

**Clay Forms: Restorative Table Justice**  
**January Term, 2009**  
**Ann Laird Jones, Women's Center Artist in Residence 2009**  
**Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

**Course Description:** This class will use the integration of arts and theology through pottery to deepen our understanding of Sacramental Theology, particularly as we examine justice issues of who is welcome around the Table and who is excluded, through the process of creative, artistic expression and engagement. We will engage with theological and biblical texts through clay. Each participant in the class will make their own set of ceramic Eucharistic vessels: chalice, paten, baptismal bowl and pitcher. Students will learn throwing, hand building, glazing and firing techniques, with plenty of open studio time for creative endeavor and personal discernment. Potters wheels, hand building tables, tools and clay will be provided as part of the course. The class will actually lead clay workshops at three Louisville churches: Anchorage Presbyterian Church, Central Presbyterian Church and Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, and the communities with whom they engage in ministry. We will visit two local pottery ministries and discuss pottery as a tool/process for ministry and theological engagement. Finally, we will create clay vessels for our own seminary community to use in worship and celebration of the Eucharist.

**Objectives:**

- ~To consider our understanding of sacramental theology as artist/theologians, and to reflect on the relationship between theology of the Table and restorative justice, through artistic expression;
- ~To complete a ceramic chalice, paten, pitcher and baptismal bowl for your own ministry, learning to use the potters wheel, as well as hand building, slab, texturing and altering techniques, glazing and firing kilns;
- ~To complete a written journal reflecting readings, class presentations, questions, evaluation of each of the three workshops and particular clay projects, articulation of your understanding of the relationship between theology and the arts through your work with clay, and ways you might use pottery/arts in your ministry;
- ~To write three short papers (1000 – 1500 words) on three assigned texts: Kapikian, Richards, Hall/Calvin;
- ~To be present for each class and for each of the three Saturday workshops, helping to set up, lead and cleanup, as we engage with different communities through engagement with the arts through clay;
- ~To participate in creating sets of communion vessels for the LPTS community, to be presented in worship at the end of the January term.

**Means of Evaluation:**

Students will be expected to be present in each class, (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9-12) and for each of three Saturday workshops, (8-12) helping to set up, lead and clean up each workshop. Open studio times (afternoons) are optional, but you will want and need this time to finish projects. Final assessment will be based on the written Journal, a finished set of ceramic chalice, paten, bowl and pitcher, participation in class and workshops, and three short papers on required readings by Kapikian, Richards, Hall/Calvin. These papers will be turned in, one at a time, each Tuesday. There is no exam.

Thirty percent of the grade will be based on the finished chalice, paten, baptismal bowl and pitcher. Each piece will be accompanied by an artist's statement (brief but concise!) about the process used to create a visual artistic form reflecting cognitive and visual engagement with specific theological and biblical texts.

Thirty percent of the evaluation will be based on participation in the three Saturday workshops which we will be leading in three local churches: Anchorage Presbyterian Church and tour of Trinity Presbyterian Church pottery ministry (1/10/09), Central Presbyterian Church (1/17/09) and Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church (1/24/09).

Twenty-five percent of the evaluation will be based on a journal to be turned in no later than the final day of class, reflecting articulation of each day's presentation and creative process, evaluation of each workshop, and reflection of the process of creating your own pottery vessels as well as communion vessels for the seminary chapel.

Fifteen percent of the evaluation will be based on completion of three short papers (1000-1500 words) on three assigned texts: Kapikian, Richards, Hall/Calvin. These will be turned in, one per week, on Tuesday morning. (We will not be meeting on Mondays, which gives you time to read, reflect and write!)

**Schedule: January 6-24, 2009:**

Class times: 9-12 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. (We will break for Chapel as it is scheduled);

Open Studio times: 2-5 Tues, Wed. Thurs.; 7-9 Thursday evening;

Workshop times: 8-12 each Saturday. January 10: Anchorage Presbyterian Church; January 17: Central Presbyterian Church; January 24: Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church. (Note: On January 10 we will tour the Clay Ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church following the workshop at Anchorage Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be provided. Please plan to stay until 2:00 p.m.)

**Class Outline:****I. Shaping the Vessel: Form and Function, January 6-10, 2009**

- 1/6/09 “Cup, Form and Function: Defining Sacrament;” Throwing the bowl on the wheel;
- 1/7/09 “Byzantine Chalice Forms: Riha Paten, and St. Bogorodica Perivlepta Painting of the Last Supper;” Throwing the plate on the wheel; Clay Word plaques;
- 1/8/09 “Creativity and Imagination: *Imago Dei*;” Putting the Chalice together;
- 1/9/09 “Symbolism: Action and Exchange;” Meet with Rev. Andrew Miller to hear about Anchorage Presbyterian Church and Bellwood Home for Children;
- 1/10/09 Workshop: Meet at 8:00 to head out to Anchorage Presbyterian Church; (lunch provided at APC) followed by tour of Pottery/Clay Ministry with Director Candy Wheat at Trinity Presbyterian Church; plan to stay until 2:00.

