

GUIDELINES FOR POTENTIAL VISITING POTTERS

If you are thinking of applying to be a Visiting Potter at the Potters Guild, there are a number of areas of technical proficiency that are important in the evaluation of your work. In addition, artistic promise, interest, passion, available time, progress, experience and the ability to work in a cooperative environment are other qualities important to the Guild.

The Visiting Potter program is an opportunity to further your educational goals. It is possible to be a Visiting Potter for a maximum of two years. For each appointment, an application and show of your work is required.

Acceptance into the Visiting Potter program is not a guarantee of eventual membership in the Potters Guild. It is an opportunity for you to become more self sufficient as a potter. In this program you will have the opportunity and responsibility to learn about making clay and glazes, stacking and firing kilns, and other tasks associated with pottery production.

Pottery Skills

Technical Proficiency: throwing, and hand building

Your pieces should have walls of even and appropriate thickness throughout. The pot should feel evenly weighted and have a weight appropriate to its design and intended use. The pot should stand firmly. Lids should fit correctly and be appropriate to the form for which they are made.

Form and Shape of the Pot

Forms should be balanced and of pleasing proportions. The form should relate to the function of the pot. The applicant should show that he or she can make pots in a variety of heights and sizes. At least one pot should be 10" or taller. Pots should show some sophistication in the handling of clay and the technique of construction.

Finishing (Feet and Attachments, rims etc.)

Pots should show attention to finish and detail. They should have rims and feet appropriate to the size, weight and use of the piece. They should also have a clean foot, smooth joints and edges and a well-finished rim. Handles should be attached securely, be well balanced, relate to the form of the pot and be sturdy enough to hold a filled vessel. There should be no S cracks or other drying cracks. The foot ring should be situated appropriately for the shape and weight of the pot.

Glazing Skill

The glaze application should demonstrate control of the technique used and be appropriate to the function of the pot and to your aesthetic intention.

Suitability of Decoration

The surface treatment of the pot should suit the pot and its intended use whether utilitarian or sculptural. If the pot has more than one glaze they should compliment each other in terms of surface and value and enhance the form.

Interest and Appeal

The work should show creativity and originality.