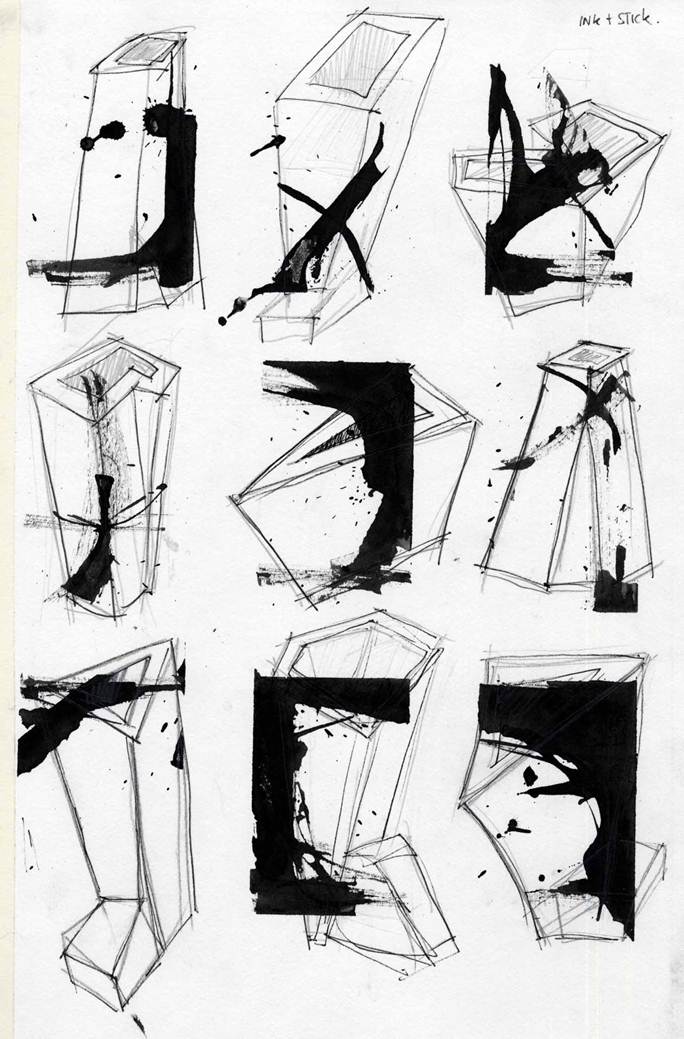
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| ARTS LEARNING & TEACHING ONLINE |
| Basic Ceramics Skills Project Brief 1 |
| Version 2. Jul 2012 |



**COURSE TITLE:** Basic Ceramic Skills

**PROJECT BRIEF 1**

**YEAR:** 1

**START DATE:**

**ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION DATE:**

**AIMS:**

* Familiarize you with the substance of clay and its characteristics under a variety of circumstances
* Engage you in the making of simple ceramic forms through the use of different construction techniques
* Develop in you a sense of shape and proportion
* Develop in you an understanding of the application of visual and technical research to the accomplishment of practical tasks.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

On completion of the Basic Ceramic Skills module you will be able to:

* **Research:** Show both technical and selective visual research into simple ceramic production methods
* **Experimentation:** Employ research to solve problems and to explore and develop ideas
* **Subject Knowledge:** Manipulate ceramic materials in a manner that is sensitive to their nature, in order to carry out the assignment tasks and begin to indicate a personal aesthetic
* **Technical Competence:** Demonstrate basic skills in the construction of ceramic work

**TASKS:**

There are five main tasks to be undertaken, which are:

1. Research of a visual and/or technical nature as appropriate

2. The production of slab-built forms

3. The production of coil-built forms

4. The production of wheel-thrown forms

5. The making of a plaster mould and making cast forms from the mould

1. **Research**. You are required to produce a sketchbook/visual diary to support your making activities on the course. It should contain references to the visual practice of other artists, designers, ceramicists etc. as is relevant to the tasks at hand, and where possible should begin to indicate your own visual interests. You are also to include information of a technical nature that describes the techniques you are using at each phase of the course. These references should be developed in the context of your own work and will assist you in the resolution of problems. You are expected to draw upon a range of research sources e.g. books, magazines and the internet.

2. **Production of** **slab-built forms**. You will be given a demonstration of the preparation of clay for slab-building followed by instruction in basic slab-building techniques. You are then to build your own simple forms. These should seek to respond to the finds of your researched visual references, so it will be appropriate to work on initial ideas through drawing and maquette-making/sampling etc. Pay attention to proportions and work with as much sensitivity to the nature of clay as possible. N.B. keep things simple – all your tasks at this early stage of the degree should be seen as exercises designed to develop your skills, understanding and sensitivity.

3. **Production of** **coil-built forms**. You will be given a demonstration of the preparation of clay for coil-building followed by instruction in basic coil-building techniques. You are then to build your own simple forms. These should seek to respond to the finds of your researched visual references, so again it will be appropriate to work on initial ideas through drawing and maquette-making/sampling etc. Additionally, you must prepare a 1:1 scale profile in card of the shape you intend to build and use this as a template to check the progress of your making. This is a good method for you to learn to control the clay rather than the clay simply running away with you. Keep it simple.

4. **Production of wheel-thrown forms**. You will be given a demonstration of the preparation of clay for use on the wheel, followed by instruction in basic throwing. You are then to practice on the wheel, seeking to build your skills to a point where you can raise simple cylindrical forms. As you improve, pay increasing attention to proportions – how high, how wide? Finally, you must practice centring and turning the bases of leather-hard cylinders.

5. **Making of a plaster mould and making cast forms from the mould**. You will be given a demonstration of how to make a 2-piece mould from a simple form. You are then to make your own mould, also from a simple form. A further demonstration will show you how to produce cast objects using the mould you have made. You are then to produce your own cast objects, seeking to improve your results as your experience grows.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

* Sketchbooks
* 2D/3D artefacts produced
* Formative feedback

WORK SCHEDULE: Basic Ceramic Skills example

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| week no. | w/c | topic/task | tutorial | notes |
| 1 | 14.11.11 |  | Group tutorial |  |
| 2 | 21.11.11 |  | Workshop  Individual tutorials |  |
| 3 | 28.11.11 |  | Workshop  Individual tutorials |  |
| 4 | 05.12.11 |  | Workshop  Individual tutorials |  |
| 5 | 12.12.11 |  | Workshop  Individual tutorials |  |
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