

VINCE PITELKA WORKSHOP

SLAB-BUILT TEAPOTS - FEE - 260.00

SATURDAY MAY 20th AND SUNDAY 21st FROM 9:00 TO 4:00

Slab-construction is an ideal method for building all sorts of vessels off the potter's wheel, and in the case of teapots, building with slabs allows articulated and asymmetrical form that would be difficult or impossible on the wheel. What are the secrets to making fine functional slab-built teapots? In this workshop our objective is to produce teapots that are well designed aesthetically, ergonomically, and functionally. Potters and aficionados of fine pots talk about pots with attitude. Obvious examples are the teapots of Hayne Bayless, Margaret Bohls, and Randy Johnston. These fully functional slab-built pots make bold individual statements. That comes with focus and long, hard work, but every artist/artisan should look towards developing an individual voice. In this case we are particularly concerned about the qualities of "attitude" that attract attention and make people want to pick up and use our teapots. The best-designed utilitarian vessels often radiate an excitement and energy and seem waiting for an opportunity to serve their intended function. With these things in mind, we will investigate the interrelationship of body, foot, handle, spout, lid, and gallery with the objective of coordinating all into the design and creation of lively handbuilt teapots that look good and work well.

Workshop Location.

Marjon Ceramics. 3434 W Earll, Phoenix Az. To register call 602-272-6585

Our classroom is well equipped; we will provide plastic buckets, 1 banding wheel per person and sponges. Cone 5 or cone 10 clay will be provided and Marjons will fire your pieces for our standard firing charge. Please bring clay tools, a lunch, beverages and lots of enthusiasm.



Vince Pitelka has been professionally involved in ceramics for over forty years. After ten years as a studio potter in Blue Lake, California he received his MFA at U-Mass Amherst in 1988. He has taught at U-Mass, Northeastern University, North Dakota State University, and for the last 23 years as Professor of Art and Head of the Clay Area at Tennessee Tech University's Appalachian Center for Crafts. Vince is active on the national workshop circuit and has exhibited his work internationally. *His column "Tool Times" appears quarterly in Clay Times magazine, and the new edition of his book Clay: A Studio Handbook was published in 2016 by the American Ceramic Society*

• Supply List

- Four 36" by 24" (or whatever width fits the slab roller) sheets of unprimed 10 oz. canvas duck. "10-ounce" is a trade reference to the weight per yard for canvas sold in art supply stores. If you buy canvas from a fabric, sail or house painting supplier they might not that reference, but just get sturdy uncoated canvas while avoiding stuff that is excessively heavy – it should still be very flexible.
- Standard clay tools (the packaged Kemper kit contains a wood rib, stainless-steel scraper-rib, wood knife, needle tool, cutoff wire, small sponge, and trimming tools).
- Kemper S-10 flexible stainless steel serrated rib – no substitutes.
- Several wood modeling tools of your choice.
- Metal fork
- X-Acto knife – pencil-thin model with 1" tapered blade.
- Scissors
- 18" ruler
- Pencil
- Compass for drawing circles.
- Wood rolling pin with bearing-mounted handles (not one-piece rolling pin). If you are serious about handbuilding, click [here](#), or go to Amazon.com and enter "Medium Commercial Rolling Pin by Thorpe" in the search box. It costs \$60 but is so worth it.
- Wood dowels – one 48" length each of 3/16", 1/4", 5/16", 3/8", 7/16", 1/2", 5/8" and 3/4" – available from any home improvement center – cut them all in half and bring both halves.
- Stanley Surform Shaver (short curved blade) and Stanley Surform Pocket Plane (5" flat blade). Get both types – these are made to be woodworking tools, but are excellent for shaving clay. Available from any home improvement center or from amazon.
- Small, sturdy banding wheel. The 8" CSI turntable available from most ceramics suppliers for around \$13 is fine for our needs, but any sort of good-quality banding wheel will work. No cheap spice-cabinet turntables!
- Spray bottle for vinegar water
- 6 manila folders
- A selection of bisque stamps and/or other textured objects or materials to impress pattern and/or texture into the clay.
- Several dry-cleaner bags or large plastic garbage bags to cover your work.

- Small towel or other sturdy rag
- Apron (optional)
- If you are driving, bring a large snap-lid plastic storage bin approximately 12x24x12" deep, to serve as a personal damp box. Bring your supplies in a separate box or bin.