



# Community Kiln



## *What's New*

**BY NATALIE DAHL**

It has been predicted that we will receive "six more weeks of Winter" and I sincerely hope that this prediction is wrong. All of this snow has me missing the days that could be spent in the studio, making more magic happen. The snow days have also made me slow down, inspiring the writing article on page two on how we can bring more intentionality into our artistic practices. On a more studio related note, the snow days have also brought life to several ceramic workshops for new and returning students; We hope that you will check them out!

One final reminder that Spring 2026 registration will begin on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 9AM.

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# *When Creativity Becomes Production*

## HOW CAN WE RETURN TO INTENTIONALITY?



In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, change moves faster than we do. New content, ideas, Instagram reels, Pinterest pins and trends are everywhere, increasing our urgency to create. However, crafting and trades, like pottery, are often how we come back to grounding ourselves and slowing down. What once was a practice created out of need can look like keeping up with the latest trends, producing goods for monetization and pushing ourselves to create more, immediately. Embracing the mindset that all pottery must be made for consumption shadows our ability to create for ourselves, adding pressure onto practices meant for connection and repair.

Our craft can shift over the lines of hobby to production when:

- Trends replace technique
- Buying more tools or materials feels as good as creating artwork
- The pressure to keep up replaces the joy of making
- You are creating goods specifically for monetization



The pressure to produce marketable goods pushes us to create more product, removing us from the artistic process of clay work. Learning through repetition and destroying work is integral for all ceramicists. Failure and error along the way is inherent to this craft and the very foundation that pottery skills are built upon. As we drift from focusing on pottery as art and onto the production of pottery, we lose patience and our relationship with the material. The drive to monetize artwork created dissonance between what we value as artists and what our art practice actually looks like.

Social media rewards our abilities to produce, often feeding into the cycle of producing current work in order to put out new content. You might not bat an eye at adapting your work to become trendier or fit in to current style, but craft, as a tradition, was never about newness. Built out of the need for functional goods, pottery was about passing knowledge from one generation to the next and making do with what you have. As social media drives us further away from our communities, craft rebuilds these structures through making together. Restorative work comes through finding connection during class times, being curious about another artist's process, or trying something new. Making meaning from nothing combats our sense of loneliness and brings forth beauty and whimsy.

Returning to your artistic practice was never about producing more, it's about producing with intention. Creativity is not about how fast you can produce during a class session, it is about how deeply you engage and explore. It is about how patiently you learn and how carefully you use. As 2026 begins, think about how you can incorporate more mindfulness into your artistic practices; How slowly and carefully can you create to bring meaning and joy to yourself? Leave behind what practices within your creating that are not serving you and add back in the practice of exploring, being curious and failing. Here's to a joyful New Year.



# Upcoming Events



## Crystalline Workshop



**First class is April 3rd,  
6:30-8:30PM**

Curious about crystals? Join instructor Marc Dobay in this three part workshop series and glaze with Cone 10 crystalline glazes.

Each session is catered towards a step in the glazing process. Learn more and register at

[www.brickstack.org](http://www.brickstack.org)

## Thrown Lids that Fit

**March 30th, 1-4PM**

Join our 1-day intensive lid throwing workshop with instructor Martha Gold. Dive deeper into making lids that fit well on the top of your vessels. Watch demonstrations of four different types of thrown lids and have the opportunity to throw 1-4 lidded vessels of your own. Basic to intermediate wheelthrowing skills are needed.

More information and registration at

[www.brickstack.org](http://www.brickstack.org)



## Volunteer Opportunities

Adult Wheelthrowing Workshop volunteer. This position is good for anyone who is an experienced wheelthrower.

Volunteers would provide... extra help for beginning students, help with maintaining a class schedule and help during setup/cleanup. **This is a mask required workshop** with instructor David LaPierre.

Class Runs February 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:30PM. Email [ndahl@smoc.org](mailto:ndahl@smoc.org) to be a volunteer.

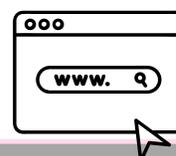
## Spring Registration

**February 21st, 9AM**

Interested in pottery classes? Register for a Spring 2026 session at Community Kiln.

