



Clay

Artist: Michael Kaplenk



Michael Kaplenk

Grade Level:

K-Adult

About the Artist:

Michael Kaplenk has a BA in art from Humboldt State University and has been providing clay workshops for children for eight years. His first workshop was for his son's school and he has continued at other elementary schools in Southern Oregon. Michael has experience teaching art, printmaking, clay and sculpture and has taught children's workshops at Rogue Community College, Salem Art Association's summer camps and in various after school programs. He has also been a studio potter for about 25 years, selling his pottery nation-wide in galleries and at art festivals. Michael is interested in how a shape or form can be altered or enhanced by the decoration. He incorporates texture and pattern with his pottery.

Objectives:

- To encourage children to explore different shapes and forms in clay
- To use the colors of the clay and texture for decoration
- To teach a sense of history through the use of clay
- To teach basic hand building techniques

Activities:

Each of the following activities embodies the history of pottery by using simple hand building techniques originally used by the cultures that developed them.

- Pinch pots and marbling clay
- Coil pots with colored clay
- Slab pots and marbling
- Animals with armature

Workshop Size Limits:

- No more than 30 students

Special Equipment:

- Two pounds of clay per project, per child: \$1 per child
- A way to fire the projects and a place to dry the pots

Space Needed:

- Classroom setting with access to water

Connections to the Curriculum

- History, art history, art and social studies