**II. Remembering the Vessel: Altering and Rebuilding, January 13-17, 2009**

- 1/13/09 “Theology Illumined by the Arts: Knowing;” Creating the Pitcher, with demonstration of Trimming and Handles;
- 1/14/09 “Arts Illumined by Theology”: Shaping Presence;” Throwing the baptismal bowl;
- 1/15/09 “Revelatory Presence: Shaping of Voice;” “Participatory Aesthetics;” Building forms and texture; Film: *Rivers and Tides: Working With Time*, by Artist Andy Goldsworthy, using found objects from nature.
- 1/16/09 “Maybe John Calvin Really Wanted to be a Potter: Defining Church;” Meet with Rev. Ann Deibert to hear about Central Presbyterian Church and neighborhood ministries;
- 1/17/09 Workshop: Meet at 8:00 to load up and leave for Central Presbyterian Church; return to campus by 12:30.

**III. Restoring the Vessel: Transformation for Justice, January 20-24, 2009**

- 1/ 20/09 Film: “The Fire Within” by M.C. Richards; Open Studio time to work on your projects;
- 1/21/09 “Restoration of Voice through Tactile Knowing at Table: Altering the Form;” Gesture clay sculptures;
- 1/22/09 Transformation of the Body; Glaze pots and load kilns (Meet at 8:30 to drive to Marilyn Jones’ pottery studio, 2910 Riedling Dr., to glaze your pottery and load the kiln, 9-Noon);
- 1/23/09 “Eucharistic Presence;” Meet with Rev. Jane Larsen Wigger to hear about Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church and their ministry with the Guatemalan and Hispanic communities; Gather around Table for celebration of the Holy Eucharist;
- 1/24/09 Workshop: Meet at 8:00 to go to Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church (Possibly to be held on Friday evening depending on the church’s schedule).

**Required Reading:**

- Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion: Volume 2*, (Sacraments)  
 Hall, Douglas John. *Thinking the Faith: Christian Theology in a North American Context*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991. (Chapters 4 and 5)  
 Kapikian, Catherine. *Art in the Service of the Sacred*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.  
 Richards, Mary Caroline. *Centering*. Middleton, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1962.  
 (Note: Additional readings will be placed on Blackboard, reflecting specific writings by and about potters and artists, as well as theologians.)

**Additional Resources:**

*(As you continue the conversation and build your own library!)*

- Adams, Ann Parsons. *The Advent of Visual Arts in Worship: A Ministry Tool for Today's Worship Planner*. Washington, DC: Wesley Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry Project Paper, 2007.  
 Atkins, Peter. *Memory and Liturgy*. Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing, 2004.  
 Baumgarten, Barbara Dee Bennett. *Visual Art as Theology*. New York: Peter Lang, 1994.  
 Becks-Malorny, Ulrike. *Wassily Kandinsky, 1866-1944: The Journey to Abstraction*. Koln: Taschen, 2007.  
 Begbie, Jeremy S. *Voicing Creation's Praise: Towards a Theology of the Arts*. Edinburgh: Harper Collins Publishers, 1991.  
 Berensohn, Paulus. *Finding One's Way With Clay*. Dallas, TX: Biscuit Books, Inc., 1992.  
 Brown, Bruce Burch. *Good Taste, Bad Taste, and Christian Taste*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.  
 Brown, Bruce Burch. *Religious Aesthetics: A Theological Study of Making and Meaning*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1989.  
 Bruggink, Donald J. and Carl. H. Droppers. *Christ and Architecture: Building Presbyterian and Reformed Churches*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1965.  
 Buber, Martin. Translated by Walter Kaufmann. *I and Thou*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970.  
 Chinn, Nancy. *Spaces for Spirit: Adorning the Church*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1998.  
 Clark, Garith. *Michael Cardew: An Intimate Account of a Potter Who Has Captured the Spirit of Country Craft*. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1976.  
 Coyne, John, Editor. *The Penland School of Crafts: Book of Pottery*. New York: Rutledge Books, 1975.  
 Dix, Dom Gregory. *The Shape of the Liturgy*. London: Dacre Press, Addam and Charles Black, 1945.  
 Duberman, Martin. *Black Mountain: An Exploration in Community*. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc, 1972.  
 Eco, Umberto, translated by Hugh Bredin. *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986.

