



Clay Club

Online with

Sharon Griffin

5 week sculpture course
2025

Start Date: Monday 6th January 2025

End date: Monday 3rd February 2025

Where: Online only (via secret facebook group by invitation)

5 online workshop demos (20 mins) Live and available on replay.

Access to all the demos and course material for 7 weeks.

Cost £50

How to pay: paypal or bank transfer via a secure link via my website

Who is it for?: Suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels.

Overview:

Learn how to make a clay head and shoulders (bust) without an armature from scratch. All you need is your imagination, a bag of clay, a handful of tools and about 1 hour a week.

In this 5 week online 'clay club' I will show you how to make a semi life sized clay bust using the human face from start to finish.

In just 5 simple steps, you will have made your very own clay head!

[Click here to join](#)

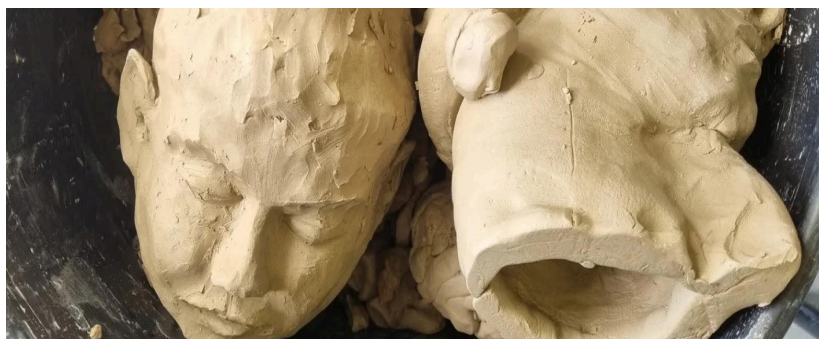
Clay Club is intended to be a skills sharing space for **EVERYONE!**

Goals:

1. Make a clay bust oozing with character and personality
2. Develop your skills and understanding of how to capture expression using clay
3. Learn how to use simple glaze and oxides to finish your clay sculpture using an electric kiln!

What will you need:

You will need to have some experience of working with clay for this online clay club and have a facebook profile to join. Access to a kiln (your own or someone else's) ... and a designated space (a kitchen table will do).



What is Clay Club?

Clay Club is organised and taught by me, Sharon Griffin. I use slab/ handbuilding techniques to sculpt the human figure and face using

clay. It is a simple and quick method giving great results. It's also really fun!



I wish to share my knowledge with as many people as possible, making clay accessible to everyone worldwide.

Clay is a universal sharing experience and I believe the world will be a better place if we all played with clay a bit more!

When is Clay Club?

The facebook 'classroom' opens on 29th December 2024 for you to get acquainted with your fellow sculptors and familiarise yourself with the layout of facebook.

For a total of 5 weeks, you will have access to links, downloads and a total of 5 x 20 minute videos. Videos will be recorded live and available on replay with access 24/7 throughout the course.

At the end of clay club, you will have made your own clay bust from scratch; sculpting in clay to glazing and firing.



Videos

A total of 5 videos will show how I make a clay bust from start to finish, sharing 'behind the scenes' sculpting techniques in real time direct from my workshop.

I will show you how I make simple but effective facial features, tips on where to place features and how to avoid common mistakes whilst sculpting the human bust. Using just a few tools and 1 bag of clay, I will share tips on how to manipulate the clay to produce a highly expressive clay bust full of emotion.

Each video will be available to watch, pause, fast forward or playback after the live video has ended and you will have access to these throughout the clay club 24/7 once you've joined. There will be plenty of time for questions at the end of each live video and in the comments afterwards.



Where?

The clay club is accessed via your own facebook page. You will be invited to a closed group which will act as an online 'classroom'. You will be part of a group of like minded sculptors and access the clay club from your own workshop, shed, classroom or kitchen table 24/7.

Clay Club is a safe place for sharing ideas, forging friendships and accessing practical knowledge and tips while using clay as a sculpting material.

[Click here to join](#)

Materials and Equipment

Please see below for materials. Images and book recommendations will be available to download and work from within the facebook group too.

Minimum requirement for sculpting:

1x bag of standard buff clay. Any clay is good. Not porcelain. Semi grogged is better.

