

# NETWORKS



Ceramic artist Lou Gilbert Scott delivered two Networks courses for One25 at Potstop, a city centre ceramics studio.

One25 reaches out to women trapped in street sex work, supporting them to break free and build new lives away from violence, poverty and addiction [www.one25.org.uk](http://www.one25.org.uk)

Below are the session plans for one of these courses.

Activities	Intended outcomes/purpose:
<p><b>Session 1</b></p> <p>4 different taster activities which could be developed during the course) approx. 5 mins.</p> <p>Discuss individually what each member would like to achieve/make/aspire to during the course.</p> <p>1. Object-in-a-bag. Working in pairs, one person has their hand in the bag and has to <b>describe</b> the shape, size and texture of the object therein without looking! The other person has to make the object in clay from that description. Neither must look or give away any other information that would reveal what the object is until the end. Each has a turn in both making and describing. Approx. 10 mins in total.</p> <p>2a. Demonstration on how to apply enamel transfers on to glazed ceramics. Each member can choose either a glazed mug or bowl and apply their own designs from a selection of transfers provided.</p> <p>2b. Demonstration of using pen and ink for learners to paint/draw their own designs which will be made into transfers for applying to their ceramics.</p> <p>3. Demonstration on the use of paint-on glazes onto bisque tiles. Layering colours and using wax as a resist. Each student will have 2 tiles to use as trials. This will serve as useful reference when coming to paint a bowl /vase /plate etc.</p> <p>4. Demonstration using soft clay, on how to use 'sprig' moulds and make larger pieces from small component parts or just use as surface decoration. Also the use of plate/bowl moulds to give shape and support.</p>	<p>The main aim of the first session was to introduce <b>achievable</b> activities which are engaging, interesting and fun. This will lead to learning new skills and developing confidence through their creative abilities over the next few weeks.</p> <p>The Object-in-a-bag is a useful activity as an 'ice breaker'. It encourages people to focus and, by working in pairs, to communicate verbally with each other.</p>

**Session 2**

Discuss with the group what we will be doing

1. Look at last weeks experiments which will have been fired. Discuss their responses to them and what they think could be different or improved.

2. Discuss with the group what we will be doing this session; hand building and wheel work.

a. Demonstrate use of sprig moulds and how to make/assemble a large piece from small components e.g. biscuit barrel/ picture frame /bowl.

b. Demo on how to use press moulds in order to shape clay and give it support while building with soft clay.

c. Demonstrate use of roulettes. Creating surface texture onto soft clay. Each person will be given 2 leather-hard roulettes which they will be able to carve directly onto, to make individual designs.

While the group starts to make their own pieces supported by the support worker, the artist will 'peel' off 2 members at a time and demonstrate throwing on the wheel.

One of the main aims is to facilitate a welcoming and creative environment to enable the participants to develop confidence through these activities and to be able to explore their own creative ideas/abilities.

**Session 3**

Visit Arnolfini exhibition followed by discussion.

Introduction to a contemporary art exhibition for discussion. To stimulate dialogue, thoughts and ideas.

**Session 4**

1. Continue working on the hand-built pieces started last week and finish them ready for bisque firing.

2. Discuss glaze qualities and possibilities, then glaze the bisque fired bowls they threw on the wheel last week.

3. Continue practice throwing on the wheel. This time concentrate on cylinders rather than bowl forms.

4. If time make 'cabbage' leaf bowl/plate/teapot pieces (based on early mid 17th Staffordshire creamware pottery)

Continue practicing and developing pot making skills within a creative and supportive atmosphere.

Finish the making and glazing stages.

Develop a knowledge and appreciation of process, leading to completion.

Develop confidence and self esteem through these activities/processes.

**Session 5**

Outline of session activities.

Discuss glaze qualities and the inherent unpredictability of heat work/fire and the effect it has on the glazes.

Learn techniques for slab building - Stiffen clay, score joins applying slip to weld and secure joins. (Apply texture when soft and join with slip.

Develop an understanding of the techniques

<p>Complete the glazing processes, so all work is finished and ready for firing by next week.</p> <p>Choice;</p> <p>Either: Continue throwing on the wheel to practice making cylindrical forms.</p> <p>Or: Make pieces based on Staffordshire cream-ware. Slab build and construct piece, applying texture.</p> <p>Or: Develop individual ideas which students may wish to pursue</p>	<p>involved when glazing a piece of ceramic and basic information on glaze melt during the kiln firing.</p> <p>Continue to develop confidence on the wheel.</p> <p>Continue developing a stronger understanding and confidence of the techniques of hand-building and joining, through making pieces based on Staffordshire cream ware or their own designs.</p> <p>Give each other support and encouragement as a group to develop their own creative ideas and self esteem.</p>
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### Session 6

<p>Outline of session activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decorate china crockery with the enamel transfers designed by the women in the first session.</li> <li>2. Ink up the crackle glaze pots ,which were dipped and fired from the session last week.</li> <li>3. Meet IT digital studio mediator at Potstop to discuss on-line studio and its potential uses for the One25 group and take images for the gallery/group showcase.</li> <li>4. Take transferred pots back to setting, pack the kiln for enamel firing. Show setting staff how to pack a kiln and give initial outline of how to programme the firing cycles.</li> </ol>	<p>Learn how to apply transfers satisfactorily.</p> <p>Come to some conclusion on how an on-line gallery could work for One25</p> <p>Learn how to use kiln so that it can be used independently by Helen and the users from the pottery/ceramics group in the future.</p>
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### Session 7

<p>Pursue their own work.</p>	
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### Session 8

<p>Finish applying transfers and glazing bisque pieces and ink up crackle glaze pots.</p> <p>Choose between the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate slab (sheets) rolling for flat pieces/or extruding clay for coiling</li> <li>Or 2. Decorate pre-made bowls with paint-on glazes or stains</li> <li>Or 3. Throw on the wheel.</li> <li>Or 4. Make porcelain tea lights/string lights.</li> </ol> <p>Re-pack kiln for enamel transfers.</p>	<p>Complete all work made during the course. Make choices from the various options given.</p> <p>Continue building on the skills and techniques introduced during the course.</p>
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