- Edwards, Cliff. *Van Gogh and God: A Creative Spiritual Quest*. Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1989.
- Erickson, Craig Douglas. *Sacramental Theology Among American Presbyterians: 1945-1979. A Dissertation submitted to the Graduate School of the University of Notre Dame in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy*. South Bend, Indiana: University of Notre Dame, 1982.
- Farley, Edward. *Faith and Beauty: A Theological Aesthetic*. Aldershot, England: Ashgate, 2001.
- Gerrish, B.A. *Grace and Gratitude: The Eucharistic Theology of John Calvin*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Graetz, H.R. *The Symbolic Language of Vincent Van Gogh*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc, 1963.
- Harries, Richard. *Art and the Beauty of God: A Christian Understanding*. New York: Mowbray, 1993.
- Homiletics Online. "Homiletics Interview: Catherine Kapikian and Laura Wyke." Available from <http://www.homileticonline.com>. Internet; accessed 3/21/2008.
- Kandinsky, Wassily. *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*, translated with an Introduction by M.T.H. Sadler. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1977.
- Kane, Richard, Producer. *M. C. Richards: The Fire Within* (film). Kane-Lewis Productions, 2003.
- Kerr, Hugh, Editor. *A Compend of the Institutes of the Christian Religion by John Calvin*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1964.
- L'Engle, Madeleine. *Ladder of Angels: Stories from the Bible Illustrated by Children of the World*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979.
- Lane, Mervin. *Black Mountain College: Sprouted Seeds; An Anthology of Personal Accounts*. Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press, 1990.
- Migliore, Daniel L. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004 (Second Edition).
- Monti, Anthony. *A Natural Theology of the Arts*. Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd, 2003.
- Newell, J. Philip. *Celtic Prayers from Iona*. New York: Paulist Press, 1997.
- Nichols, Aiden. *The Art of God Incarnate*. New York: Paulist Press, 1980.
- Palmer, Michael F. *Paul Tillich's Philosophy of Art*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1984.
- Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. New York, Dell Yearling, 2001.
- Pattison, George. *Art, Modernity and Faith: Towards a Theology of Art*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991.
- Peterson, Susan. *Shoji Hamada: A Potter's Way and Work*. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc., 1974.
- Polanyi, Michael. *Knowing and Being: Essays by Michael Polanyi*, Edited by Marjorie Greene. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969.
- Polanyi, M. *Personal Knowledge*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1958.
- Polanyi, Michael. *Personal Knowledge: Toward a Post-critical Philosophy*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1958.
- Polanyi, M. and Prosch, H. *Meaning*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1975.

- Polanyi, Michael. *The Tacit Dimension*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1966.
- Richards, Mary Caroline. "Excerpts from 'Black Mountain College: A Golden Seed' from *Black Mountain College: Sprouted Seeds*, edited by Mervin Lane. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1990.
- Richards, Mary Caroline. *Opening Our Moral Eye: Essays, Talks and Poems, Embracing Creativity and Community*. Hudson, NY: Lindesfarne Press, 1996.
- Richards, Mary Caroline. *The Crossing Point: Selected Talks and Writing*. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1966.
- Schillebeeckz, Edward. *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God*. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1963.
- Stone, Karen. *Image and Spirit: Finding Meaning in Visual Art*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Books, 2003.
- Tillich, Paul. *A History of Christian Thought*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Paul Tillich, 1956.
- Tillich, Paul. *On Art and Architecture*, Introduction by John Dillenberger, in collaboration with Jane Dillenberger. New York: Crossroad, 1987.
- Tillich, Paul. *The Dynamics of Faith*. New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1958.
- Tillich, Paul. *Systematic Theology: Three Volumes in One*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Congress, 1967.
- Tillich, Paul. *Theology of Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.
- Torrance, T.F. *Space, Time and Resurrection*. T. & T. Edinburgh: Clark, 1976.
- Viladesau, Richard. *Theological Aesthetics: God in Imagination, Beauty, and Art*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Walton, Kendall L. "Are Representations Symbols?" in *Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art---The Analytic Tradition: An Anthology*, edited by Peter Lamarque and Stein Haugom Olsen. New York: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.
- Watts, W.W. *Catalogue of Chalices and Other Communion Vessels*. London: Victoria and Albert Museum, 1922.
- Williams, Brian A. *The Potter's Rib: Mentoring for Pastoral Formation*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Regent College Publishing, 2005.
- Williams, Rowan. *Grace and Necessity*. London: Morehouse, 2005.