Rolling pin (wooden)

Loopy tool

Wooden boards x 2 (one for rolling clay, one for your sculpture to sit on)

Whirler or banding wheel (a cake stand will do)

Potters knife

Wooden pottery tool

Old credit card or metal kidney

Heat gun (optional)

Apron



For Glazing:

Opaque white stoneware glaze (available ready made from your local pottery supplier)

Black copper oxide or red, yellow or black iron oxide (pick one)

Body stain (choose one or two colours)

Heavy duty industrial facemask

Protective gloves

Paintbrushes (1 x 1-2 inch decorators brush and a few various small sizes)

Sponge

Bowl for water

Kiln (any kiln. I use electric and use a stoneware (1220-1260) temp



Where to start! (before the club begins)

Virtual Space

Before we start the clay club, you will be shown how to use the secret facebook group, where to go for help and get answers. You will have the opportunity to join an online clay community, where you can access 24/7 for 7 weeks in total. There will be a week before Clay Club starts to get yourself acquainted with the facebook platform. The group will close march 31st 2025. You can still access the videos and material but not comment or add any more images as the facebook group will be archived.

Physical space

There will be a welcome video where you will be shown how to set up a space and what tools are needed. This will give you time to buy clay (or dig it up) and prepare your physical space as well as your virtual one.

You will decide on how and where you want to join in the club... whether it's on a kitchen table, a corner of a room, a shed or workshop... shared in a classroom or just by yourself. Learn about what is the best clay to use and what to avoid.

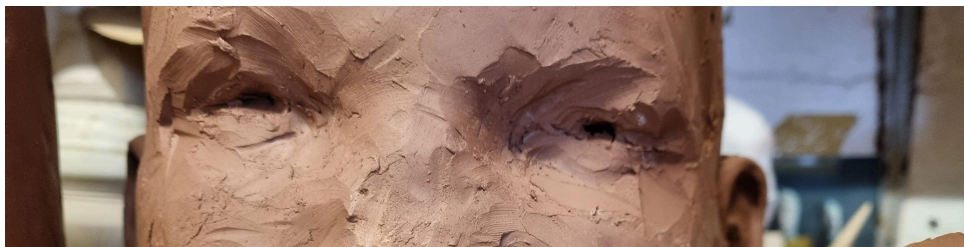
You will have time to prepare and get ready to learn at your own pace, with support from me (Sharon) on a weekly basis. You can work in



your own timezone and in the comfort of your own home! You can take part in the group and share your progress or not! It's totally up to you.

A full equipment list will be provided within the facebook group and via email.

There will be 5 sessions in total with a week either side for prep and for finishing off work. I will be with you every step of the way!



[Click here to join](#)

Week 1: Structure!

Make a bust and learn how to stop your clay from collapsing or falling over!

You will need:

Tools: rolling pin. Wooden boards, whirler/banding wheel, clay

Images: your own or mine printed out

Using easy techniques you will learn all about the importance of structure and know how to stop it from collapsing/cracking/drying out/ becoming too thin/thick or 'strange looking'!

We will use images and examples of different shapes of shoulders to form a basic clay chest and shoulders.

You can use examples given in the facebook group or your own images to work from. You can even copy me... using my own sculpture made step by step each week.

At the end of week 1 you will have made a rough chest, shoulders and neck.

You will understand proportion and how to use measurement (but not get bogged down by it).



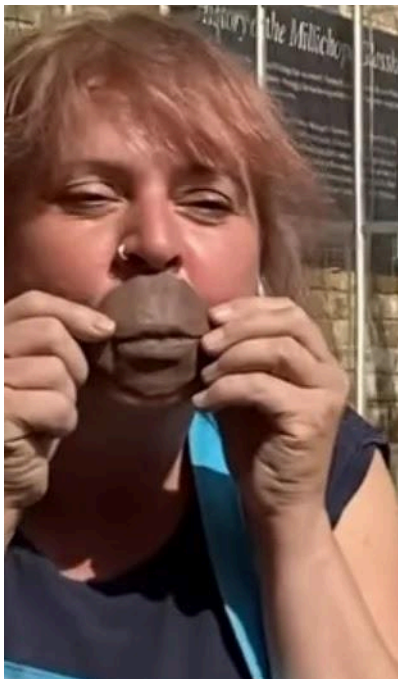
Week 2: Form and Features

You will need:

Clay, metal kidney/old credit card, wooden tool, potters knife

Learn how to position the neck, form the chin and the mouth.

Using your imagination, from life or from pictures you've found, you will know how to make gestural, playful and characterful mouths! Learn about age, masculine and feminine features...inspired by faces from all over the globe!



During this week, you will have fun using slabs of clay to form the mouth... smiley ones with teeth, singing ones, grumpy ones and mouths that are puckered! You will be shown how the jaw and muscles around the mouth works, chin shape and where to place the mouth. You will be shown how the length of the neck and positioning of the head informs the character of the overall clay bust.

[Click here to join](#)

Week 3: Nose, cheeks and ears!

You will need:

Potters knife, clay, water, paintbrush, loopy tool.

