

Arts Awards Outcome Report

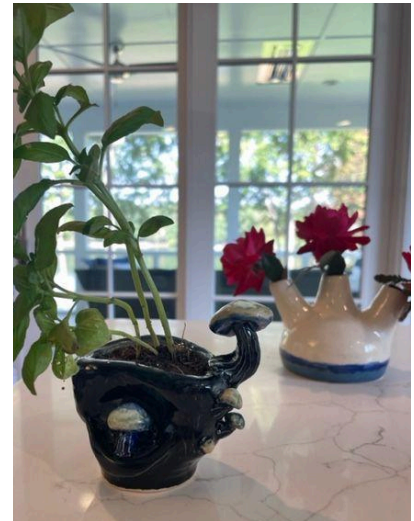
Ava Flory, Studio Art, Rising 4th Year Award

1. Project Overview

Creating Pottery to Explore Beauty, Service, and Gift-giving

My proposal was to create a collection of pottery vessels as a means of exploring beauty, service, and gift-giving. My original proposal requested \$3,000 to acquire a personal kiln and wheel; however, due to safety concerns, my proposal was partially funded and my objective changed.

I was kindly awarded \$500 to learn wheel throwing and glazing techniques by completing an 8-week pottery class over Summer 2024. Through this class I gained familiarity with the medium and, in keeping with my interest in gift giving, created several vessels to be gifted to loved ones.



Faculty Mentor: Conrad Cheung

Department: Studio Art

Professor Cheung was UVA's sculpture professor at the time I applied. Professor Cheung was trained originally as a professional potter and has extensive knowledge of the medium.

2. The Journey

I started my journey with a strong passion for pottery and track record for creating artistic pieces, but with little formal ceramics instruction. With only some experience on the wheel, I did not feel confident in my technique.

The NYSA class was the perfect introduction. For 8 weeks, I spent each Monday from 6-8:30pm learning and fine tuning my ability to throw ceramic vessels. Jenn, the instructor, was an MFA student with extensive experience working with ceramics. She gently



guided the class through all the essential techniques, from throwing bowls to vases and even plates. The small size of the class (only 6 people at times) allowed me to have one-on-one attention and personalized training.

With each pot I explored a new shape, challenging myself to go beyond simple bowls. Once off the wheel, I added unique finishes to my pieces using a variety of techniques (detailing words and designs with slip, adding a handle or tiny mushrooms, throwing necks of vases and adjoining them to the base, etc).

Towards the later half of the class, we learned how to glaze our pieces by brushing on or dipping. Eager to explore, I once again used each vessel as an opportunity to try something new. By blending glazes, dipping, brushing, I got a feel for how different glazes reacted and resulted.

By the end of the class, I had explored a variety of ways to create and decorate ceramic vessels. I felt confident in my ability to throw on a wheel and create objects I could joyfully gift to loved ones.

The class fostered my budding interest in ceramics and gave me the tools I needed to feel confident when working with the material. Emboldened by the summer class, I have since enrolled in Sculpture I and II at UVA. In each, I have leveraged my summer training to produce more ceramic works. The class ended up being at a discount, so with the remaining funding, I am spending it on clay, glazes, and other materials needed for me to continue my work. Inspired by the summer, I plan to continue creating objects with artistry and utility that serve as a gift for others.

3. Final Budgeting

Expenditure Item	NY School of Arts Hand Building and Wheel Class	\$377.78
	Clay + Pottery Materials for subsequent projects	\$122 (remainder of \$500 budget)

4. Photos



Work from Sculpture Class that utilized my confidence with the material

