



Clay Times

The Newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 12: May 2008

Making First Impressions Last

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A baby or child's early years are always very special. The Clay Studio has developed the First Impressions range of ideas as ways of capturing those formative years. These are great for mum and dad but also ideal as presents for grandparents or as Father's Day gifts.

Clay imprints are made in wet clay which then dries naturally before a first firing in the kiln. They are painted with colours and writing according to your requirements. They are then glazed and re-fired to create the glossy imprint. It is also possible to have the plaque presented in a quality wooden frame.

The time required for this is around four weeks although this does vary according to how quickly the clay dries out. Advance booking is preferred for this as the clay plaques have to be prepared.

The second option is a hand and foot outprint. These show the child's hands and feet raised out of a plaster cast. These can be produced in 1-2 weeks once the child has made an impression in the mould.

Painted hand or footprints can be undertaken any time that The Clay Studio is open, seven days a week. Our staff will advise you on how best to create the prints which you can decorate yourself. The prints are typically painted onto plates or mugs. Other items that are well-suited include vases, picture frames and even Christmas ornaments (Baby's first Christmas). You can even be very creative with the prints and your designs around them. Our staff will help with some fun and interesting ideas. The items are returned glazed and fired in 3-4 days.



Family Fun Day



Our second Family Fun Day is on Saturday 24 May 2008. Check Promotions on the Web site for full details.

KIDZ Painting Academy**Half-term Workshop Sessions
Wednesday 28, Friday 30 May 2008**

Come along and learn some pottery painting skills to create your own special piece. Astound your friends and family with your genius. Each session lasts around 1½ hours and includes everything you need to complete your masterpiece as well as tuition from trained staff, drink & biscuit and a certificate of achievement.

- Wednesday 28 May - Father's Day plate or mug
- Friday 30 May – "Claying Around" - making your own clay creations

Your masterpiece will be ready to collect within one week. Places on Kidz Painting Academy Half-term Workshops are limited and advanced booking is required to secure a place. Each workshop costs just £12.50 with 10% discount to Clay Friends members.

**Diva Night - 17 July 2008**

Our second Diva Night will be supporting the Dorset children's hospice Julia's House. Diva Night is a ticket-only event. Tickets are available in advance for £20 and this includes:

- Studio Fee
- £10 pottery credit (£15 for Clay Friends members)
- Free chocolate fountain
- £5 donation to Julia's House
- Free to enter raffle with prizes including Clay Friends membership and painting vouchers.

Diva Night is to become a regular event in The Clay Studio calendar. This is a great night out with friends and you will have some painted pottery to show for it. Our trained staff are always there to give you ideas and help you achieve simple but impressive effects. You are welcome to bring a bottle or two (we have glasses and a corkscrew). What's more, every Diva Night will support a women's or children's charity.

**Christchurch Food & Wine Festival****Sunpower Kidz Workshops**

Saturdays 10, 17 May & Sundays 11, 18 May

To coincide with Christchurch Food & Wine Festival The Clay Studio is offering great fun painting pottery while learning about the importance of healthy eating. Our Sunpower Kidz workshops take place on the Saturdays and Sundays of the Christchurch Food & Wine Festival at 10am (Saturday 10th & 17th and Sunday 11th & 18th May).



We have four colourful characters to choose from and they all have their own story:

- Betty Broccoli
- Oliver Orange
- Penelope Pear
- Christopher Corn

Each workshop costs just £15 which includes the pottery, paints, glazing & firing, fruit & vegetable stories, drink & biscuit and a certificate of achievement. The children will be supervised by a fully-trained member of The Clay Studio's team. The pottery will be available for collection from four days after the painting date. Booking is essential. 10% discount for Clay Friends members.

Don't forget

Every Thursday evening is Girls' Night Out. Chill out and be inspired, meet up with friends and enjoy some "me-time".

Mug shots.....



Masterclass: Lovely Bubbly

There are all sorts of effects that can transform a piece that you have painted. Lovely Bubbly is a simple and fun technique that uses bubbles to create interesting patterns. This can be a bit messy but the overall effect is worth it.

First cut down a disposable plastic cup to about half size. Use about the same quantity of paint and water and add a small quantity of washing-up liquid to the mix. Use a drinking straw to mix the liquid and then start to blow bubbles. **DO NOT SUCK.** Hold the cup upright and do not tip. Let the bubbles fall over the top of the cup onto the blank bisque. Move the cup around so that all of the bisque is covered. Once this is done, pop the bubbles and let the paint mixture fall onto the bisque.

You can even mask off areas so they remain white to be painted separately. Use a saucer, masking tape or anything handy to ensure that the bubbles do not reach the surface. Once all the bubbles have been "popped" remove the mask to leave a clean surface for painting.

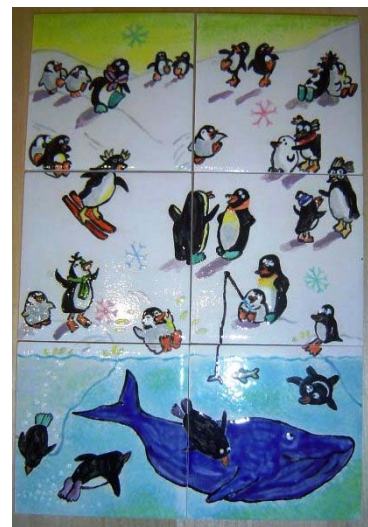


Healthy Plate Competition

From the beginning of May until the end of the Christchurch Food & Wine Festival on 18 May, we will be running another healthy plate competition. This is open to two age groups: Junior Painters (under 8) and Young Artists (9-16). Any plate painted with a healthy eating theme can enter the competition. No Studio Fees are payable for competition entries. Prizes to be won include Clay Friends memberships and painting vouchers.



Why not paint a series of tiles to make your own mural?



How To Find Us

The Clay Studio is right in the centre of Christchurch.

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Some recent masterpieces



Win a free Studio Fee

Every month there are ten free Clay Studio passes for Clay Times readers to win. At the end of May, ten readers will receive a free pass for a full fee Studio Fee at The Clay Studio.

Either leave with us in The Clay Studio or send the entry form by post.

Note that entries are limited to one per household.

Please enter me in the monthly draw for one of ten free studio passes

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Please send me Clay Times by e-mail every month:

Note that your details will be held by the Clay Studio and not passed on to any other organisation.

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