

The Residency Application is OPEN!



The Bray Residency Program provides space, resources and time for artists to focus intensely on their craft, explore new ideas and techniques, and push their work to new levels.

[APPLY](#)

Applications are due by NOVEMBER 15, 2023. For 2024, up to five long-term residencies are available, each receiving a \$7,500 fellowship award. In addition, up to ten summer residencies may be available, each with a \$1,500 scholarship award. The application allows you to indicate your preference (long-term or summer) and whether you like to be considered for either or both residency types; you are not required to apply for both types.

Class Spotlight; Break the Mold: Sculpting Strange Figures

A truly awesome attribute of Education and Engagement at The Bray is our ability to offer unique classes from exceptional artist educators. While most of our fall session classes have filled, we still have seats left in one of our most intriguing classes offered. [Break The Mold: Sculpting Strange Figures](#) led by new long term Resident Artist and Bray Fellow [Sarah Alsaied](#) is sure to provide new perspective, understanding, and appreciation for the ceramic arts.

Join Sarah Monday evenings from 6-9 pm as she shares her extensive knowledge and background in clay

APPLICATION

The Bray residency application portal is [OPEN!](#) Apply by November 15.

HONOR ROLL

Thank you to all who supported The Bray in 2022! [View the Honor Roll here.](#)



CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

First Fire Artists Exhibition
July 27-Sept 30
Bray Pottery Gallery

Resident artist studios are open to the public during Sales Gallery hours.
Tuesday-Friday 11 am-5 pm
Saturday 12-4 pm

[DONATE TODAY](#)

HOURS

while guiding students through intriguing hand building techniques, plaster molds, and assemblage to create expressive and surreal sculptures. An excellent class for beginners and experienced creators alike – a class not to miss! [Register before Monday, September 25th to join in the fun.](#)



Announcing New Long Term Residents

Three new long term residents have arrived and hit the ground running in the studio! Meet [Sarah Alsaied](#), [Austin Coudriet](#) and [Laura Dirksen](#).

Sarah Alsaied
Kuwait, based in Midwest, US
2023 Bray Fellow

As a bicultural artist, my work straddles Eastern and Western cultures, and the complex issues of identity and the collapse of social, cultural, racial and gendered borders.

Through the use of clay, fiber and installation art, I express aspects of myself, and challenge stereotype of Arab women.

In my work, I sculpt strange figures, surreal and haunting. I distort the human figure to express identity, evoke emotions, and explore ideas of otherness, and invisibility. These figures evoke a sense of unease and disorientation in the viewer. I find myself drawn to the use of black, red and white as a color palette, as these colors hold significant cultural and symbolic meaning within the Arab world. I use the leading marks of color to represent the passage of time and to pay homage to my cultural heritage. I incorporate fibers in my work to represent the weaving and unraveling of my dual cultural identities. I use fabric as a symbol to celebrate identity and honor privacy. Clay is used in my work for its historical significance and its ability to record touch. I use yarn to express a wide



Clay Business
Monday-Saturday, 9 am–5 pm

Sales Gallery, Exhibitions & Artist Studios

Tuesday-Friday, 11 am–5 pm
Saturday, 12 pm–4 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

QUICK LINKS

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THE BRAY'S BRICKYARD NETWORK

A wealth of ceramic conversation and knowledge right at your fingertips! Check out our most recent episodes on your favorite podcast app!



Coming Soon! BEYOND THE BRICKYARD

Take a deeper look at the history of the Archie Bray Foundation and its influence on the ceramic world. We are taking listener submitted questions for this podcast. If you have a story to tell shoot us an email and be on the show!
(ben@archiebray.org)

range of emotions such as connection/grief/love, and belonging. Through the combination of malleable and permanent qualities of the materials, I explore and express the complexities of identity.

My work is visual representation of my observations, experiences, and the ongoing journey of understanding and celebrating myself. It explores the fluid and shifting space in which I am able to express myself as woman beyond cultural confines and limits.

Austin Coudriet
Lincoln, Nebraska
2023 Bray Fellow

As a child I would draw with my father, an architect. I was fascinated by the way he built with lines, they exceeded their boundaries yet were contained by the image they formed, loose but intentional. As my own drawings developed I began to explore three dimensional fabrication. I discovered how working with clay could successfully help me achieve what I was depicting on paper. Quickly my lines translated into coils, and those coils into sculpture. I collect inspiration from modernist design, mid-century modern furniture, scaffolding and clouds.



