

# Ceramics

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**Ceramics** teaches students to appreciate the histories and traditions connected to clay, and understand its technical qualities, production processes, and the tools involved in building with it. In Ceramics, students engage with the concerns of contemporary art discourse while defining an individualized practice for themselves. Class projects encourage students to pursue notions of function, beauty, materiality, critique, and narrative in their work. CCS Ceramics offers instruction in hand building, wheel throwing, slip casting, and more, including design and technology-based classes. Students learn the scientific properties of clay and glaze formulation, how to build with the material, and how to fire a comprehensive range of kilns, including electric, gas, salt, soda, and wood kilns. The open and flexible curriculum allows students to work with many other materials and ideas outside of clay, engaging the resources in other departments and collaborations with other faculty and students.

Opportunities are everywhere for CCS Ceramics students, from the auto industry and architecture to product design and restoration. These opportunities are unique to Detroit's culture of invention, innovation, and manufacturing. Likewise, Detroit's societal complexities necessitate new kinds of dialog around art, craft, design, architecture, industry, and social awareness that CCS Ceramics is engaging with. The CCS Ceramics studio is a space for learning, taking risks, building, and starting conversations that will continue to shape the lives of our students for the entirety of their careers.

## Faculty

**Ebitenyefa BaraLaye, MFA:** Section-Head, Assistant Professor

**Elysia Vandebussche, MFA:** Adjunct

**Henry Crissman, MFA:** Adjunct

## Facilities

**Spaces:** (Total footage: 5650sq)

Hand Building Room

Wheel Throwing Room

Slip-Casting Room

CNC Room

Glaze Room

Outdoor Kiln Shed

Indoor Kiln Room

**Kilns:**

1 - Skutt Electric Test Kiln

1 - Manual Electric Test Kiln

1 - Blaauw Gas Kiln

2 - Skutt Barrel Electric Kilns

1 - Skutt Oval Electric Kiln

1 - Soda Kiln

2 - Salt Kilns

1 - Wood Kiln

**Tools:**

10 - Shimpo Pottery Wheels

1 - Brent Slab Roller

1 - Plaster ShopBot CNC

**Machines**

1 - Potter Bot Clay 3D Printer

1 - Decal Printer

1 - Ball Mill

1 - Spray Booth

1 - Plate Grinder

1 - Soldner Clay Mixer

1 - Slip mixer

**Student Studio Space:** 1050 sq ft with individual workspaces

## Ceramic Courses

Beg, Inter, Adv Wheel Throwing  
Clay on the Wall

Beg, Inter, Adv Slip Casting  
Surface Matters

Beg, Inter, Adv Handbuilding  
Handbuilding: Functional  
Ceramics Major Studio

## Notable Alumni

**Henry Crissman,** Co-Founder of Ceramics School

**Virginia Torrence,** Co-Founder of Ceramics School, Studio Artist

**Emily LoPresto,** Mold Maker, Studio Artist

**Elysia Vandebussche,** Sole Proprietor of Elysia

**Karyn Pryor,** Group Manager Creative Sculpting at General Motors

**Hayden Allison Richer,** Ceramic Wet Shop Technician in the Making Center at Parsons New School, Studio Artist

## Clay Modeling

Ceramics students have the opportunity to take for credit clay modeling courses through Transportation Design and earn a Professional Automotive Modeling certificate.