

## **HANDBUILDING: FORM AND SURFACE**

Saratoga Clay Arts Center

Jean Fei, Instructor

### **Fall 2017 Course Description**

Students will learn hand-building techniques using clay slabs and slump molds. We will explore decorating techniques, glazing and a variety of firing methods, using simple tools and stamps to create functional and or decorative platters, vases and serving bowls and other forms. Fun, fast, meticulous or complex, hand building explores the nature of clay and your personal creative force. Weekly classes include a group critique of student work, lesson on hand building techniques and or finishing/firing processes, and support for individual skills development. Support for beginner to advanced students.

#### **Week 1**

Learn about the properties of clay, wedging and forming a slab by hand to create a large serving or display bowl. Attach a simple foot.

#### **Week 2**

Use a slab roller to make large slabs to form square or rectangular serving trays, patterns and textures using engobes with other surface treatments to create the finished surfaces.

#### **Week 3**

How to glaze your piece. Different firing temperatures and stages, from green to bisque to finished glazed ware, low, medium and high fire techniques include Raku, salt-fire, cone 6, and Cone 9-10 high fire reduction, types of glazes and applications.

#### **Week 4**

Forming cylinders or other vertical, vase shapes and incorporating vertical design elements, adding or removing clay. Slip-trailing.

#### **Week 5**

Joining pieces together to create large forms, bottles or vases (2 week project)

#### **Week 6**

Final project, student's choice! (Completing piece from week 5)

#### **Week 7 Final Class**

All pieces are finished, bisque fired, glazed and ready for final firing. Ware can be picked up after the final firing is scheduled.