

Sarah McCann
Clay for You And Me: Building a Home
Baltimore Clayworks, Ages 6-11 + Adult
2009

Class Synopsis: This is a one-day workshop for a child and special adult (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or friend). The pair will enjoy working on a clay project together that will then be fired and picked up at a later date. This class is for children ages 6 through 11, and adults of all ages.

Goal: Through the experience of building houses out of clay, participants will articulate what is necessary in a happy and peaceful home, and utilize this knowledge in their homes, as well as using the art they make to add an object of beauty and joy to their environment.

Ice-breaker (5min.): Adjective name game.

Participants each say their name with an adjective that describes them that begins with the same letter. For example: Silly Sarah.

Introduction (5min.): Who I am, Baltimore Clayworks, Expectations, Activity.

Introduction of instructor.

Baltimore Clayworks is a non-profit ceramic art center that exists to develop, sustain, and promote an artist-centered community that provides outstanding artistic, educational, and collaborative programs in ceramic arts.

Community arts is a signature program of Baltimore Clayworks and has been for more than eighteen years. Through this initiative, Clayworks conducts arts activities beyond its doors, developing collaborations with grassroots and cultural organizations, schools and public agencies, to connect Clayworks' artists with individuals of marginalized communities of Baltimore and providing access to quality hands-on arts programming.

Expectations: Sing Aretha Franklin's Respect. Explain that respect is the one rule in the workshop today and it is expected that not only will participants respect the instructor, but also each other, the materials, the space, etc.

Show example of activity.

Activity 1 (10min.): Draw all of the things that you can think of that are important in your home.

joy, smiles, the smell of food cooking, company, music, cleanliness, an altar, art, family, friends, a comfy place to sit, books, slippers, color

Share (10min.): Everyone will be asked to choose the top one to three things on their list and share them with the group.

Demo (10min.): Slab Building, Dip Scratch and Attach, Relief, Scrafitto

Activity 2 (50min.): Building houses, See Ms. Sarah's example. How will you include all the things that are important to your homes in the house you build. This house can look like the house you live in now, or a house you used to live in, or be made up!

Clean up clay supplies.

Activity 2 (30min.): Underglaze, demo how to apply underglaze.

Clean Up.

Outcomes:

Participants will have articulated the ingredients for a happy home.

Participants will have made art that expresses these ideas.

Participants will have learned clay techniques including: slab building; dip, scratch and attach; relief, and scrafitto.

Participants will have worked collaboratively.

Supplies:

Paper, markers, colored pencils, boards, clay tools, clay, containers, water, underglaze, brushes.

Vocabulary:

slab construction – technique of creating pottery or sculpture by rolling out flay pieces of clay and joining them to create height and width.

dip, scratch and attach – a means of connecting two pieces of clay in which each piece is scored with a wet tool in order to join them.

relief – a method of molding, carving or stamping in which the design stands out from the surface to a greater or lesser extent.

scoring – scratching into the surface of clay.

sgrafitto – clay decorating technique in which slip is applied and then scratched or carved.