

## **Raku Firing**

with David Newquist

Traditional Raku firing is an ancient Japanese pottery technique that emphasizes spontaneity and natural beauty. Bisque pottery is quickly heated to high temperatures in a kiln, then removed while still glowing hot. The pieces are placed in combustible materials, such as sawdust or paper, creating a reduction atmosphere that produces unique and unpredictable patterns of crackles, colors, and metallic effects. The rapid cooling process adds to the distinct aesthetic, resulting in one-of-a-kind pieces that reflect the harmony between fire, earth, and the artist's hand.

### **Requirements:**

We will do a traditional Raku firing. You may bring or purchase at the firing, up to 2 bisque pieces. The pots must be no larger than 10" h x 6" w for the firing, and no smaller than 2" h x 2" w. Any clay may be used, but clay specifically formulated for raku firing (Soldate 60) has a better chance of surviving the thermal shock. We make no guarantees as to the success or survival of pieces through the process as no process in the ceramic arts are foolproof.

Three traditional glazes will be provided, clear crackle, luster and Dan's blue. The glazes look best on white clay. You are welcome to pre-decorate your pot with underglazes, wax/tape/stickers or oxides before arriving.

All participants will be required to sign a release before participating in firing. Participants must be over 18 or accompanied by a paid adult. Please wear natural fiber clothing, long pants and closed-toe shoes. Long hair should be pulled back.

Previous ceramic experience not required but helpful.

### **Where:**

Tin Barn Pottery  
6242 Lee Street  
The Plains, VA 20198

\*There are two locations for Tin Barn Pottery, the firing will take place at the location in The Plains *not* Manassas.

### **Date and Time:**

Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

### **Cost:**

\$75 bring your own pot (limit 2), please see above instructions for size limit  
Additional \$10 per pot if purchased at the event

### **Supplies:**

Raku glazes will be provided  
You may bring stencils, tape and resists of your choice  
Chair, lunch, water

[David Newquist Biography](#)

David's life started out normally enough. He arrived on Planet Earth in the early 1960's. DC Suburbs. Good parents. Predictable enough upbringing until he picked up a joint and a skateboard and proceeded down the alley of heavy metal and hard knocks. He was 16. The rebel was born.

With torn Levi's, fouled leathers, and more than his share of back-alley moments, he chain-smoked his way to a high school diploma. The US Army was an option, and he was thrust into the 3rd Infantry Division, training at Fort Benning and stationed in Germany.

Along the way, he met up with more than his share of women, two of whom would become his wives. They produced two children, of whom David's still proud, but found that the most heart-pumping part of life took place on a motorcycle.

He began to ride with biker gangs, just tagging along at first. But he loved the brotherhood, the ritual, the magnified masculinity, and power. Sex and drugs only added to the luster.

He joined a gang in Florida where his motto was to go fast, never let them see you coming and never let them forget you came.

The wild ride worked until it didn't; he lost everything he had, except those two kids and his humanity. He slunk back to his Virginia hometown (population 292 then and now) where he was able to lick his wounds, help with the family business and hang out, hassle free.

And then he found clay. His mother was a potter and had a small shop at the back of their home. Her artistry drew him in and before long, he was sculpting on his own. Some potters relate to free form, but David was immediately drawn to precision and hard edges. His chaotic history and troubled past flowed through his fingers and began to create beautifully rendered, precise works of art.

With each spirit box and teapot David sculpts, he pushes the boundaries of traditional pottery. His process utilizes slab rolling and intricate assembly of geometric objects in a manner that channels energy, beauty, and spirituality.

David has a studio and gallery in The Plains, Virginia, where he creates and sells his hand built ceramic art. He teaches and runs raku firings at the Workhouse in Lorton, Virginia and assists at Youngblood Art Studio, also in The Plains.

[IG: Nuke Art Gallery](#)