



Welcome to La Mano Pottery

Dear Peggy,

What a wonderfully mad tea party we had! The opening reception for our recent teapot show was a great success. Thanks to all who contributed sample teas and snacks. Ari Ellis of Ara Wine Bar generously donated tasty sangria, which was a great hit as well.

Making a ceramic teapot is arguably the most challenging project in functional pottery. There are so many technical aspects and countless aesthetic choices. The beautiful assortment of teapots, pitchers, and other "pots that pour" will be on display through the end of April in La Mano's gallery. Please stop by and have a look.

And mark your calendar for the next La Mano party: our first annual Springtime Student Show will open on May 8th with a reception from 6 until 8. Students from all our classes are preparing beautiful work for display. Everyone is welcome, so please join us and support all our students.

Yours in Mud,
Diane, Julie and Peggy

FEATURED ARTIST

Name: Nic DeStefano
Age: 34
Location: Williamsburg, Brooklyn
Occupation: Visual production/ceramics teacher
Favorite Glaze: Brady's Black



My interest with ceramics started in college where my main focus was on sculpture. Clay was the medium I found most engaging and I chose ceramics as the concentration of my BS in Studio Art. My work touches on a few disciplines but also crosses a range of ideas. Generally my work retains a minimalist quality while exploring basic sculptural elements like shapes, textures and forms and is all hand built for the most part.

The vessels on the left in the picture are part of a series I've been working on for a while. The basic form is a shape that I've found myself drawn to and one that I have repeated quite a bit in exploring texture and color variation.

The series of body parts is a conceptual work in progress. Though quite sculptural the work was inspired by the idea that images of war are perversely 'sanitized for our protection'. That more and more over the years the media has censored graphic images of death and destruction due to armed combat. And the result of this sanitization is a reverse desensitization of sorts; where the everyday citizen makes no personal connection to media reports of deaths by war because they are not seeing the image of someone just like them blown to bits by a bomb. My main argument for this concept is the events surrounding a war like Vietnam, where the everyday citizen was subject to, by far, the most disturbingly explicit images of war(while the war was happening) and in turn had what is most likely the largest mobilization of war protest by the American public.



The black "martini pitcher" set was something I made in response to a great show La Mano recently held called Pots That Pour: Teapots and Pitchers. I had a lot of fun hand building the set and enjoyed creating the MOD elements that are part of the pieces.

The last image is of two pieces in a series of ultra-thin dish type vessels I've been making. They are definitely more of a fun but delicate accessory type piece that can be used to hold anything from jewelry to a beautiful succulent or just as purely aesthetic decoration.

For just about a year and a half I've had the privilege of teaching a hand building class at La Mano. I was excited at the opportunity and have enjoyed a very different experience in helping others bring to fruition their clay ideas as opposed to working on my own endeavors. At the same time the single most appealing and challenging aspect I find with working in clay is the fact that the clay is the stuff of pure imagination. One literally has the capacity to create almost anything they can conjure up in their head. The challenge is sorting through those ideas and having the patience and drive to commit to making the work and the many trials that come along with refining your idea. So helping my students flesh out their ideas and showing them the techniques they need to accomplish what they want is very rewarding.

Most of all I am grateful and blessed to be part of the warm and welcoming community of unique and amazing individuals that call La Mano home. It's a special breed of people who find their way to clay (or is it the clay that finds them?), and to share the cathartic experience of making art, sharing life, and just plain having fun with folks I consider my family in clay.

Nic's work is on display through the month of April at La Mano in the store front window.

REGISTER FOR A CLASS

Our spring session begins soon. Here is the calendar - sign up early and consider suggesting to a friend that they get their hands dirty!

Spring/Summer 2009

Wheel Classes

Learn to use the potter's wheel to create bowls, mugs, teapots and more.

