

a throwback to

THE PAST

In hidden studio, artists learn traditional "throwing" Ceramics skills

Nestled between the admissions building and the Campus Center, most students were completely unaware of the existence of the Ceramics Studio, let alone the fact that William & Mary even offered a Ceramics Class. The ceramics studio housed three outdoor kilns as well as a plethora of student pieces. Although Ceramics was not a requirement for the completion of an art major, many chose to use it towards reaching the forty credit minimum necessary to fulfill the major. Art majors could choose a focus in two-dimensional art, three-dimensional art, or print-making, but this course allowed students to expand their repertoires beyond their area of expertise.

Ceramics was made of two introductory classes, one involving use of the pottery wheel and the other involving crafting pieces by hand. "Each class is three hours long and throwing, handbuilding and advanced ceramics are offered. Throwing teaches technique on the wheel, while handbuilding helps students discover other various techniques of building ceramics," sophomore Ashley Fryer said. These courses allowed students to create a variety of items, from bowls and vases to hand-crafted ceramic figurines.

Often, the amount of effort that went into creating ceramic pieces remained unnoticed. "First we mix the clay, then throw it. Then it dries, and we fire it in a bisque kiln. After that, we glaze it and fire it in the outside kilns which are bigger and reach a higher temperature than the first two. Only after all these steps are completed, is a piece ready for use" Fryer said.

Although this class required more than just the three hours of scheduled time, many students acknowledged the rich tradition they became a part of. "I really enjoy the class, which is good, since it's a big time commitment outside of class," Fryer said. "Whenever I go to the studio I expect to spend at least two or three hours there - much more if a project is due. I feel like there is a lot of satisfaction in the whole process. When I use a teapot or cup I've made, I know that it started from bags of dust and water, and I've been there for the whole process," Fryer said.

Ceramics allowed both art majors and those who were simply curious about ceramics to create something original and learn about the rich historical tradition of the ceramic-making process. Ceramics classes provided an outlet for students to "throw" in the new using old techniques to create a unique combination of modernity and tradition.

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Preparing for glazing, ceramics student Ashley Fryer carefully paints a wax resist on the bottom of her pot to ensure that the glaze she applies will not adhere to the bottom and later cause the pot to stick to the shelf in the kiln. Fryer later dipped the pot in a glaze called Cheryl's Blue Green.

>Jessica Johnson



>artsinshort

> Two-Dimensional art professor Heidi Schneider Brar held a summer class in Washington, D.C. using the historic landmarks of the Capitol Mall as inspiration for direct drawing and painting.

> Among the ensembles of the Music Department were the Non-Traditional World Music groups: the Appalachian String Band, the Indonesian Gamelan, and a Middle Eastern Music Ensemble.

> Orchesis, the College's dance company led by students and faculty, gave two mainstage performances each school year since it first performed in 1941 for the campus community.

> As one of the oldest college theatre programs in the country, William & Mary students presented the first known college production of a play in Colonial Williamsburg, Addison's *Cato*, in 1736.