



KILN FIRING



When and how work gets loaded is at the discretion of the technicians.

Firing Temperatures

Bisque Firings to cone 06 (1820°F)

This is the first firing in the ceramics process.

Glaze Firings to cone 6 (2169°F)

During this process the mid fire clay and glazes used in our shop are fully vitrified.

We are unable to accommodate any immediate firings that fall outside of our normal firing schedule or at an alternative temperature.

Timing

Bisque Firings and Glaze Firings are loaded weekly, on different days.

Once a kiln is loaded, it can take up to 48 hours to cool down and unload.

Due to the sheer volume of work coming out of this space we can not accommodate exceptions so please plan accordingly.

Check the notification board before asking.

When the work is **ready***, expect a **one-week**** turn-around for it to go into the kiln

For Specifics, please refer to our the updated schedule posted in the shop, and on our google calendar.

*Work must be **ready to fire**. See the Rejected Works Policy for detail.

**Larger works (over 12 inches in any direction) may take longer

About Loading the Kiln...

Considerations when loading:

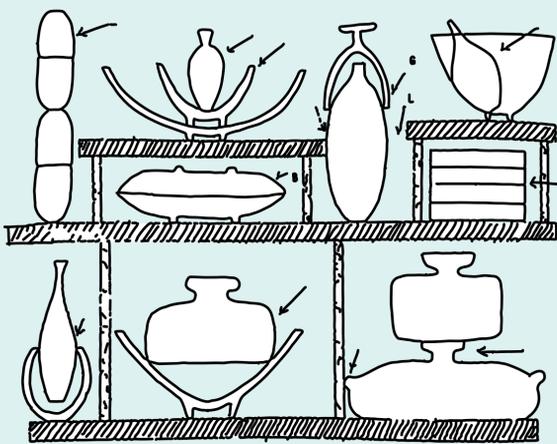
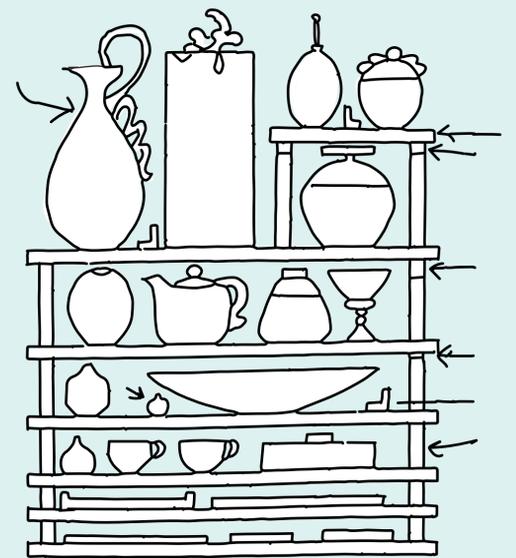
When loading a kiln, we aim to get as much work into the firing as we can while making sure that whatever we load is ready and safe for the fire, in order to protect our equipment, along with everyone else's work. In doing so, we are aiming for fairness and safety for all students, and are unable to prioritize any singular project.

Please understand that kiln loading is very impersonal, many times work is left out simply because it did not fit efficiently enough with the other pieces on the shelf.

Loading a kiln is a lot like assembling a puzzle. Spatial considerations are made based on the size of the kiln and the shape of each piece on the shelf, in order to maximize the amount of usable kiln space for each firing.

When a tech is loading or unloading a kiln, please do not interrupt them for any reasons.

Loading the kilns is a delicate, and physically taxing process. It can take hours, and requires expertise and concentration during which time the kiln room will usually be locked. Do not disrupt the technicians or enter/ attempt to enter the Kiln room unless it is a true emergency.



Where and How to leave work for firings

If you are in a class:

Your work should go on your own class's shelf inside (indicated by your professor's name), located inside of the kiln room. If there is no more space on your class shelf, please leave it on the overflow shelf with a note indicating what class you are in, and the date. *If you are confused, please ask a tech.*

Do not leave your work on another class's shelf.

If you are NOT in a ceramics class

Please leave your work on the rolling carts labeled "06 Bisque" or "Glaze" outside of the kiln room.

If the shelf is empty, please place your work towards the back.

This ensures that your work will not need to be moved or reached over by anyone to make space for more work.

Why wasn't my work included in the last firing?

It may not have been safe to fire.

Rejected Work: Anything that is damaged or unsafe to fire before loading will be placed on the reject shelf. Please check this shelf periodically for anything you made that may be missing. If you find your work there, please remove it from the shelf and either repair, reclaim, or safely dispose of it.

Before placing your work on the shelf to fire, check out the **Rejected Work Policy**, to make sure your piece doesn't fall under one of those categories, and to see what you can do to fix it.

The work is still wet:

Work going into the bisque firing must be in a "bone dry" state. This means that the piece is completely free of any moisture. The reason you can not put a wet piece into the kiln is because any water in the clay will begin to steam (at 212°F) which expands very rapidly and causes the clay to shatter, explode and/or crack. This can destroy the piece and the work around it. It can also damage the soft kiln brick, the elements (those metal heat coils), affecting future firings.

Your piece was too big to fit, this time around.

Larger works (over 12 inches in any direction) can be difficult to load efficiently in every kiln. Long, wide, or flat works may only fit in specific kilns that have the shelf space to load them safely. The reason large works may take longer to load is because, bottom line: they take up a lot of space for just one student. **Timeline for larger works is two weeks per firing. Please plan accordingly.**

This particular firing was not meant for your work.

Sometimes, the kiln is reserved by professors for a special firing, outside of or in addition to our regularly scheduled firings. That specific firing may have been reserved for another class or special project, often at a temperature that would not suit your work.