Explore more and FAQs on our website

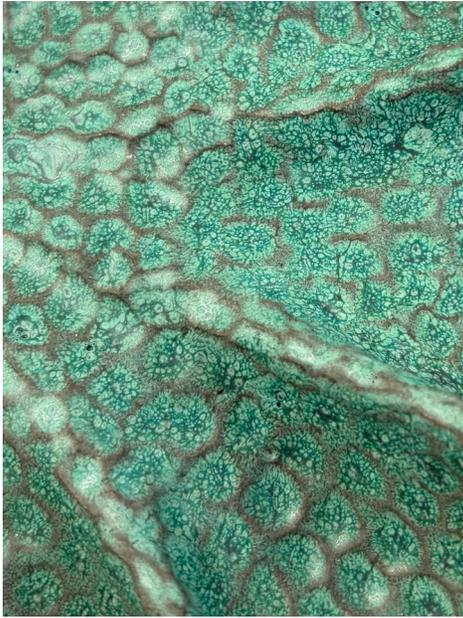
[www.brickstack.org](http://www.brickstack.org)



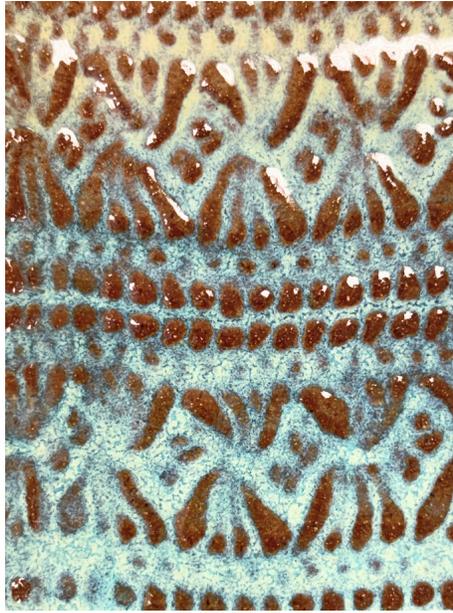
# Amazing Glazes



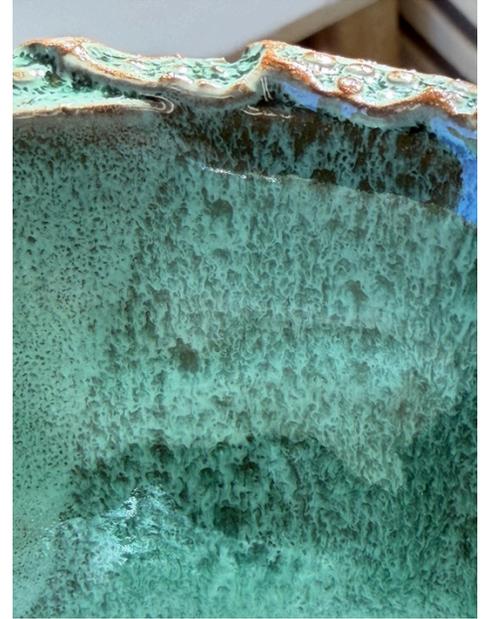
Stunning combinations using Community Kiln glazes!



Green Bronze  
By Elana



Aqua/Nutmeg  
By Melody



White Liner over Pine Green  
By Kelli

## *What is a Crystalline Glaze?*

Crystalline glazes form beautiful surface level crystal patterns on ceramic surfaces. The crystals are formed by using special glaze recipes with high zinc content and controlling the cooling environment of the kiln. By holding the kiln's temperature at an optimal environment, the zinc inside of the glaze has time to bloom beautiful crystal patterns. Crystalline glazes also have a high melt fluidity and will run down the sides of a piece, meaning that crystalline glazed wares will have to have a catch basin glued to the bottom to catch the running glaze.

To learn even more about this process, join our three part workshop series starting April 3rd.

