



2021 TESTIMONIALS:

What Emeritus Students are Saying About Online Ceramics Classes

"Initially, I was skeptical about an online, hand-building ceramics class, but Scott Young's comprehensive videos and live demonstrations were easy to follow and resulted in successful finished products. The variety of projects and techniques presented in class have given me a good foundation on which to further develop my own personal work in ceramics."

-- Karen Kaysing

"With the pandemic limiting the choices for seniors to participate in, I have been very lucky to have the ceramics program on ConferZoom to help me stay connected. Scott Young has worked with us, showing us how to use air-dried clay to stimulate our creative juices. It gives us something to look forward to. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the classes."

-- Lorna Strathearn

"Unfortunately, when Covid-19 pandemic hit during spring break, we were not able to return to the ceramic studio. I was disappointed but learned that Susan [Elizalde Henson] would be teaching online classes. I was not sure how this would work without a studio but Susan made the transition easy and I have learned so much that I may have not learned in class. I have ADD and have always struggled with learning and her knowledge, teaching style and positive attitude has helped me grow in so many ways. I have never felt that I was that good at art nor ceramics and Susan helped me find my own artistic style and her knowledge of ceramics has pushed me to a new level of confidence. I can hardly wait to get back in the studio and put all the techniques she has taught us to use. I will always seek out classes that Susan is teaching because she is an asset in my life."

-- Teri Adams

"I have taken three ceramics classes via zoom. While it is not the same as being in the classroom or studio they have been a great alternative. The classes have been well-organized and well-presented with YouTube demonstrations to aid in visualizing the steps on how to approach a variety of projects. The projects themselves have been challenging enough to keep me motivated. And having the classes recorded has been invaluable to be able to review what was discussed in class and/or in instances when I had a schedule conflict."

-- Sanford Lewis

"Saddleback College's Emeritus ceramics classes have enriched my life in ways that are hard to put into words. In a word, they mean everything to me. They are such an integral part of my life, and in that respect, I know that I am not the only one who feels that way. My heartfelt thanks to Saddleback College administrators, teachers, President Stern, and everyone who helps to make these classes possible, even during this on-going pandemic."

-- Pam Houseknecht



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"I started taking classes from Susan Elizalde-Henson several years before the pandemic and she has taught me so much. I now consider myself a potter...both in ceramics and slip-casting.

With the pandemic, it became extremely difficult to address the intricacies of a hands-on class such as slip-casting or hand building or the wheel.... but Susan has worked very hard to keep the classes interesting and informative online. While we are all missing the studio, we are learning many things that will serve us well when we can return to the classroom.

Susan teaches us about the logistics of firing our pieces and we learn about glazes, clay, brushes and equipment. I have been surprised with how interesting she has made the class and how she keeps coming up with new angles to present. I know she must spend hours every week finding useful things to teach us. I look forward to each and every class."

-- Cynthia Schafer

"I think I'm among the lucky ones who benefit from the forethought, effort, and diligence of those who created and maintained a program that does so much good for so many. My ceramics instructor, Scott Young, impressed me when he shared his background in the art saying, 'When I touched the clay, the clay touched me and changed the direction of my life.' Now, his experience is helping me and my classmates find the skills to enjoy the creative process and the satisfaction of a tangible result. In a word, it just makes me happy... (and lucky)."

-- David Whittington

"I was very skeptical about enjoying this {Ceramics class} without being in the classroom, but it ended up being a great environment to learn even more than before. The advantage of being virtual is that first off Susan still found a way to show new things and engage her class. I was now able to hear other students' questions because we were all online together which expanded my learning even more. Although, I look forward to being back in the physical classroom I am thoroughly enjoying the benefits of learning and making new friends even through Zoom instruction. Susan has the definite gift of making learning fun. She creates and sustains a completely welcoming, comfortable and yet inspired atmosphere to expand and learn no matter the 'classroom' setting. She is such a gift to the Emeritus program."

-- Suzanne Banken

"As a student, I am blessed to have the best, knowledgeable and very patient teachers who are loving and caring to teach and show us the wonderful world of ceramics. Ceramic classes are not just for learning how to pour slip, handbuild or throw on the wheel; they stimulate and challenge our minds to think outside the box, to connect with teachers and fellow classmates, to brainstorm and to share ideas. The classes promote socialization, coordination between our mind and hands, and analytical thinking process in problem-solving. I look forward to every single class because I want to learn, to create, to share, and to reach out to others."

-- Villia Simpkins



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"Taking online ceramics classes really works. Great, highly skilled instructors will guide you along the way. I wondered how they would do it, but they can, and it works. I have taken three ceramics classes now online and not only enjoyed them, but learned new skills and had fun doing it. If you like working with your hands and creating new things while expanding your horizons, take these courses. You will have fun and grow with like-minded people - and in the end you will have some new treasures to admire, and if not treasures, at least something created by you, with your hands that are truly one of a kind!!!"

-- Trudi Baggs

"I have attended Susan Elizalde-Henson's ceramics slipcasting classes multiple semesters, both in-person at Clubhouse 4, and online virtual class sessions via confer-zoom. I received personal one-on-one advice as well as the instruction given to the class as a whole at the studio. Now, while in quarantine, I am learning about the styles of many ceramic artists. I am encouraged to share my work and ideas with the class. In return, I receive positive feedback and guidance. At this time of so much uncertainty and isolation, gathering with classmates online via zoom has kept my spirits up and my thirst for learning alive. It also has sparked my enthusiasm for all the art involved in designing ceramic pieces. My intellectual and emotional growth continue to thrive, thanks to Susan and the Emeritus program."

-- Vivian De Leon

"The Emeritus Ceramics program is an excellent program that provides both group and personalized instruction. It has stretched my creativity, improved my skill set with new techniques while inspiring me through exposure to professional artists working in clay. I would recommend the program if you enjoy a fun, creative learning environment or even if you just want to try something new."

-- Sheila Lundy

"It is an exciting experience to create something from a lump of clay. I learned a lot of techniques in this [Ceramics] class and actually made many works using them. I am very attached to all my works. The class is very organized and Scott's demonstration is very clear to know what I should do. Touching the clay makes me relaxed and heals me. I found it very good for mental health, especially in this pandemic. It keeps me focused on making something and away from thinking a lot of things like worries. I recommend this class for ESL students like me also."

-- Hitomi Mizuno