WELCOME!

The Clay Studio

Building Excellence

YOU ARE HERE
It seems hard to believe that what began as a big dream almost ten years ago is a beautiful reality today.

It is with a glad heart that we welcome you — our new and returning friends — to The Clay Studio's new home. We are humbled and grateful for all the support and encouragement offered by our community during this process — to all of you who have helped us get here: THANK YOU!

The Clay Studio has always been a place of wonder for me, where my dreams and those of so many others have come to life for nearly 50 years. From emerging artists to beginning students, it has been a privilege to watch careers bloom and creativity awaken.

Today, together, we are beginning The Clay Studio’s next chapter. I look forward to watching each of you — neighbors, students, artists, teachers, enthusiasts, and friends — flourish in this amazing place for many years to come!

Welcome to The Clay Studio.

Warm Regards,

Jennifer D. Marti
Executive Director
Our exhibitions excel in representing the wide spectrum of styles, techniques, and materials available in ceramic art, as well as the diverse voices present in the field. We present works by our resident artists, current graduate students, and emerging as well as established artists. Visitors are welcome — free of charge — every day.

Shop

The Clay Studio’s shop features handmade ceramics by nearly 100 artists across the U.S. The Shop is focused on functional ceramic art to infuse inspiration into your everyday life. We also carry, tiles, books, ceramic jewelry as well as clay and tools. 50% of your purchase directly supports the artist, and 50% of your purchase supports the mission of The Clay Studio, a nonprofit that serves 35,000 people, including 3,500 youth, each year.
Claymobile Studio

Claymobile is our mobile community engagement program. It brings a “pop-up” ceramics studio to schools, older adult facilities, community centers, and other social service agencies throughout the Philadelphia region. Our professional teaching artists provide arts education that use the tactile medium of clay to nurture imagination, critical thinking, and persistence — all year round!

Outdoor Pavilion for Public Events

The Clay Studio invites people of all ages to use their imaginations as clay and creativity come together in The Clay Studio’s series Hands On Clay, funded by PNC Arts Alive. With this program, we bring clay to the people at festivals and community events all around the city. Here at home, in our Community Pavilion, we will host free drop-in workshops on 2nd Thursdays throughout the summer, our annual Clay Fest in June, and much more!
Classes

We offer classes year round in handbuilding, wheel-throwing, casting, and glazing, for people of all ages, from beginner to advanced. Our classes are taught by top practitioners, including our Resident Artists. We are an inclusive and vibrant community where people of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels can learn, connect, and create art side by side.

Kilns

With 24 electric and gas kilns in various sizes including a Blauw gas kiln, two Bailey gas kilns, a large car electric kiln, and an indoor soda kiln, we now have 88% more kiln capacity to serve the needs of our students and in-house artists, and we also offer kiln rentals to the general public.
Workshops

The Clay Studio’s diverse workshop program makes the fascinating medium of clay accessible to all ages and skill levels. Whether you’re looking for a fun activity to do with your friends and family in a hands-on beginner workshop or looking to develop your skills and artistic practice — we offer a workshop to meet your needs.

Summer Camps

With half-day and full-day programs throughout the summer, campers ages 6 and up can explore the exciting world of clay, expand their imaginations, and more. Whether working with sculpture, clay animation, or wheel-thrown pottery, students learn in a supportive and small class setting with plenty of individual instruction and inspiration from our professional teaching artists in our classroom designed specifically with youth in mind.
Resident Artist Studios

The Resident Artist Program offers the top emerging ceramic talent in the U.S. and abroad the space, time, and resources to develop their artwork and their professional lives. The program is designed to reflect a range of experiences and diverse aesthetic approaches, cultures, and perspectives. We are pleased to announce that a major grant from the Windgate Foundation will allow greater financial support to each Resident Artist.

Shared Artist Studios

The Clay Studio’s Associate Artists work in a communal studio shared by forty artists who are seeking to deepen their ceramic practice in a communal culture. This is a non-juried program and many Associates are serious students who have committed themselves to expanding their skills and developing their own artistic voices, while others are professional artists who hold bachelor and master degrees in fine arts and are in need of affordable studio space. The program reflects a vast aesthetic range of artists — potters working side by side with abstract and representational sculptors.
Guest Artist Studios

The Guest Artist in Residence Program offers four to eight week residencies for ceramic artists from around the world, serving as an international hub of creative exchange for students, artists, and the community. Since 1992 The Clay Studio has hosted artists from 45 countries.

Prototyping Studio

This studio provides equitable access to new digital technologies for our students, emerging and professional artists, and our whole community. It includes extrusion-based 3-D printing with clay, a decal printer, and proper equipment for slip casting and mold making. These technologies open up opportunities, providing flexible computerized tools that can assist in small-batch, rapid prototyping production for ceramic artists and entrepreneurs.
Rooftop Events & Rentals

The Clay Studio is the perfect setting for your next birthday party, corporate meeting, event, fundraiser, or small wedding. The Clay Studio offers one-of-a-kind backdrops, amazing rooftop views, and creative inspiration. Your guests can experience the exhibition galleries, and even get hands on with clay in this unique setting in which to celebrate.

Youth After-School Program

The Clay Studio’s after-school program, beginning in the fall of 2022, will serve youth who attend school or live in the neighborhood through programming focused on academic support and arts activities. Open initially to elementary-aged youth, this program runs Monday through Thursday throughout the school year from 3 - 6 pm in a safe, supportive, and creative environment.
WITH THANKS TO

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What we shape in our hands transforms our future.

The Clay Studio has been a leader in the national and international ceramic world since 1974. Our new state of the art ceramic facility increases our ability to serve the community and artists to highlight the power of clay as a force for good.
Make art. Be inspired. Change lives.

theclaystudio.org  @theclaystudio.phl  @theclaystudiophl