

Edmonton Art Club  
Clay Creation  
Sharon Moore Foster  
Day One September 10  
Day Two November 19, 2022



## WORKSHOP GUIDELINES

Create a Glorious Clay Flower Tile, to hang on your wall / or stand alone.

Learn to create a beautiful Clay 2-Dimensional wall mounted or standing relief tile. Choose a flower that speaks to you of life and beauty.

You may be interested - just for fun - in referencing the Language of Flowers from the link below:

<https://www.almanac.com/flower-meanings-language-flowers>

These are not great reference images, simply fun to look at and likely you will have a better image or draw and design a flower that pleases you and expresses your nature or mood.

The object of the course is to introduce you to the joy of working in clay...creating like an innocent child "playing in the mud" ... and discovering a new way to express beauty and voice.

### **DAY 1: CREATION | 10AM TO 4PM | Please bring your lunch**

**Sharon Moore-Foster will demonstrate different ways of using clay to make 2-dimensional clay reliefs or standing reliefs, all created from the beauty of flowers.**

**Intro to clay** with demonstrations of different ways to create a 2-Dimensional wall hung tile or standing tile. Works by the Instructor will be shown to facilitate understanding of possibilities in this course.

**Participants: Purposeful play with clay (provided)** - form, coil, roll, draw on, press objects in to understand what the clay can do before deciding on the form of the artwork and the method they wish to explore to create their own unique piece.

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**Paper** provided to participants to draw (or they may show) **a simple flower image (or a simple image that they want to explore)** to the instructor to facilitate distribution of clay for artist's creation. If the image is 6 or 7 inches on paper, we can trace it onto the clay.

**Some reference images provided, so no worries.**

**Clay Management** will be discussed prior to day end and assisting in loading of creations will be requested of participants.

**Clay and firing provided in workshop fee.**

**Sculpting tools / spikes / bamboo skewers** provided by the instructor for use by participants.

**Extra Considerations for Participants: possible mounts for Flowers on rods (wood, driftwood, to bring into fincreated clay tile base).**

### Participants please bring:

- Small flat board: cutting board, masonite board
- Newsprint
- Dry Cleaning plastic & light cloth to cover work while drying
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**Please wear an apron or paint shirt as natural clay can stain.**

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### DAY 2: PATINAS (SURFACE ENHANCEMENT) 10AM to 1PM

#### **Bringing our clay creations to life!**

**The sculptures will fire a creamy white so will show the colour or stain beautifully.**

Look at the beauty your work possesses in its natural state and perhaps take a picture with your phone. If you continue with sculpting, you may decide to explore different aspects of the clay colour and surface.

**Demo by Instructor showing possible patinas, with a focus on using acrylic paints, opaque + transparent layering, iridescent colours for a raku-like patina. acrylic gloss + matte mediums, cold wax etc.**

**Artists then consider their palette for their flower (object): What colours for What mood...play with this idea**

- Dark and Mysterious
- Luscious, Lyrical and Friendly
- Powerful, Tender
- Shy, Sensual
- Joyful, Melancholy
- Dangerous, Awkward
- Dramatic, Exuberant

**Do a quick sketch with paint / colored markers if you are unsure of how to begin....**

**And start to play with the colour on the clay flower or object. If unsure, paint the back of the tile and see how it looks.** If you have a lot of line drawing in the shapes or simply a drawing on the tile, you may wish to treat it as an etching: put a darker colour over the surface of the tile and wipe it off with a clean damp sponge. the colour will stay in the lines

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**If you create a finish you don't like, don't worry!** Chances are we can work with the surface by removing or adding some colour or painting it white again. You may lose the original clay colour by can emulate it with your painting skills.

Some demo materials (ink, stains, wax) are supplied by Instructor and EAC club, but participants are encouraged to bring their own acrylic paints and brushes so they will have the colours/palette that they like to use.

Materials to bring:

- Paint shirt
- Sponge
- Rags
- Water container
- Paint brushes, toothbrush etc different ways to create surface textures if desired

### Did you know?

Italians began using "patina" in the 17th century to refer to the green film that is produced on the surface of copper. They borrowed the word from Latin, where it means "a shallow dish." (Presumably, the Italian meaning developed from the observation of such film forming on copper dishes.) By the mid-18th century, English speakers were also calling the green film "patina." And by the early 20th century, "patina" was being used in English for the gloss of polished metals, like silver, as well as wooden furniture - a meaning that led to its literary use for a surrounding aura, as demonstrated in this quote from Stella Gibbons' *Cold Comfort Farm* (1932): "The very atmosphere seemed covered with a rich patina of love."

**Note: Sculptors** today often use it to mean the change/alter the surface of a clay or wood work. Firing with gas kilns, salt or wood fired kilns, raku and pit firing yields natural surface changes through the firing process. *Because electric kiln firing is more readily available, many of us fire once to cone 6 (hard fired to be put outside) and use acrylic paints / permanent inks, wood stains, beeswax, acrylic mediums etc to change or alter the color of the electric fired clay.*

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**So those of us who are painters have found ways of creating stunning surfaces (patinas) using materials we often use creatively.**

**This is how and what we will be working with to create the patina we want.**

**Ceramic Artists** do a low bisque fire so the clay is hard enough to glaze or stain, but porous enough for the mineral laden glazes to interact with the clay to create beautiful surfaces.

## About Sharon Moore Foster

<http://sharonmoorefoster.com/about/>