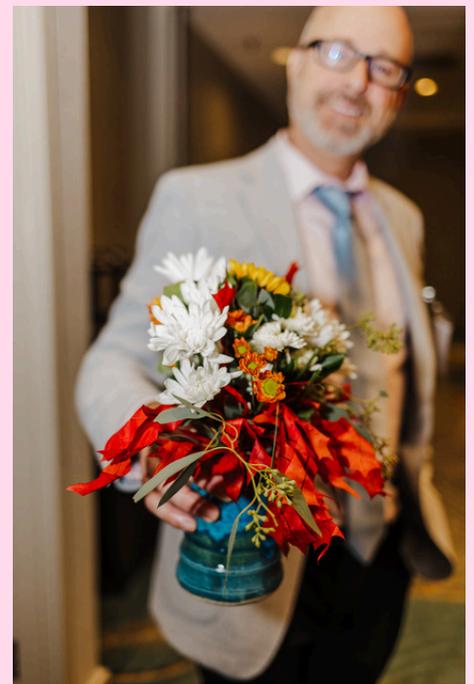


# Our Amazing Students

## MAKING AN IMPACT

Over the Fall semester Community Kiln participated in two incredible SMOC programs sharing community and joy during the Holiday Season. First, 25 outstanding students and teachers were commissioned by SMOC to make 25 centerpieces for their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala. The centerpieces added the perfect touch to the event, highlighting the importance of community and arts within the SMOC organization. Attendees to the event were able to take home each centerpiece, passing along the beautiful artwork to prestigious guests of the event.

On a more local note, Community Kiln partnered with the Clinton Street SMOC shelter for our second year of the Giving Tree. 30 children of the shelter were offered the opportunity to write down the Holiday wishes and each one was fulfilled by our amazing Community Kiln students. All of the presents were delivered to the shelter right before our Holiday break so every child was able to open a present over the Holidays!



## Staying Updated

Please check your student account to pay any outstanding fees from Winter 2026

Follow us!

 @CommunityKilnCeramics

 @community\_kiln

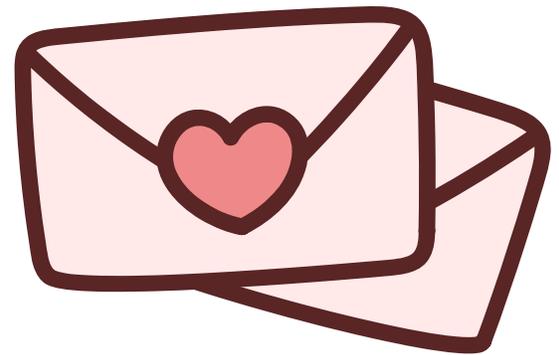


We have Community Kiln merchandise and ceramic tools for sale in the office!

Please see a CK employee if you would like to purchase anything

We are constantly updating our website and would love to use any images of your work, daily studio activities, classes and teachers or our studio community. **Do you have an image you would like to share?** Submit your images to [ndahlesmoc.org](mailto:ndahlesmoc.org) with the artist's name and title of the work.

# OPEN STUDIO

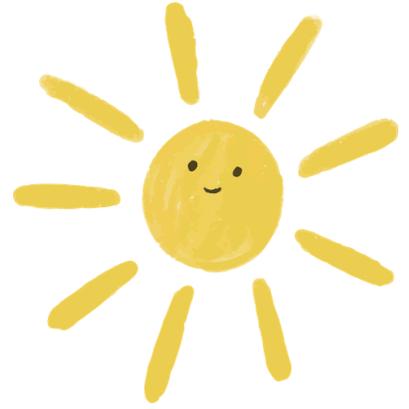


## FEBRUARY

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM	2 Open Studio 1:30-4:30PM	3	4 Open Studio 2:00-5:00PM	5 Open Studio 1:00-4:00PM	6 Open Studio 12:30-3:30PM	7 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM
8 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM	9 Open Studio 1:30-4:30PM	10	11 Open Studio 2:00-5:00PM	12 Open Studio 1:00-4:00PM	13 Open Studio 12:30-3:30PM	14 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM
15 <b>No</b>	16 <b>Open</b>	17 <b>Studios</b>	18	19 <b>February</b>	20 <b>Vacation</b>	21 <b>tion</b>
22 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM	23 Open Studio 1:30-4:30PM	24	25 Open Studio 2:00-5:00PM	26 Open Studio 1:00-4:00PM	27 Open Studio 12:30-3:30PM	28 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM

