

CERAMICS INSTRUCTORS & TECHNICIANS

The Arts Centre
Cedar Hill Recreation Centre



Melanie Bokvist

Melanie moved to Victoria from Northern BC in 2015 to study at UVic. In June 2020 she graduated with her Bachelor of Education with a focus on Art Education. During her time at UVic she had the opportunity to learn many forms of art, including ceramics. Art has always been one of the most important aspects of Melanie's life, and she spends a lot of her time researching and trying new art forms and techniques. Melanie spends her spare time exploring Vancouver Island and cooking/baking for her friends and family. Currently a teacher in School District 61 Melanie strives to motivate her students to create art and facilitates creative exploration and individuality within her classroom.



Katie Dey

Katie grew up in Scotland and studied Printmaking at DJCA in Dundee. After emigrating to Canada, she worked as a Master Printer and a Printmaking technician for many years. While working at a studio on Granville Island in Vancouver, she discovered ceramics after taking a class with Keith Lehman and was hooked. Since moving to Victoria in 2016 she has been a regular user and volunteer at the Cedar Hill ceramics studio as well as teaching occasional printmaking classes.



Suvy Johal

Suvy began working at the Pottery Studio at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill at the age of 16 when she was hired on as an intern (after years of learning about the magic of clay in kids and teen classes!). Nine years later she continues to work with beginners of all ages in learning the foundations of pottery. Discovering her love of teaching led her to becoming a classroom teacher and she now runs a pottery club with her students at school.





Celeste Kerridge

Celeste has been creating pottery for years now through the ceramics studio at Reynold's Secondary School, at Cedar Hill Rec and now in her own private studio. She especially loves working with kids and clay! Celeste has been with the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill since the summer of 2018 and is now leading family classes and seasonal pottery camps. She is very passionate about art and loves creating in the studio. Teaching pottery has become a huge part of her life and she hopes to do it for many years to come!



Derek Kasper

Derek Kasper was first introduced to ceramics and art via a romance with a potter at the University of Regina back in the early 1970's. Many fine teachers and many passionate students fanned his love for working with clay at Cedar Hill where he now offers the occasional class as an official "teacher" in the ceramics studio.

Workshops at Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts and through the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild have honed his skills and deepened his knowledge of the technical aspects of creating large ceramic work.

He has been part of many local shows and has received awards for his work over the last several years, such as the Award of Excellence at the Sooke Fine Arts Show in 2014.

His latest forms have been inspired by thoughts of cosmic forces spiraling out from the origins of the universe, of space and time. Ideas being flung out from the centre, trajectories somewhat uncertain, but governed by gravity and the desire to break free, sometimes in equal measure.

He recently noted that throughout his creative life he has been fascinated by the idea of combining and re-combining a single shape to make something entirely different. Texture and shadow and the interplay of light over surfaces to first hide, and then reveal, meaning, are of great interest to him and will no doubt be key elements in works that are fairly jostling to be made. Derek is currently represented by the Avenue Gallery on Oak Bay Avenue, where some larger works are available. He sells his work at various shows during the year, such as the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild show and sale in June, and the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill show in November.



Mary Loria

Mary Loria has been a practicing potter for over 20 years. After completing a BA in art history, she studied ceramics at Emily Carr University. Mary has been teaching children and adults since 2009 including classes at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and in private studios. She began teaching at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill in 2016. You can also find Mary selling her work at outdoor mar



Marita Manson

Marita Manson is an artist, educator and technician in the field of ceramics. Marita holds a BSc from the University of Victoria and studied ceramics at the University of Victoria, the Kootenay School of the Arts, and the Reykjavik School of Visual Arts in Iceland. Marita's work has been shown in galleries both locally and internationally, and in 2018 she was a finalist for the Salt Spring Island Ceramics Awards. She is fascinated with pop culture and human activity, and her personal body of work features functional and sculptural work focused on the anthropocene, which she creates out of her studio in Rock Bay. In 2020 Marita co-founded the Victoria Mud League, an organization dedicated to showcasing and connecting local ceramic artists, and is passionate about facilitating events and sharing knowledge. Marita has taught locally at Hands on Pottery, and worked as the student ceramics technician at the Kootenay School of the Arts prior to accepting her current position at Cedar Hill Art Centre.

When not working with clay, Marita is a vocal advocate and participator in the local arts community. She has sung with the Vox Humana Chamber Choir since 2010, regularly appearing with the Victoria Symphony, and was a founding member of the Vancouver Island Chamber Choir. Marita has been an active member of the board of directors for the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA) since 2019.



Renée Sala

Renée is an Arts educator & administrator. Her work involves facilitating Arts-related projects in schools, planning, programming and supervising community-based Arts programs, and creating opportunities for employment in the Arts to creative youth, professional artists and educators. She has literally grown up in a pottery studio, and ceramics has almost always been a part of her life. She has worked as the Program Technician at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill for three years, and enjoys the work of planning all of the exciting things happening in the studio...along with loading a kiln here and there! Renée is an avid gardener, endless project-maker, mom of a busy and brilliant 5 year old boy, and daughter of painters, potters and builders. Her life's goal is to provide art experiences to as many people as she possibly can.



Caleb Speller

Caleb lives in a constant state of exploratory study. He finds inspiration in every bit of imperfect human endeavour. He hopes to inspire and make art that simplifies the hardest of life's many questions.



Faro Sullivan

Faro has been working with clay since 1996. She maintains her own studio practice, while also working as an instructional technologist for the Visual Arts Program at Camosun College and a technician/instructor at the Pottery Studio at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, both in Victoria BC. She also travels around Vancouver Island and Western Canada teaching ceramic workshops on a variety of topics. Her studio work is mainly functional, brightly coloured and highly decorated slipware. She has a passion for creating as well as sharing her skills with those willing to be playful and really get dirty.