



RCC Class Syllabus

Class Title: Clay Creatures: Sculpture

Instructor Name: Alison Kan Grevstad | She/Her

Dates & Times of the Class: 11 Weeks, Wednesdays 10:00am–12:00pm, January 7th–March 18th, 2026

Class Description: Explore the world of sculptural ceramics with Alison Grevstad in this all-levels morning class. Focus on animals, abstraction, or figures—deciding how realistic or simplified you want your work to be. Alison will share tips and techniques to capture gesture, personality, and nuance, helping you bring your critters and figures to life. This class encourages observation, experimentation, and creative expression at every skill level.

Week One:

Get to know the group and studio layout. Understand the timeline for the 11 Weeks.

Spirit Animals | Exquisite Corpse exercise

Demo: Closed forms with pinch pots and coils, project can be of a small character, or animal as an ocarina.

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

Fine tune the techniques and address the challenges faced during week one.

Start on a pedestal or setting and a small set of maquettes.

Demo: Slides/examples of animal sculptures in clay.

Demo slab roller and attaching slabs. Make small test tiles for glazes.

Week Three: *First Bisques loaded this week Friday/ First Glazes loaded in week 4*

Studio time to move on to larger base forms for your sculptures.

Decide on presentation, pedestal or platform in ceramic

or other media or wall mounted.

Demo: Subtractive and additive techniques. Armature and wire.

Week Four: *First Glazes loaded this week Friday*

Understanding Glazing as a method of beautification and functionality – Why and How to Glaze.

Learn the different glazes and how to read the Test Tiles.

Check in on individual student's progress and technique questions.

Studio time to continue finalizing larger forms.

Demo: Discuss studio glazes and underglazes. Option for spray booth demo.

Week Five: Studio time to continue wet work. Adding details. Class discussion if desired on individual next moves.

Demo: Adding details: hair, features, fur, and/or feathers.

Week Six:

Studio time to continue wet work and details.

Demo: Making and working with pigmented clay.

Week Seven: Studio time to continue wet work and details. Begin slow drying for larger pieces.

Demo: Adding natural elements, botanicals, flowers, textures. Experimenting with paper clay

Week Eight: Finish up wet work! *Last bisques loaded in week nine.*

Surface Decoration on leather hard work.

Demo: Discuss underglazes and stains. Surface decoration – stencil and sgraffito on small plates.

Week Nine: *Last bisques loaded this week Friday / Last glazes loaded in week eight*

This is the last week for wet work. Understand, compare and deep dive into development of Surface on Bisque ware.

Demo: Apply wax Resist, Use Glaze Applicator Bottles, Underglazes, Tape etc.

Week Ten: *Last Glazes loaded this week Friday.*

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

Demo: Stains and underglaze on bisqueware.

Week Eleven: During our last class we'll have a potluck! Clean out cubbies, empty class shelves, take home all work and tools. Exhibit and photograph finished work. Make a personal pottery tool in class to take home.