

Higher Diploma Evaluation

Revised November 2012

Evaluation

Evaluation for becoming a Certified Senior Instructor requires the submission of 3 projects. Only those students who pass the criteria of the assessment will be eligible to register as an Art Clay World UK Certified Senior Instructor or Higher Diploma holder.

Requirements for the evaluation

You need to make a total of 3 different projects that fulfill each requirement as listed below. Any additional techniques and materials may be included, but will not necessarily be marked for those additions. ***The Educational Distributors will focus on the originality and creativity in the design as well as the applied skills displayed within the required elements when judging the submitted projects.***

Please note that all pieces must be made and designed entirely by you **after** successfully completing the Level 2 class - items made during the course under the teacher's supervision are absolutely unacceptable.

Final Assignment

You need to submit 3 original pieces of Art Clay Silver (ring, pendant and brooch) applying the following criteria rigidly. You have 3 months (90 days) from the successful completion of your level two course to submit your assessment pieces. The time scale is put in place to help give you focus but if you need additional time this can be granted in exceptional circumstances.

The pieces will need to fulfill the following criteria:-

Assignment 1 - RING

The finished ring must be in a UK size N or equivalent.

This evaluates...

Your understanding of the shrinkage and ring sizing including the repairing method if the ring was the wrong size after firing.

Ring band must be made using a rope of clay, to a "D" shaped cross section or profile.

This evaluates...

The skill of making a lump of clay into a rope shape which is a basic skill for working with Art Clay. It also checks if the applicant can create the ring design by using the clay rope method. Please note that the rope should be formed, shaped and sanded into a proper ring shape, the cross section or profile of the ring shank to have a "D" shape to ensure comfort. Full details of this method are laid out in the Level 2 course, wavy ring project, specifically in the Supplementary notes given to you by your instructor.

Check the symmetry of the "D" profile ring band with a flat inner edge and the rounded outer edge thinner at the bottom than the top, from both angles, from the face to sideways on.

One or more faceted synthetic stones must be set level and securely into the ring

This evaluates...

The skill of stone setting into the clay.

The stone must be set and fired directly into the clay. Do not use a bezel or claw setting to mount the stone.

The stone must be a faceted stone - not a cabochon.

Use the correct size drill burr to drill a hole to correspond to the size of the stone.

The whole girdle of the stone to be held securely in the main body of the ring, with the table of the stone level with the surface of the ring.

Consider the proportions of the ring with the size of the stone/ stones being used.

As a minimum you should set one 4mm faceted gem stone.

Grooved design must be shown

This evaluates...

The skill of controlling a file to create straight or curved lines as a design. Use the appropriate hand files or tools to achieve this.

These grooved lines should be of strong definition, show purpose and intent and should be incorporated into the overall creative design. They should have an adequate depth to them to take full advantage of the oxidation.

Oxidization must be applied to the piece

This evaluates...

Your skill and knowledge in making and using an oxidizing solution and the treatment of the surface both before and after the application of the solution.

Finish

The finished ring must be seamless and flawless with NO visible join inside or out, no dinks, scratches or blemishes. Polish the whole piece to a high shine mirror finish inside and out.

Assignment 2 PENDANT

Natural stone must be set in a bezel made with fine silver flat wire

This evaluates...

The skill and knowledge of natural stone setting using pure flat fine silver bezel wire with a rub over setting.

Connect the edges of the bezel wire ensuring a seamless join. There should be no visible seam in evidence.

Pure silver flat screw eye or bail back must be attached for findings

This evaluates...

Attaching and correctly positioning the Art Clay exclusive findings for the pendant.

The legs of a bail back need to be embedded or neatly attached onto the back of the pendant.

Mirror finishing must be achieved

This evaluates...

The ability to achieve a mirror finish.

Incorporated within the design, at least 40% of the pendant's front facing surface should be a high mirror finish. Burnishing is not sufficient for this process - proper sanding and polishing is required.

Finding and chain must be attached

This evaluates...

Your ability to choose an appropriate chain or cord and attach it correctly. The chain or cord should complement the design of the piece. Please state if this is for a left or right handed person to wear.

Assignment 3 BROOCH**Both Clay and Syringe type must be used**

This evaluates...

The ability to design and create a brooch using different types of clay materials. Either Art Clay 650 or Original series can be used. Both lump clay and syringe type should be used in the design.

Art Clay exclusive brooch screw-in type findings must be used

This evaluates...

The skill to attach the screw-in brooch findings in the proper position and the understanding of clay shrinkage.

The pin length should be adjusted appropriately and the brooch should fasten correctly for a left or right handed person – please state whether the brooch has a left or right handed fastening.

Use the technique of flattening the clay

This evaluates...

The ability to roll out the clay to a consistent thickness. Part of the design should include Clay sheet, rolled to a consistent thickness which is one of the basic techniques.

Make open-work with Syringe lines

This evaluates...

