to the Tri-County Arts Council (TCAC) Studio! Please read through our policies and procedures carefully and refer any questions to Natalie at natalie@myartscouncil.net. Thank you!

Ceramics

Clay

TCAC offers two varieties of clay for purchase.

Our standard class clay is Laguna #60. This clay is compounded to be a stoneware clay with specks that bleed through the glaze, giving the appearance of iron burning through, typical of reduction glazes and clays. A very popular throwing clay for production potters who want to add the speck dimension to their ware.

We also offer a white stoneware clay, Laguna #66. Glazes tend to come out brighter on this clay. All clay is available in 25lb increments at \$1 per pound plus tax. Clay can be purchased at the front desk.

These two clay bodies should not be mixed in reclaim containers in any amount. All tools and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned after each use to avoid contamination. Two distinct reclaim buckets are provided.

Pug Mill:

There is also clay that has been pugged that's available in 25lb increments at \$1 per pound plus tax.

As of the new year 2020, we will no longer be re-pugging clay scraps to give back to members. However, if it is a fresh bag, we will pug it for you. Please put your name on your bag in sharpie and place it by the pug mill. Then write your name on the white board located above the pug mill.

If you have extremely wet clay that you would like to keep, the studio has plaster bats you can use, located on the molds shelf, to dry it out and wedge it for future use. For extremely dry clay, gradually add water until the clay can be worked and wedged for future use.

White clay can not be pugged but can be reused in the same manner. If you do not want to keep any scraps, place them in their designated buckets.

No other clay may be used without express permission from TCAC staff and all clay used must be purchased through TCAC. If you would like to use another clay, please contact Natalie directly.

Firings

There is not a set schedule for kilns firing. However, all studio members are asked to join our facebook group, Tri-County Arts Council Pottery, where we post when firings are completed as well as any studio updates. If you do not have a facebook please notify Natalie and we will add you to an email list.

We only fire to cone 05 for bisque and cone 6 for glaze firings. We do not have the capabilities to fire any higher than that.

When you are ready to fire your work, please place them on the designated shelves next to the kilns. When they are done, you will find them on the finished glaze, or finished bisque shelf.

Glazes

TCAC offers a variety of in-house glazes for use. All glazes are marked with the cone temperature they are fired to. (red dot = high fire; blue dot = low fire) All the glazes in the large buckets are high fire.

Our high fire glazes are fired to cone 6 and are clearly marked as to food safety guidelines.

We also offer a variety of low fire glazes for decorative pieces which are fired to cone 05. These glazes are not recommended for food holding items and are not waterproof. We recommend that you fire the clay up to cone 6 first before firing it again to cone 05 with the low fire glaze.

No glazes or equipment are to leave the studio and all equipment is to be cleaned thoroughly after use to avoid cross contamination.

Students are welcome to purchase and use their own glazes and should be careful to make sure that personal glazes are compatible with our firing temperatures. If you have questions about glazes, please feel free to contact Natalie at natalie@myartscouncil.net.

Painting/Drawing

Supplies:

The studio has a variety of brushes and table top easels as well as small and large clipboards that are free to use.

We also have a limited number of charcoals, drawing pencils as well as a variety of paints available for use during open studio hours. There are pallets that are also available. Please make sure that brushes and palettes are thoroughly cleaned and clipboards are wiped down when returned.

We have a variety of canvas and watercolor paper available for purchase. Prices will be posted at the studio. All items can be purchased at the front desk.

If you need space to store larger paintings and drawings, please let Natalie know or contact her at natalie@myartscouncil.net and we will do our best to accommodate you.

General

All members must sign in anytime they come in to use the studio. For additional updates and changes to the studio all the studio members will be added to our facebook page, Tri-County Arts Council Pottery and Tri-County Arts Council Painting and Drawing. If you do not have a facebook please notify Natalie, and you will be added to our email list.

Guests

For the next six months (1/1/20 to 7/1/20) Studio Members will have the opportunity to bring a guest with them when they come to the studio. We ask that Members only bring in one guest per visit. The guest must be accompanied by a Studio Member every time they use the studio. The guest must sign in next to the Studio Members name. We do ask after the free trial period is up, that if you are still interested in using the studio space, that you sign up as a Studio Member. Guests are welcome to use all supplies in the studio. If they wish to keep something here, they will share the shelf of their Studio Member.

Shelf Space

- Students enrolled in class will be giving a designated shelf space to keep their projects and materials. As shelf space is limited once the class is over, students are asked to remove their works to make room for incoming classes once their class is finished.
- All members with Studio Memberships (\$120 annually), or higher will be given a shelf that will house all their projects and personal tools.
- Those who do not renew their studio or artist membership, will be contacted and asked to clean off their shelf.

Clean up

Equipment

TCAC offers a wide variety of communal tools for use. Studio equipment, tools or supplies are not to leave the studio.

- All tools and supplies are to be cleaned thoroughly after use in the appropriately labeled sink and replaced into their properly labeled containers.
- Wheels are to be turned off and wiped down after each use, clean splash guard and replace wheel head and put the stool up, when finished.
- Batt pins removed, cleaned, separated, and placed back in their containers.
- Batts are to be wiped down (not submerged in water) and placed in the racks to dry. Items should be removed promptly from batts after throwing to allow others use of the batts. Boards are provided for shelf storage of items.
- **Do a primilariary wipe down of all tools, wheels, and boards using your throwing water. They use a clean sponge to wipe everything down.**

- **Clay can not be washed down the drain. Clay can harden within the pipes and cause severe damage. All Clay and Clay water must be put into reclaim buckets.**
- **Wash dirty clay tools, buckets, and glazing tools in provided tubs next to the sink**
- All paintbrushes must be thoroughly cleaned, brush cleaner is available next to the sink, and placed in the drying rack.
- All non-clay cleaning must be done in the non-clay sink such as paints and charcoals.
- Wipe any charcoal, painting or glaze off of the floor and tables.
- Please thoroughly clean and wipe down your workspace.
- Please rinse out sponges after use.

Students are welcome to bring in their own tools but are encouraged to label them with your name and keep them on your designated shelf.

Safety

- When the kiln lid is closed, that means it is on. Please do not go near or touch the kiln. It can reach over 2300 °F, it will burn you.
- The bench grinder is to be used by the Education Coordinator **only**. If you need something ground down, please let Natalie know and she will do it for you.
- Please do not load or unload a kiln. If the temperature is below 150 °F, you may ask a studio monitor to unload it if they wish.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.

Open Studio

Open studio sessions are available for all TCAC Studio and Artists level members and students currently enrolled in a class. Days and times are posted in the studio (current after hours below) and on our online studio calendar page.

However, please note, open studio will not occur when a class is scheduled. Classes are posted on our website as well as our social media. The open studio sessions are monitored by volunteer assistants available to help with basic questions, workspace set up, and tool and clay usage.

Studio monitors are only required to stay for the first 45 minutes. If no one else shows up, they may leave. Access to TCAC's studio during the day is available only when the studio is not in use.

Please call TCAC ahead of time to ensure the studio is free during weekdays from 9am to 6pm and Thursdays from 9-5pm. This will also be posted on our facebook pages.

After Hours Open Studio Times

Monday: 4-6pm

Tuesday: 6:30- 8:30pm

Thursdays: 5-7pm

Friday: 7-9pm

Saturdays: 10am-2pm

Sundays: 2-4pm

We will post on our social media and website if there is a change for open studio.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Natalie at natalie@myartscouncil.net