

Raku Workshop

Ken Carmean

3 hour Workshop Session:

Location: Kiln Shed

- Park your car in the parking lot around the back side of the main community center building
- The kiln shed is located in the back of the property, to the left of the secret garden

What to wear:

- Well fitted and tightly woven natural-fiber clothing is best. We suggest long pants with a tight weave (jeans are great!) and a long sleeve shirt or canvas jacket over a tee shirt.
- Closed toed shoes (mandatory).
- A K-N95 mask or similar. This is not just as a covid precaution but also to protect your lungs against smoke.
- NO drapey fabric, loose knit fabric, or loose items like scarves or fringe.
- We will provide flame resistant gloves; if you have your own gloves feel free to bring them along

What to bring:

- A personal water bottle
- 4-7 small-medium size pieces of bisqueware. Remember: tall and thin always gets in, low and wide set to the side. The smaller the footprint of your pieces, the more likely it is to get in. Raku kilns are small and cannot be stacked like standard gas and electric kilns. Everyone will have multiple pieces fired but we are limited to the size of the kilns and the 3 hour time frame.

What to expect:

- When you arrive you will begin by glazing your pieces
- Once glazed and ready, the first kiln will be loaded with pots. The raku kilns have a small footprint and you will be firing with a group of up to 10 people. Please be mindful of this when selecting your pots to fire.
- Your instructor will begin the firing process and talk you through the basics of a raku firing. Feel free to ask questions!
- Each firing takes about 35 - 45 minutes in the kiln and we will have 2 kilns on rotation
- When pots come out of the raku kiln, they will be placed and sealed in metal trash cans filled with newspaper and other combustible materials. This process creates reduction which brings out the properties of each glaze. Once the combustible material is spent or

the flame goes out, pots are removed from the trash bins and you will see your results right away

Materials:

- Almost any mid-high fire stoneware clay works great in raku. We recommend any cone 5-10 stoneware that is white or light colored when bisqued.
- You must bring pieces that have already been bisque fired. Greenware will not be fired.
- 4 different glazes and wax resist will be provided for the workshop and will be set up outside in back of the kiln shed to use the week prior to the workshop. Please stop by if possible to pre-glaze your work before the workshop. You may bring your own commercial raku glaze that is suited to be fired to cone 06. Please be prepared to show the label to your instructor.
- We have a supply of horse hair which you may use to decorate your pots after the firing
- Any other materials such as feathers or saggar materials must be brought with you on the day of the firing. If you aren't sure about using a material, you can ask your instructor day-of before you use it.
- Please bring plenty of dry, non-shiny newspaper, horse hair, etc. for firing effects and copper wire/ scrubbies