My studio practice is an ongoing tactile conversation between soft amorphous forms and rigid linear components. Daily visual experiences of infrastructure found within the natural environment are re-contextualized through the lens of play into nonrepresentational, interactive sculpture. Amid a collision of rudimentary shapes, inspired by Deconstructivist architecture my compositions are rendered. Lines find edges, and shapes find volume.

Laura Dirksen
Maria Stein, Ohio
2023 Bray Fellow

Raised on a fluctuating production dairy farm, I witnessed moments of great impact and stagger. Things were thrust, slammed, smashed, kicked and blown. Everything was dangerous and exciting. My sculptures illuminate the immobilizing effects these enveloping moments have had on my life. Pulsating, richly stark experiences submerged and ultimately preserved amid my reality. The awareness of these frozen abstractions within my body are excavations of these impactful

[CLAY IN COLOR](#)

Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy and Alex Anderson talk with young professionals of color who use humor, cuteness, and the decorative in their work.

[FOR FLUX SAKE](#)

Kathy King, Matt Katz and Rose Katz answer your burning questions about clay and glaze. You'll be laughing and learning about glaze chemistry in no time.

[THE KILN SITTERS](#)

Marianne Chénard, Brendan Tang, and Carole Epp bring you enlightening interviews from Canadian makers.

[THE SHOT CALLERS](#)

Each week Virgil Ortiz and Justin Reese will make a signature cocktail with their guests as they talk about their journey through the world of art.

[TALES OF A RED CLAY RAMBLER](#)

Ben Carter talks with potters, sculptors, and ceramic designers about their creative practice.

[TRADE SECRET](#)

Adam Chau hosts conversations about contemporary issues in art, craft and design.

SPONSORS

Thanks to these sponsors for making the Brickyard Podcast Network possible. Contact ben@archiebray.org to join our growing list of

moments, ones that ultimately changed my neurologic pathways, and conjure these material compositions today.

Familiar materials and textures observed on the farm roam into my practice. The materiality surrounding my youth exposed the truths trying to hide. Traces of an altercation and aftermath, mark making of the trade and toil became powerful visual lessons. Quenched materials, violent spills, and the strangeness of large pink cow pills left me curious. How were they activated by the elements, by moisture and heat? My grasp of physicality and color as a child echo in my investigations into the materiality of wood, fabric, paint pulp and clay specifically, its tactility and its transitory properties from wet to dry. Clays hyper malleability and limitlessness contrasting its transformation via fire into ceramic became the perfect vehicle for me to express these instances with my body in relation to these events.

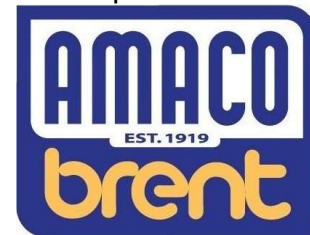


Speaking of Pots Is Back!



Join local area artist, former Long Term Resident Artist

sponsors.



The Rosenfeld Collection
Contemporary, Functional Ceramic Art Collection



and Visiting Artist Sarah Jaeger for the return of Speaking of Pots! This delightful conversation based series is **free and open to the public** and operates with the intention to increase knowledge and awareness of handmade pottery to any curious mind, no matter experience or background. Organized and run by Sarah, Speaking of Pots will meet from **2-3 pm Sunday, September 24th and October 29th outside the library of the Frances Senska Center for Education and Engagement (2nd floor)**. We'll then take a break for the holiday months and return in the new year.

"I love to talk about pots with other makers, and with non-makers who just love pots. This series of conversations offers an opportunity to consider any aspect of pots (form, surface, materials, techniques, aesthetics, intention, etc.) and to share ideas, and answer questions. It's often the case that we get so involved in our process of making, that we don't step back, and ask, "why?" Or, "what do I want to say?" These conversations can help us look at the bigger picture, learn how to really see the pots we are making, or simply clarify some technical questions we have had."
–Sarah Jaeger on the Speaking of Pots series

Artist Amplified with Adam Field

Join us on September 21st at 6:30 pm MDT as former long term resident artist Adam Field presents Bread and Butter, a demonstration and conversation around developing and maintaining a sustainable studio practice and career. Engage with Adam through audience Q&A as



he demonstrates two of his most frequented forms while sharing his experiences as a full time professional artist. **Free and open to the public!**

Attend in person at the Frances Senska Center for Education and Engagement or [online](#) (Link goes live at the time of the event).

Thank you to all who generously supported the Brick by Brick Mini Auction featuring guests of the Brickyard Network!

