

Department of Ceramics • 2008/2009

phone: 401 454-6190 • fax: 401 454-6191

Rhode Island School of Design

Two College Street • Providence, RI 02903-2784

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT: Ceramics at RISD involves a rigorous, hands-on investigation of clay and its histories, along with an exploration of contemporary practices and ideas. The professors in the department are all practicing artists, as is the full-time technician. Through critiques, lectures, demonstrations, field trips and one-on-one conversations, they support students as they discover artistic strengths, develop personal voices and express their range of experiences. Ceramics majors at RISD work in private and communal workspaces where ideas can be comfortably exchanged with fellow students and faculty. Students are welcome to use the jigger wheel, ram press, pug mill, slab roller, clay mixers, blunger, throwing wheels, rolling worktables, extruder, high-speed grinder, laser printer for ceramic decals and photo booth. Computers and software are available for working with digital images, glaze formulation and remote kiln firing.

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)

CURRICULUM:

1st year

Foundation Studies
All freshmen are required to participate in the year-long **Foundation Studies** program, which fosters creativity and an understanding of visual language through investigations into three studio areas: drawing, 2D design and 3D design. During the first year's **Wintersession**, students select an on-campus course related to their intended major or in another area of interest.

courses:

Foundation Drawing I + II
Two-Dimensional Design I + II
Three-Dimensional Design I + II
English Composition & Literature I
History of Art & Visual Culture 1 + 2 (Topics)
History, Philosophy, and the Social Sciences (Topics)
Wintersession

2nd year

Sophomores in the Ceramics program are introduced to sculpture and pottery through the processes of throwing, hand-building, mold-making, glazing and firing. Technique is integrated with ideas, aesthetics and personal expression in the context of contemporary and historical ceramic practice.

courses:

Slipcast Clay Object
Object as Idea in Clay
Pottery
Elective
Liberal Arts
Wintersession

3rd year

Juniors move beyond the studio and into the world through commissions and community-engaged projects. They design and produce tableware for local restaurants, along with sculpture and large-scale installations for rural and urban sites. Digital technology is central in the Materials Research class for clay, glaze and advanced kiln firing approaches.

courses:

Topics in Ceramic History
Ceramic Sculpture
Clay in Context
Topics in Ceramic Material Science
Electives
Liberal Arts
Wintersession

4th year

During senior year, students create an independent body of work, supported by individual tutorials with faculty, group critiques and discussions. Professional practice is emphasized, with coaching on presentation skills, documentation, marketing, exhibitions and residencies.

courses:

Senior Tutorial Studio
Seminar: Source Presentation
Senior Thesis
Liberal Arts
Wintersession

FACULTY:

department head

Lawrence Bush
Associate Professor
BFA, University of Washington
MFA, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University

full-time faculty

Linda Sormin
Assistant Professor
BA, Andrews University
MFA, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University

adjunct faculty

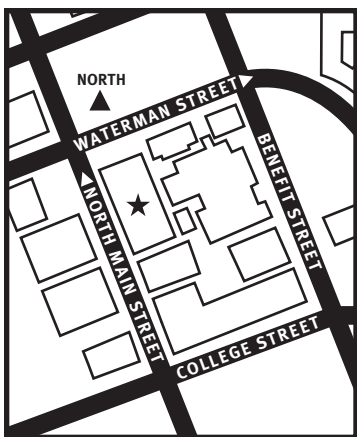
Frank Bosco
MFA, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University

Jan Holcomb

BFA, University of Michigan
MA, California State University

Jacquelyn Rice

Professor Emerita
BFA, MFA, University of Washington



★ Metcalf Building, 9 North Main Street



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MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA) PROGRAM:

This two-year program focuses on creative growth in the studio and the development of a personal body of ceramic work that is unified and innovative. For more information about the MFA program, visit the graduate Ceramics pages at www.risd.edu/graduate_ceramics.cfm.

TECHNOLOGY + FACILITIES: The Ceramics Department offers a kiln room with multiple gas, electric and raku kilns, including programmable kilns with remote computer monitoring; a raw materials lab with a 30-gallon blunger; a clay room with drum and grinding mixers; and a plaster work room. Computers are used extensively for glaze calculation, kiln calibration and image making (with Photoshop and Illustrator).

RECENT VISITING ARTISTS + CRITICS:

Bruce Cochrane, Kristen Kieffer, Jean-Pierre Laroque, Steven Y. Lee, Rory MacDonald, Tony Marsh, Magdalena Odundo, Lisa Orr, Adelaide Paul, Anders Ruhwald

SELECTED ALUMNI:

Linda Arbuckle MFA '83, Nicole Cherubini BFA '93, Andrea Gill BFA '71, Rain Harris BFA '97, Michael Lamar MFA '84, Susan Thayer BFA '82, Jamie Walker MFA '83

CAREER POSSIBILITIES: studio artist, production potter, custom tile designer, product designer, teacher, writer, lecturer

NUMBER OF CURRENTLY ENROLLED

UNDERGRADUATES: 12

NUMBER OF CURRENTLY ENROLLED

GRADUATE STUDENTS: 11