

RLCC Long-Term AIR: Letter of Intent

I am eager to become a long term resident at Red Lodge because of the facilities, reputation and opportunities you offer. During my time as a long term resident, I would like to focus on clay body development and atmospheric firing techniques which would evoke the wide range of colors inherent to the clays. I would use the information from this material research to further develop my body of functional pottery. I want to make better pots using the vocabulary of raw clay, and advance the frontier of wood-fired ceramics while doing so. In my recent apprenticeship with Simon Levin, I experimented with line-blended porcelain recipes, and fired them in our train kiln for 48 hours with an 8 hour downfire cycle. My results were promising and have been keeping me excited about refining them even more. I am also excited about an experimental wadding recipe that left behind some gorgeous and unprecedented marks last firing.

I would like to fire all three of Red Lodge's atmospheric kilns. The large train kiln is ideal for me to work on some larger vessels in addition to my typically more modestly sized pots. I hope to build community by drawing from the larger Montana area to assemble firing crews. The 30 cu.ft. catenary kiln would be ideal for testing downfired and reduction-cooled surfaces in a shorter and less ashy firing. Finally, I would love to test downfired and reduction-cooled surfaces in a gas/soda firing. Each kiln will provide its own unique information about the clays that, with my documentation, will add depth and understanding to the field of wood-fired clay, as well as my personal research and development of these bodies.

From 2012-2015 I was a lab assistant and instructor at a community studio consisting of over 50 permanent members, and 150+ students per class cycle. I am well-versed in community studio dynamics and logistics, respectful of space, flexible, and good at communicating. More recently, while working with Simon in his studio, I further developed positive habits in cleanliness and organization with an eye toward enhancing and building upon communal space and work-flow.

I was lucky enough to visit RLCC in 2016 and was impressed by the quality of the resident studios and facilities as well as the gallery. Not to mention the natural beauty of the area, or how adorable the town is. I am accustomed to a small-town mountain lifestyle after growing up in the San Bernardino Mountains and later spending 8 months in the Cascade Range in a tiny town of 250, called Index. I have a strong work ethic which I am confident that Simon can attest to from my 18 months spent moving his pottery, remodeling his new studio, and building a new wood-fired kiln. One might say that my superpower is being able to go with the flow, and have patience in high-stress situations. Additional skills and experience include website design, social media prowess, photo-documentary abilities, and I can make you a mean latté or a killer Tsong yo bing (onion pancake) breakfast.

There are many reasons why Red Lodge would be a great fit for me as a young, community-minded, knowledge-seeking, outdoor-loving, woodfiring individual. I'm excited by the potential of once again feeling the energy of a studio full of focused and driven individuals, and I

believe my own energy and personality would be a solid addition. I would like to follow in the footsteps of other great resident artists like Tara Wilson, Perry Haas and Lars Voltz who have made great use of your woodfire facilities, and learn from my fellow residents and visiting artists. There is also so much for me to learn about what it takes to run a gallery, studio, and program such as this one. I hope that I could absorb some of that know-how through my work responsibilities, and working with Mr. Hiltner, himself. I am well aware of the distinction of this wonderful opportunity and am grateful for your time and consideration of my application. Thank you.

Harry