# OPEN STUDIO



## MARCH

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM	2 Open Studio 1:30-4:30PM	3	4 Open Studio 2:00-5:00PM	5 Open Studio 1:00-4:00PM	6 Open Studio 12:30-3:30PM	7 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM
8 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM	9 Open Studio 1:30-4:30PM	10	11 Open Studio 2:00-5:00PM	12 <b>No Open Studios</b>	13 Open Studio 12:30-3:30PM	14 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM
15 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM	16 Open Studio 1:30-4:30PM	17	18 Open Studio 2:00-5:00PM	19 Open Studio 1:00-4:00PM	20 Open Studio 12:30-3:30PM	21 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM
22 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM	23 Open Studio 1:30-4:30PM	24	25 Open Studio 2:00-5:00PM	26 Open Studio 1:00-4:00PM	27 Open Studio 12:30-3:30PM	28 Open Studio 10:00-4:00PM
29 <b>No Open Semester</b>	30 <b>Studios Vacation</b>	31				



***Come and Join***

COMMUNITY KILN  
AT BRICK STACK ARTS CENTER

A PROGRAM OF  S M O C

***21 February, 2026  
9AM***

# ***Spring Registration***

Classes start April 5th and run for 10 weeks long. Registration for Spring 2026 classes opens on **Saturday, February 21st at 9AM.**

To read more on our policies and see more class information, visit our website at

***[www.brickstack.org](http://www.brickstack.org)***



COMMUNITY KILN  
AT BRICK STACK ARTS CENTER

A PROGRAM OF  SMOC

## ***TALK TO US***

communitykiln@smoc.org

508-309-4604

### ***All Level Wheelthrowing***

Sunday 6PM - 9PM

Tuesday 10AM - 1PM

Tuesday 6:30PM - 9:30PM

Thursday 10AM - 1PM

Friday 9AM - 12PM

### ***Intermediate Wheelthrowing***

Monday 6:30PM - 9:30PM

Thursday 6:30PM - 9:30PM

### ***Handbuilding***

Wednesday 9:30AM - 1:30PM

Wednesday 6:30PM - 9:30PM

### ***Sculptural Handbuilding***

Monday 10AM - 1PM

***[www.brickstack.org](http://www.brickstack.org)***



COMMUNITY KILN  
AT BRICK STACK ARTS CENTER

A PROGRAM OF  S M O C

## **TALK TO US**

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### ***Kids Clay***

Tuesday 4PM - 6PM

Students ages 9 -12 will use handbuilding techniques to make one of a kind clay creations. Through hands-on instruction and fun projects we will explore slab, coil and pinching methods used to express your ideas in clay. Class meets for 8 weeks

### ***Teen Clay***

Thursday 4:15PM - 6:15PM

Teens ages 13-18 will explore methods and strategies to create their own, unique ceramic pieces. With a focus on handbuilding techniques, students will learn to make a variety of functional items such as bowls, mugs and dishes, as well as decorative objects. Class meets for 8 weeks.

***[www.brickstack.org](http://www.brickstack.org)***

COMMUNITY KILN PRESENTS

# THROWN LIDS THAT FIT

Join our 1-day intensive lid throwing workshop with instructor Martha Gold. Watch demonstrations of four different types of thrown lids and have the opportunity to throw 1-4 lidded vessels of your own. Basic to intermediate wheelthrowing skills are needed.

\$75

PER PERSON



## WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- Watch demonstrations of four different type of thrown lids.
- Expect to throw 1-4 vessels with lids during this workshop.

**30 MARCH 2026**  
**1-4PM**

46 PARK STREET  
FRAMINGHAM, MA



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.BRICKSTACK.ORG](http://WWW.BRICKSTACK.ORG)

# CRYSTALLINE WORKSHOP

\$175

*Includes 15lbs of clay, 3  
workshop dates, studio  
time and firing*

**APRIL 3RD**

FRIDAY

6:30-8:30 PM

**APRIL 24TH**

FRIDAY

6:30-9:30 PM

**MAY 1ST**

FRIDAY

6:30-8:30 PM

This is a three part workshop where you will have the opportunity to glaze with Cone 10 Crystalline glazes. Students will meet on three separate dates to learn about crystalline glazes, apply their catchers and glaze, and finish/smooth the bottoms of their works. Three different Crystalline glazes will be supplied. Registration includes 15lbs of Standard 257 Grolleg Porcelain clay and 1,500 cubic square inches of firing space.

**THIS IS AN INTERMEDIATE-ADVANCED WORKSHOP.**

REGISTRATION AT  
**WWW.BRICKSTACK.ORG**