All classes are for 8 weeks @ \$300
(+\$20 banked toward firing fees)

Mon. 5/4 - 6/29 6pm - 8pm
(no class May 25)

7/13 - 8/31 6pm - 8pm

Tues AM Wheel Class has open enrollment so that students can start an 8 week session any Tuesday morning 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

Tues. 4/28 - 6/16 7pm - 9pm

6/23 - 8/11 7pm - 9pm

Wed. 5/6 - 6/24 7pm - 9pm

7/1 - 8/19 7pm - 9pm

Thurs. 5/7 - 7/25 7pm - 9pm

7/30 - 9/03 7pm - 9pm

Sat. 5/16 - 7/11 10:30am - 12:30pm

(no class July 4)

7/18 - 9/19 10:30am - 12:30 pm

(no class Aug 1 & Sept 5)

Sun. 5/17 - 7/12 6pm - 8pm

(no class on July 5)

7/19 - 9/20 6pm - 8pm

(no class Aug 2 & Sept 6)

Hand building Classes

Create unique ceramic pieces using traditional pottery techniques, including pinching, coils and slabs.

All class are for 8 weeks @ \$300
(+\$20 banked toward firing fees)

Wed. 6/3 - 7/22 4pm - 6pm

(class conducted in Russian)

Thurs. 5/7 - 6/25 7pm - 9pm

7/2 - 8/20 7pm - 9pm

Sat. 5/16 - 7/18 12pm - 2pm

(no class on May 23 & July 4)

7/25 - 9/26 12pm - 2pm

(no class Aug 1 & Sept 5)

Kids WORKSHOPS

Sunday - 10:30-12pm

May 3

June 14

July 19

August 8

August 23

\$50 per child (\$75 for 2 siblings)

Call 212-627-9450 for more information on other summer programs for children.

Check online at www.lamanopottery.com or e-mail us at info@lamanopottery.com.

Springtime Student Show

Mark your calendar for the next La Mano party: our first annual Springtime Student Show will open on May 8th with a reception from 6 until 8. Students from all our classes are preparing beautiful work for display. Everyone is welcome, so please join us and support all our students.

In This Issue

Featured Artist

New Class Schedule

Hold the Date!

Classes In Russian

KIDS Workshops

Skin Care Tips

Specialty Teas

Something New: Classes in Russian...



Do you speak or study Russian or do you know anyone who does?

Here is a wonderful opportunity to practice your Russian and take a pottery class as well.

Nonna Hall, a gifted potter and wonderful teacher, will be starting an 8 week hand building class on June 3rd. Please pass this information along to anyone you know who might be interested.



Find us on Facebook

...and become a fan!

KIDS WORKSHOPS



One day workshops for kids offer a great opportunity for little ones to experiment with clay.

Here are the dates for the next few sessions. Call and reserve a spot for the child or children in your life.

Sundays, 10:30-12pm:

May 3

June 14

July 19

August 8

August 23

\$50 per child (\$75 for 2 siblings)

Skin Care Tips



Many of you know **Mike Eidelman** from his beautiful pottery. Did you know that Mike is a Board Certified Dermatologist with an active practice right in our neighborhood? Recently, we asked Mike to share some skin care advice for people who work with clay.

Here is what he told us:

Clay is a natural exfoliant that helps to smooth skin. Unfortunately, long periods of working with clay can dehydrate the skin by exfoliating or removing its protective barriers. Since clay absorbs moisture and strips your skin of its natural oils, always wash residual clay off after potting.

Once your skin has been washed, apply a heavy moisturizer that will replenish the natural water levels and hold water in. These products often contain Petrolatum. Some suggestions are: Keils Intensive Hand Cream, Aquaphor, and Neutrogena Intensive Hand Cream (Norwegian formula).

Remember that if you have small cracks or cuts on your skin, avoid direct exposure to anything that might irritate or disturb the wound. Always wear gloves when working with chemicals; chemicals can cause allergic reactions as well as direct irritation.

To contact Mike for a consultation:

Dr. Mike Eidelman

36 Seventh Avenue

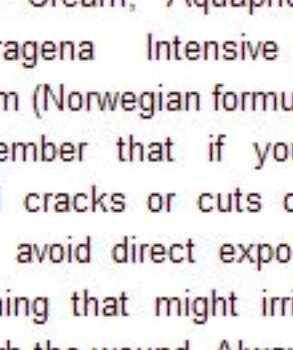
(between 12th and 13th streets) #423

212-242-5815

For continued tips and the latest news from La Mano...

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Specialty Teas



As part of our focus on teapots, we are selling speciality herbal teas in studio this month. **Sacha Jones**, of **Stiggly Holistics NYC**, prepares unique blends and she even makes a special brew for La Mano, which she calls 'Get Centered'.

See Sacha's full offerings of products and services at

www.stiggly.com