



La Mano is burning with creativity amongst the studio potters, students, adults and teenagers! We ran a three week intensive wheel class for ages 12 and up and it was a success. Here is a before(green-ware) and after(high fire glazed) photo of some of what the children made:



Very impressive!

Barbara Stone is our Potter of the Month. Her beautiful pottery is on display in the gallery and in the studio window. Several photos are on our website, lamanopottery.com, as well.

We have our Fall schedule set in place, so please take a look below, or call to set up a private lesson if that appeals to you. In our new schedule, you will see that we are offering our first Parent/Child Wheel class for ages 12 and up. It will meet on Sunday mornings from 10-12. Please pass on this information to anyone you know that may be interested.

Remember that you can now sign up [online](#) or call the studio to register - your choice!

Soaking in the mud is known to be soothing and cooling...come by and visit us!

Yours in Mud,
Diane, Julie, and Peggy

Potter of the Month

Barbara Stone is July's Potter of the Month. Below is what she said about herself and her work:

Clay has sung its siren song to me nearly from the cradle, though I didn't start potting until I was 15. I've lost and found myself in its intoxicating melody on and off for many years.

Mud is in my soul, you might say.



Clay touches me on a few different levels. First, feeling the underground cool of its earthy bulk restraining my fingers as it works its way into my skin, under my fingernails, over my wrists and onto my clothes, both mushy and crusty, smooth and scratchy.

And that smell. Some days, when I'm walking to La Mano, I can smell it halfway down the block and I smile. Clay carries the musk of ancient soil, which might sound dramatic, but to me, it's a soothing, primordial, this-is-where-we-all-came-from scent. It smells like home to me.

I've always preferred wheel throwing over hand building, primarily because of the instant gratification factor. Watching and feeling the clay turn under my hands mesmerizes me and sends me into blissful alpha state, so it's like meditation with my eyes open. Over the years, I learned and honed my skills, which never matched the passion I held for the process. I'd watch other potters with envy, as they turned out matching sets of mugs or plates or vases and marvel at the level of their skill. I'd get all inspired, and toss a big, fat lump-o-clay onto the wheel with the intent of beginning a series of masterpieces and then....play with it.

Thoughts of overcoming the clay with my will fly completely out of my head as we dance and breathe together. Clay is first and foremost my friend and never are we each others taskmasters. I guide and persuade it, tease it and cajole it, but ultimately our best selves are brought forth during our silent, intimate conversations over muddy water and a spinning wheel.

Creating pottery has saved my heart and soul on a few occasions. When I was in my 20s, I was married to a man who knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life. This moved me to try to find that same certainty in myself of who I was going to be in this world. I'd been away from the clay for about 7 years, but it was the first thing that came to mind to do. I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up, but I knew that throwing a pot made me really, really happy. I worked at it for a few years and then, for some long-forgotten reason, stopped.



I began again in 2002, when a boyfriend told me about a new studio in town. When the bf and I split, it was clay - and the other artists in the studio - that saved me from the Bad Breakup Abyss of Misery (heh.). It was then that I began to find my identity as a potter, discovering my style through failed attempts at mimicry. A key moment came when a lovely vase I'd thrown fell on the floor and as I reached to smush it, another potter cried, "Don't! Look what a cool shape it has now!" That opened something in me and my work took on a different direction. It freed me to make mistakes, force errors, poke a hole in a perfectly balanced cylinder if I felt like it. Sometimes I'd take a tool and randomly hack away at a piece, just to see what might come of it. And some mighty cool things emerged.



When I found La Mano last year, I also found fresh inspiration in the skilled and outrageously creative ceramic artists here. So much talent and love of mud in one place feeds my potter's soul. I couldn't ask for more.

The pieces on display in La Mano's gallery reflect a few different phases I've gone through and some I'm just beginning to explore. The clay bodies and I hope you enjoy them. Thanks.

Barbara's work is currently on display in our storefront window and gallery. You can also see photos of her pottery on our [website](#).

Wheel | Fall 2010

Day	Dates	Time	Notes
Monday	9/13-11/1	6-8 pm	
Tuesday AM	9/7-10/26	10:30am-12:30pm	
Tuesday	9/14-11/2	7-9pm	
Wednesday	9/8-10/27	7-9pm	
Thursday	9/9-10/28	7-9pm	
Saturday	9/18-11/6	10:30am-12:30pm	
Sunday	9/12-10/31	6-8pm	

Handbuilding | Fall 2010

Day	Dates	Time	Notes
Tuesday	9/14-11/2	7-9pm	
Wednesday	9/8-10/27	7-9pm	
Thursday	9/16-11/4	7-9pm	
Friday	9/17-11/5	4-6pm	
Saturday	9/11-10/30	noon-2pm	

Kid's Classes

Handbuilding | ages 7 and up

Day	Dates	Time	Notes
Thursdays	9/16-11/4	3:30-4:45pm	8 weeks, \$250
Thursdays	11/11-1/20	3:30-4:45pm	8 weeks, \$250 (no classes on 11/25, 12/23, 12/30)

Handbuilding/Wheel | ages 10 and up

Days	Dates	Time	Notes
Wednesday	9/15-11/3	3:30-5:00pm	8 weeks, \$275. Limited to 5 students.
Wednesday	11/10-1/19	3:30-5:00pm	8 weeks, \$275. Limited to 5 students. (no class 11/24, 12/22, & 12/29)

Wheel | ages 12 and up

Days	Dates	Time	Notes
Tuesday	9/14-11/2	3:30-5:30pm	8 weeks, \$300. Limited to 5 students.
Tuesday	11/9-1/11	3:30-5:30pm	8 weeks, \$300. Limited to 5 students.

Parent/Child Wheel | ages 12 and up

Days	Dates	Time	Notes
Sunday	9/12-10/31	10am-noon	8 weeks, \$450 for parent & child

Sunday One-Day Workshops | ages 5 and up

Day	Date	Time	Notes
Sunday	September 19	10:30am-noon	\$50 per child (\$75 for two siblings)
Sunday	October 17	10:30am-noon	\$50 per child (\$75 for two siblings)
Sunday	November 14	10:30am-noon	\$50 per child (\$75 for two siblings)
Sunday	December 12	10:30am-noon	\$50 per child (\$75 for two siblings)

Vist lamanopottery.com to register online now or call the studio at **212-627-9450**.

Tip of the Month

Ten ways to NOT ruin a pot on the wheel during throwing and trimming - and maybe be more cautious the next time!

1. Turn off your wheel when you walk away from it.
2. As the process moves from centering through to shaping, shift the wheel from fast to slow. OR just "slow down."
3. Use less water with every step during throwing.
4. When pulling up, imagine the pot is two inches taller than it is so you raise your fingers straight up well above the pot and avoid touching the lip.
5. Compress the bottom of your pot A LOT after you open it up - this will avoid an "S-crack" later on.
6. Continue to soak up any extraneous water that may collect on the bottom of your pot during throwing.
7. Be mindful of holding onto your wire tool when cutting a piece off of the wheel until you have moved it TOTALLY out of the way of your piece.
8. Make sure your piece is leather hard and the rims do not wiggle before deciding to trim. This way the rims won't get bent out of shape when you press clay into the sides to hold your piece in place when trimming.
9. Feel your pot inside and out BEFORE centering your piece to trim, and try to remember how thick the bottom of your pot is - you will avoid making a hole through it.
10. When covering your pots with plastic when you are ready to clean up for the day, gently lay a piece of newspaper over the tops of your pots. This will avoid the plastic getting caught on your rims and changing the shape of your pot.



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