The skill to make open-work designs with syringe lines which is one of the features of using syringe type. The syringe detail should show skill and control with a syringe. It should go beyond the random squiggles achieved during the level one and level two certification course.

Submission of Assessment pieces

The applicant must:-

- a. Design and make three pieces of original work (ring, brooch and pendant) to the required specification following successful completion of the level 2 course.
- b. Submit the Assessment Presentation sheet
- c. Submit confirmation of ownership (or access to) a programmable kiln
- d. Enclose a cheque for £20.00 to cover the inspection and registration fee. Cheques should be made payable to **Metal Clay Ltd.**
- e. Enclose an individual printed photograph of each of your three submitted assessment pieces. These photographs will be retained by the Distributors as a record of your work. Put your name on the back of each photograph.

* *The UK Art Clay Educational Distributors will evaluate the pieces and judge whether they pass the inspection. Pieces will be assessed by two or more Senior*

Instructors and it normally takes about 6-8 weeks for this process to be completed. Every effort will be made to process these as quickly as possible although in some circumstances this may take a little longer.

Passing the Inspection

1. Creative Glass UK will mail back a copy of the evaluation, the 3 pieces of work, a letter of acceptance to the applicant and the Certificate.

Failing the Inspection

1. In the case of an applicant failing the inspection, Creative Glass UK will send back the assignment presentation sheet, which explains the reason for failing, along with the submitted item(s).
2. The applicant has the option of adjusting or remaking the failed piece(s). Pieces must then be resubmitted within 90 days with a £12 fee, regardless of the number of pieces being resubmitted.

Additional tips

Here are some tips for completing your assessment pieces. The assessment team mark strictly against the criteria. However, from the teams' experience and observations from marking, here are a few tips to help you on your road to becoming a senior Art Clay instructor.

If you are looking to go on to teach at the highest level of working with Art Clay you must be prepared to demonstrate **your highest level of skills in design, construction methods and techniques.**

TOP TIP NUMBER ONE: READ THE CRITERIA PROPERLY

Ring tips

- MUST have the Symmetrical "D" profile ring band, as set out in the Wavy ring project.
- Consider the proportions of the ring with the size of the stone/ stones being used, the stone should be part of the design.
- Carved lines must show clear intent and be purposeful. The carved lines should be part of the design.
- It's helpful to draw the carving and stone design on paper before you start carving.
- Draw the design onto the ring surface with a soft pencil. Drill the hole for the stone before you start carving so you know you have the correct placement but don't set the stone before carving as you risk scratching it.

Pendent

- If you intend to use textures, avoid using commercial texture plates. As you strive to show originality and creative design, create your own texture plates or use alternative texturing techniques.
- The pendent need not be flat, you can add shape and form, or layering
- When considering the design, is the stone the accent or a focal point? Does the colour of the stone enhance the design?
- The highest end mirror finish really should be mirror finish.
- The back of the pendant should be part of the overall design and should be finished appropriately.
- The bezel setting should be seamless and flawless and consistently neat all the way round. The seam can be joined with overlay or oil paste or other options could include soldering or fusing the edges of the wire together.

Brooch

- The brooch pin needs to be fitted correctly "Piggy tail down and snout out"
- It should be fitted the correct way round for a right or left handed person to wear.
- Secure with Epoxy glue. Trim the pin to the correct length and sharpen to a fine point using files and then sandpaper so it's completely smooth.
- The brooch pin needs to be vertically fitted or horizontally fitted and no more than 1/3 of the way down the piece.
- Before you send anything, parcel them up properly with each piece

individually boxed. Check all the paperwork is included and that anything you send is sent via the Royal Mail special delivery service.

- Name your pieces.
- These pieces should “showboat” your skills and design abilities, so get your thinking caps on, your sketch books out and get creating your finest pieces. You can even include your design sketches and inspiration research if you want to.
- Each piece is tested for wearability, and function.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Aida will be announcing a new curriculum on 1st November, with implementation on 1st January 2013.

Until then the existing curriculum should be adhered to. The Art Clay UK Guild has ceased running Art Clay World UK and therefore, should no longer be contacted for these matters. Instead, custodianship of all related curriculum matters will pass to Aida’s UK Educational Distributors; Creative Glass UK and Metal Clay Ltd.

Therefore, upon completion of your assessment pieces, you should post them and all relative documentation to:

Petra Cameron Wennberg
Metal Clay Ltd
27 West Street
Corfe Castle
BH20 5HA

After initial assessment, they will be forwarded to:

Amanda Mires
Creative Glass UK
11/12 Sextant Park
Medway City Estate
Rochester
Kent ME2 4LU

Your pieces, together with your judgment, will be returned to you via courier or signed for Royal Mail from here.

NB. Please include a cheque for £20 made payable to ‘Metal Clay Ltd’ to cover administration costs. A fee of £12, per instance, will also be applicable for any resubmissions made thereafter.