



Frog Hollow Vermont Craft Gallery

Clay Standards Guidelines

Frog Hollow and its history are connected closely to clay and its powerful expressive qualities. The Middlebury clay studio is the birthplace of the organization. It is an education facility that has brought students of all ages and skill levels together to learn, exchange ideas and create since 1971.

Standard Criteria for all Clay:

Frog Hollow standards for work in clay require that the ceramic be fundamentally transformed by the ceramist/potter, resulting in finished objects that demonstrate technical fluency, integrity of intent and result, and a spirited sense of personal vision. The ceramic object may be sculptural or decorative, rather than strictly utilitarian. The work must demonstrate technical proficiency, and should express the personal vision and aesthetic of the maker, containing a coherent stylistic development, with every attention to detail, design, function and finish.

Technical Guidelines:

- **Thrown and Hand Built Work**

1. Glazing and decoration should fit and enhance the form in a way that is integral to the function and expression of the piece.
2. Thickness of clay should be in proportion and harmony with the form and function of the piece.
3. Pieces requiring special care or having use restrictions should have information cards available. Examples are garden sculpture that needs winter protection, or raku vases that are not waterproof.

The following guidelines refer to functional work:

1. On surfaces which come into contact with food the clay and glaze should be fired to maturity and fit each other without excessive crazing, pitting, crawling or shivering.
2. Handles and surfaces, which come into contact with food or furniture should be without sharp edges.
3. Attachments should be physically strong. Handles, spouts and lids should function well.
4. Any purchased parts must be of high quality and not dominate the work (i.e. lamp parts, bamboo handles, clockworks, etc.)
5. For health and safety reasons, all glazes on food containers must be lead free and comply

with Federal standards.

- **Commercial Production Techniques**

Frog Hollow's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production methods used by the maker solely for high volume are not acceptable. Exceptions may be made if the following criteria are met.

1. The finished product is best made by this particular method, which a higher aesthetic, practical and technical quality resulting than if made by hand.
2. The model for the master mold is made by the ceramist/ potter.
3. The work has extremely high level of originality and expressiveness in design.
4. All guidelines for thrown and hand build work apply.
5. The maker must produce each clay piece from raw materials.
6. The Standards Review Committee reserves the right to make a site visit to witness the production methods and materials used by the ceramist/potter. When these guidelines are adopted by the Frog Hollow Board of Trustees, the Artisan Committee will be charged with evaluating any work that does not meet the approved standards.

- **Glossary of Clay Terms:**

- **Crazing:** A glaze defect characterized by a network of fine cracks. The effect can be decorative and if deliberate is called crackle.
- **Pitting/ Blistering:** Unwanted gassing of a glaze resulting in bubbles and the craters of burst bubbles. Blistering occurs where the glaze has not had time to smooth out before it sets.
- **Crawling:** The glaze defect characterized by the way the glaze parts and rolls back on itself leaving a bald patch of body.
- **Shivering:** A glaze defect in which slivers of glaze shear away from the pot.