



Armory Instructor Profile – Pamela Humphrey

In first grade Pamela Humphrey created a clay pinch pot and from that point on she was hooked on pottery. It was kind of a funny piece, and she didn't know exactly what to make, so they called it an ash tray...although she didn't know what an ash tray was back then. That "funny little" pinch pot is still used as a spoon rest in her kitchen today.

Pamela studied all over the United States. She began in Colorado at a community college, attended Palm Beach State College and then the University of Hartford. She loved the ceramics department at University of Hartford, which boasted several electric kilns, a soda kiln, a salt kiln, and a wood kiln.

Pamela loves the wonderful support of the staff, fellow teachers, and students at the Armory Art Center. She's met so many talented artists here and can feel the intensity of creativity every day in the ceramic studio. She feels the Armory It is a fabulous place to create art.

To this day Pamela still gets flush and her pulse races when she makes a sale. The transaction validates that she's connected with another person through her work. It was when Pamela began selling her work that she first felt that she could call herself an artist.

The most important technical skill that Pamela imparts to her students is learning how to control the clay while using the potter's wheel to create work. She strives to instill a basic skill set that will ensure success as they begin their journey of clay creations. The motor skills needed for the potter's wheel are far from intuitive. By breaking down the throwing process into steps and encouraging students to get into the studio and practice, Pamela can help them develop the basics into a set of skills that work for them.

In addition to teaching the important technical skills, Pamela also wants her students to learn all the various ways to finish a piece, surface treatments, glazing methods, colors, and forms. She warns her students that art can be a wonderful and challenging hobby, but if you're not careful, it will be in your thoughts all the time.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Norton Museum of Art are two places that Pamela enjoys viewing art, along with other studios and local galleries and of course our very own galleries and store at the Armory Art Center. Her favorite well-known artist is Hideaki Miyamura, a Japanese-born American potter working in New Hampshire. Miyamura is best known for his unique iridescent glazes, including a compelling gold glaze, the "starry night" glaze on a black background, and a blue hare's fur glaze.

Pamela enjoys creating art and sharing her knowledge, but she doesn't truly feel her pieces are finished until they find a home. You can purchase Pamela's pieces in the Armory Art Center

store and on Instagram @pamelahumphrey61. She also exhibits at local art shows such as the Juno Beach Arts Fest and the January show at the Armory.

When not teaching or creating art, Pamela can be found enjoying the ocean and spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys outdoor activities such as golfing, kayaking and hiking.

– Contributed by Denise Mariani
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