History of Ceramics
Art 3200 TTH 3:50 – 5:00 Arch. 229

Brian Snapp
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801 581-6200

Texts & Resources

- Cindi Strauss and Garth Clarke, *Shifting Paradigms in Contemporary Ceramics: The Garth Clark and Mark Del Vecchio Collection* (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
- Mark del Vecchio. *Postmodern Ceramics*,
- Various readings, essays and artist statements
- PowerPoint slides and other resources will be posted on Canvas.

“It is this speech between the hand and the clay that makes me think of dialogue. And it is a language far more interesting than the spoken vocabulary which tries to describe it, for it is spoken not by the tongue and lips but by the whole body, by the whole person, speaking and listening.”
M.C. Richards

OVERVIEW

Course Description
Study of the historical diversity of ceramics, style, and form, from the Stone Age to the present. Includes the Far East, Islam, Europe, Pre- and Post-Columbian, as well as contemporary directions around the world.

Objectives
Clay has appeared throughout time in an astounding range of forms, from the modest brick or cooking vessel to the architectural, sculptural, or technological marvels. Exceptionally durable, ceramics remain and give us insights about both mundane life and the pinnacles of cultural
achievement. In this course, you will explore ceramic art of cultures worldwide. As we discuss how to “read” these objects, you will develop the following skills:

- *Seeing* the specific elements present in works of ceramic art, including formal characteristics, imagery, materials, and techniques. You will learn to identify and describe these, using accurate terminology.

- *Using historical and cultural context to explain the significance of a work.* In ceramic objects, you will discover the intersection of disciplines as diverse as aesthetics, technology, anthropology, economics, and politics. The goal is for you to gain the perspective that these objects—and if you are a studio artist, your own works—are part of this fabric.

- *Comparing and contrasting different cultures’ approaches to the making of ceramic objects,* with attention to the differing cultural frameworks that have motivated the production of ceramic art. In particular, the goal is to understand how our own time and place differs from or owes a debt to other peoples and eras.

### Evaluation Methods

- **Five unit tests** – Essay, short answer, definition of terms, and slide identification are possible question formats.

- **Research presentation and paper** – You will investigate the work and artistic philosophy of a contemporary clay artist and make a presentation to the class. You will also submit a presentation outline and paper related to your research. (I will provide the specific format later.)

### GRADING

Grading of tests and research projects will emphasize your understanding of the historical and cultural significance and technical aspects of the works studied, your giving of specific examples and observations to support statements you make, and your use of accurate terminology.

Class work and homework will receive credit based on completeness and accuracy.

**Breakdown of Semester Grade:**

- 60% Five tests
- 20% Research presentation & paper
- 20% Class participation/group assignments

**Grading Scale:**

- A 94-100
- A- 90-93
- B+ 87-89
- B 84-86
- B- 80-83
- C+ 77-79
- C 74-76
- C- 70-73
- D 60-70
- E below 60

### POLICIES
Communication
You are responsible for:

• Maintaining an individual email address at which you may receive confidential communications regarding your coursework. Update this address on your Student Profile in the Campus Information System, and check your messages regularly.

• Asking promptly when you need clarification of a concept, help with an assignment, or have a concern you’d like to discuss with me.

Please Be Courteous
Arriving late, web surfing, checking email, using your cell phone, or text messaging during class is highly distracting both to me and to your classmates and may affect your participation credit for the day.

Attendance
Attendance is essential for your success because during class we will be discussing concepts and images not included in the texts. Please note:

• You must be present to receive credit for in-class assignments and activities (which are part of your homework and participation grade).

• You are accountable for any changes to deadlines and requirements announced in class, whether or not you are present.

• If you can’t attend class, check the canvas calendar and make arrangements with your classmates to find out what you have missed. I am unable to provide this information by email.

Late or Missed Work
I do not accept late work. You may miss two (2) participation or homework assignments over the semester without penalty.

Faculty Responsibilities
All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, explained in the Student Handbook. You have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Read the Code carefully, and know you are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is my responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and/or a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

ADA Notice
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice
needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in the course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Service

**Wellness Statement**

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness; www.wellness.utah.edu 801-581-7776.

**Adding/Dropping**

Notice: It is the responsibility of the student to enroll in the class by the add deadline (http://www.sa.utah.edu/regist/pages/Deadlines.html). Late slips will not be signed by the Department. It is also the responsibility of the student to make sure that dropping or withdrawing from the class has been officially completed in the Registrar’s office.

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**Units of Discussion**

1. Magic, Spiritualism, Mysticism and Fire
2. Potting Potters and the Pots They Pot
3. Body and Soul: From the Figure to the Figurine
4. Sanctuary: From the Domicile to the Cathedral
5. Mutants and Hybrids or The Island of Misfit Toys

**Calendar of Events**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Class Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
<td>Visual Intelligence</td>
<td>Discuss Reading 1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Magic, Spiritualism, Mysticism and Fire</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
<td>Magic, Spiritualism</td>
<td>Discuss Readings 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>Dreams, Archetypes &amp; Contemporary Mythology</td>
<td>Group Discuss, Lecture</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td>Magic, Spiritualism</td>
<td>Discuss Reading 4</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>The Value of Objects</td>
<td>Visiting Scholar</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td>Magic, Spiritualism</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>Magic, Spiritualism</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Magic, Spiritualism</td>
<td>Review for test</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Potting, Potters and The Pots They Pot</td>
<td>Reading 6</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Aesthetics</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
<td>Utility and Technology</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Questions of High Art And Craft</td>
<td>Group Discuss,</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>History of Humankind</td>
<td>Visit Natural Hist. Mus.</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>P,P &amp; the Ps, they P</td>
<td>Lecture Discuss</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Visiting/Artist</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>P,P &amp; the Ps, they P</td>
<td>Lecture/Review</td>
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<td>March 14-18</td>
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March 22  Unit Exam   Discuss Paper & Present.
March 24  Body & Soul: Figure to the Figurine  Reading 10 Group Discussion
March 29  Body & Soul   Lecture
March 31  B&S + Domicile to The Cathedral  Reading 11 Discussion

April 5  Domicile to Cathedral   Lecture
April 7  Review B&S+D&C
April 12  Unit Exam
April 14  Island of Misfit Toys  Reading 12 Group Discussion, Lecture
April 19  Presentations
April 21  Presentations
April 26  Island of MTs Review   Lecture
April 28  Final Unit Exam   3:30-5:30

*** This schedule is not set in stone. Be strong enough to bend. Dates and assignments may change due to how the class is progressing, visitors schedules, the alignment of the planets and the Chaos Theory.***

Presentation schedule will be forthcoming and intermingled through the schedule after spring break.