Welcome Visiting Artists Tony Clennell and Andrew Kellner



Tony Clennell is a second-generation potter that has taught workshops in Canada, the US, Japan, China, Korea, Wales, Italy and Portugal. He has a Master of Fine Arts from Utah State University and is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. Tony has written articles for an assortment of ceramic journals including Fusion, Contact,



Ceramics Monthly, Pottery Making Illustrated, Clay Times, and Studio Potter. He has exhibited in museums and collections in North America, Europe, and Asia. He is the author of *Stuck in the Mud* and a [celebrated blogger](#).

Andrew Kellner received a Diploma from Sheridan College (2003) BFA (2005) from Alberta College of Art and Design, and a MFA (2017) from West Virginia University. Since moving to Hamilton, Andrew keeps a home studio practice, and continues to contribute to the ceramics



community by teaching ceramic classes at Mohawk College and other private studios. In 2018, Kellner and business partner Heather Smit, have started annual invitational Ceramic show Ash + Barrel.

The Bray Exhibition at Kolva-Sullivan in Spokane, WA

For those in the Spokane, Washington area, join Bray residents for a reception at Kolva-Sullivan on **Friday, October 6, from 5:00-9:00 pm.**

Kolva-Sullivan Gallery, at the West End of Downtown Spokane, was crafted by owners Jim Kolva and Pat Sullivan from a derelict warehouse next to the BNSF Railroad viaduct. For over a decade, the exhibition space has hosted a range of work from prints, to paintings to performance.



"Contemporary studio ceramics is our passion and our inspiration stems from the Archie Bray in Helena, Montana. We discovered the Bray over 30 years ago and find the place, the people, and the work made there as exciting as the first day we explored its grounds. We've been fortunate to host our annual Archie Bray resident show and to

share the Bray with Spokane since 2002." –Kolva-Sullivan Gallery

115 South Adams Street, Suite A
Spokane, WA 99201

Work Pictured: Maura Wright, Megan Thomas

Purge Clay Sale

Schools and artists on a tight budget can save a bundle by using purge clay. Most of our purge clay is red in color and we recommend firing it to low temperatures. It may go higher, but test, test, test.

From now until we run out of the clay or the end of 2023 we are selling 50 pound boxes of purge clay for \$10/box no matter what amount is purchased.



Make An Impact



As the longest running ceramic artist residency program in the US, The Bray exists to serve artists and the community through our year-round resident artist programs, sales gallery, exhibitions, education & research, and clay business. You have helped us to foster creativity and connect people of all backgrounds and abilities through transformative encounters in the studio, in the classroom, at the table, and in the community. We invite you to help us continue this good work.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

We hope you will join us in this exciting time of growth and change at The Bray by making a tax-deductible gift. Your support will help us make bigger an impact as we continue to invest in new and unique education models, international residency opportunities, and the expansion creative educational programming such as:

- Engagement programs aimed at broadening our audience and removing barriers for underserved populations.
- Improvements in our state-of-the-art facilities to serve artists, educators, and youth.
- Free of charge public programming, online and in-person, like the Artist Amplified series and The Brickyard Network featuring six podcasts focused on the ceramic arts.



The Archie Bray Foundation recognizes and honors the Indigenous peoples of this region on whose ancestral lands the Foundation now stands. Indigenous people have inhabited the valley in which Helena is situated for

more than 12,000 years; the valley acting as a crossover for Salish, Crow, Bannock, and Blackfoot tribes among others.

We respectfully acknowledge and honor all Indigenous communities whose land we reside on in what is now known as Montana— past, present, future—and are grateful for their ongoing and vibrant presence. We believe that acknowledging and reflecting upon the contemporary lived experience and history of the Indigenous peoples here in Montana and around the world are essential steps toward creating a more equitable world. Learn more through the [#HonorNativeLand](#) initiative of the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture, and consider contributing to Indigenous-led organizations doing important work to further the health and wellness, sovereignty and self-determination of the first peoples of this land.

The Bray is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to the enrichment of the ceramic arts, located at 2915 Country Club Ave. in Helena, just 1/3 mile west of Spring Meadow Lake.

This project is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, and in part by the Montana Cultural Trust, the Montana Arts Council, the Bray Business Alliance and the friends and members of the Bray. The Bray is funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana's Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Trust Fund.

The Bray | 2915 Country Club Ave, Helena, MT 59602 | 406/443-3502 | www.archiebray.org