

LA MERIDIANA

International School of Ceramics in Tuscany

EUTECTICS and AESTHETICS with John Colbeck

STONEWARE and PORCELAIN: BODIES and GLAZES

Saturday March 8 9.30 am – 6.30 pm

Sunday March 9 9.00 am – 6.00 pm

A weekend addressing the range of technical possibilities and related visual qualities of STONEWARE and PORCELAIN BODIES and GLAZES for use in OXIDATION and REDUCTION FIRING.

The main focus of these talks is practical and three major topics, illustrated with examples, will be covered on each of the days. The aim of the talks is to give participants the knowledge and confidence to choose, vary and adapt bodies and glazes for their own use.

To complement the technical information each of the days will begin, and end, with a 15-20 minute illustrated talk, using historical and contemporary examples, covering visual topics relevant to, but not limited to, stoneware and porcelain. The results of 30 years of research made at La Meridiana will be available. There will also be ample time for questions and discussion.

Day one,

Visual talk 1.

The origins of high fired ceramics in the Far East.

Technical talk 1.

CLAY BODIES for STONEWARE and PORCELAIN: kaolins; ball clays; fireclays; fusible clays; body fluxes; quartz; sand; grogs. Vittrification as the distinct quality of high fired ceramics.

Technical talk 2.

KILNS and FIRING: what happens when clay is fired; firing cycles; wood, the historic fuel; some aspects of kiln and firebox design for wood and gas; electric kilns.

Technical talk 3.

The common GLAZE MATERIALS and their uses: feldspars; clays; lime; wood ash; EUTECTICS and the necessary parts of glaze.

Visual talk 2.

The spectrum of ceramics - a cross-material, cross cultural talk about the diverse qualities of pots as these relate to material.

Question time

Day two.

Visual talk 3. The classic glazes of the Orient and later reference to these.

Technical talk 4. REDUCTION FIRED GLAZES on STONEWARE and PORCELAIN: unpigmented glazes; the colouring oxides in reduction; celadons; shinos; chuns; copper glazes, iron glazes and others; slips in reduction; painting pigments for use on and under glazes.

Technical talk 5. OXIDISED FIRED GLAZES on STONEWARE and PORCELAIN: the uses and effects of magnesium, barium and lithium in glazes; the colouring oxides in oxidation; slips in oxidation.

Technical talk 6. COLOURING and TEXTURING STONEWARE and PORCELAIN: grogs, oxides and high fired commercial stains.

Visual talk 4. Material, finish and form: tradition, imitation and innovation.

Question time

The cost of 130 € includes instruction and two lunches

Lodging available in the surroundings at 50 € in double room, 50 € Euros in single room.

For details and booking please write or call.

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