



RCC Class Syllabus

Class Title: Feed to Form

Instructor Name: Deb Schwartzkopf (she/her)

Dates & Times of the Class: January 6th–March 17th, 2026, Tuesdays, 5:00–7:00pm

Class Description: In this wheel-focused class, Deb Schwartzkopf invites you to take inspiration from the ceramic artists you love most. Each participant will bring a URL/ IMAGE/ Link to an admired vessel, handle, shape, surface, or technique —maybe one discovered on Instagram or admired in another maker's portfolio. Using these examples, Deb will create demonstrations that highlight form, technique, and surface approaches, while helping you develop your own personal voice in clay. Perfect for those continuing their clay journey, this class blends skill-building with creative exploration, turning admiration into hands-on learning. (After you register, send your URL to Deb ahead of time > info@ratcitystudios.com) These ideas below are a starting point for the class! We will insert what others bring :)

1/6 – Week One:

Get to know the group, go over the timeline for 11 Weeks.

Short Slide Show: Three potters to learn from (we will pick a topic from the slide show to investigate)
Matt Hiller (round forms, Texture), Julia Weber (Angular forms, Decals), Natasha Alphose (Fluid forms, Simplicity)

1/13 – Week Two: *First bisques will be loaded next week – Week 3.*

Pick one artist from above or an introduced idea to demo

1/20 – Week Three: *Bisques loaded this week Friday/ Glazes loaded in week 4*

Short Slide Show: Amazing surfaces on thrown pots

Ayumi Horie (Throwing soft forms, Slip/ Sgraffito), Ben Carter (Wheel work techniques, Brush work with Slip), & Michael Kline (big bottles and jars, inlay and pattern!)

1/27 – Week Four: *First Glazes loaded this week Friday*

Pick one artist from above or an introduced idea to demo

2/3–Week Five: Understanding Glazing as a method of beautification and functionality

Demo: Glazing – selective glossy vs matte glazing

2/10 – Week Six: Short Slide Show: Flowing Glazes – Linda Sikora (flowing patterned glazes using layering and wax resist)

2/17 – Week Seven: Short Slide Show: Lisa Orr (Sprigging your surfaces)

2/24 – Week Eight: Short Slide Show: Sue Tirrell (underglaze extravaganza, fairytale characters) finishing up all our projects!

3/3 – Week Nine: *Last bisques loaded this week Friday / Last glazes loaded in week Ten* This is the last week for wet work. Glazing for the soda firing! How this differs from regular glazing.

Demo: Washes for layered surfaces (using underglaze or glaze)

3/10 – Week Ten: *Last Glazes loaded this week Friday.*

Glaze Extravaganza – Finish glazing all the pots. The studio is fully closed for working in clay. That's it.

Demo: Tape resist glazing and spray booth

3/17 – Week Eleven: Potluck

During our last class we'll have a potluck! Clean out cubbies, empty class shelves, take home all work and tools. We'll have a parade of our finished glazed works, discuss what worked and what didn't, and plan for next time! **Demo:** Sanding/Grinding pots. Photographing work.