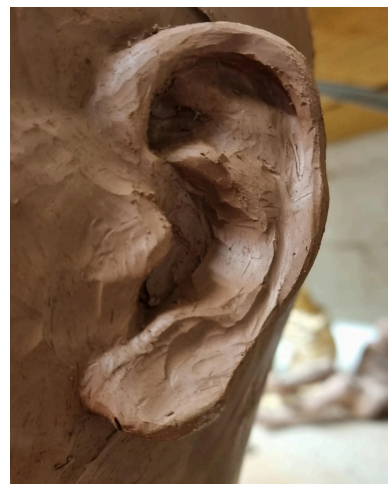
Profile images downloaded from facebook page or email.

Make an awesome profile with a nose and cheeks to die for!...In this session, we will learn about the structure of the nose and the positioning of the nose, eyes and ears in relation to the face! A big nose, pointy nose, wide, petite, straight, roman, short, stuck up nose.... Where does it go and how does it look 'believable' with just a few simple shapes!

The nose is my favourite feature! I personally love a flared nostril and the bigger the better!

The cheeks, temples, jawline will all lead to the ears.

A lot to share here... but we can achieve such a lot using simple shapes and measurements with a little understanding of what is going on underneath the face!



Week 4: Eyes



You will need: clay, loopy tool, water, potters knife, images printed out from facebook

The windows to the soul. If they are too stylised or overworked, they will ALWAYS look a bit weird or lifeless.

In this session, I will share some tips on eye placement, shape and accuracy.

By the end of week 4, you will understand how to use quick gestural marks to create effective (and not overworked) eyes which come alive!

In this session we will also consider story telling. How facial features, subtle placements of the neck, head and shoulders can all add to an underlying narrative, helping to tell a story of the person you are sculpting.

You will learn how to close the head and add hair in this session too (if there's time)

Week 5: Surface and finishing

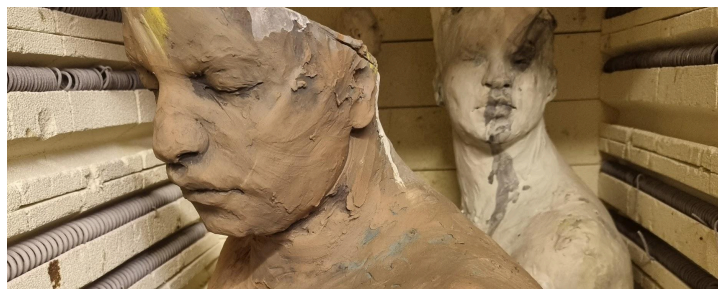
You will need: all glaze materials and equipment

In this session, you will receive a simple list of colours and glaze stains to help form your own colour palette. I

will share how using just a few simple colours and tones can be used to create drama, add calm/serenity and energy to your work.



The focus in this session will use slips, oxides and one base glaze to create inventive and unique (to you) surfaces.



FINISH!

Grab yourself a cuppa and read through the information below for any further questions. See you in CLAY CLUB '25!

[Click here to join](#)

Payments using paypal (non refundable) via my website

www.sharongriffinart.com

- 1. Click on the clay club in the shop section on my website.**
- 2. Once you have paid, a link to the facebook group will be sent out to you. Please allow a week for this link to be sent to you.**

That's it!

Frequently asked questions

1. Can I join clay club without facebook?

Ans: Sadly no... There are plans for further clay clubs online but at this time, the club is only available via facebook.

2. Will I get feedback on my work?

Ans: There will be lots of lovely support in the group who will help to guide and advise throughout by peers and your clay club buddies! Sadly I cannot give 1-1 feedback

3. What happens if I miss a week? Will I get behind?

Ans: You can miss a week or two or even just join in at the end and watch all the replays in a day! It is your club and you can dip in and out when you want. You will get the best out of the group if you join in weekly.

4. How much time do I need to put aside for clay club?

Ans: about an hour a week. 30 mins to watch the video and 30 mins for making your clay sculpture.

5. What if I have no or little experience of clay?

Ans: It is advised that you join a clay group so that you have physical practical support while you make your clay bust if you have very little experience. Online support can be found within the group.

6. What if I am a pro already? How will this clay club help my sculpture?

Ans: The lessons are based upon my own experience of working with clay using a slab built method. It is a very fast and simple way of sculpting with very efficient and pleasing results. There is no armature or hollowing out needed, reducing time spent on finishing (as well as reducing explosions when firing work). It may help you to free up your work and help to explore a different method of making; reignite a spark in your own work!

7. What if I change my mind and clay club is not for me? Can I get a refund?

Ans: I will do everything in my power to help and support your clay club journey but if it is not for you, sadly I am unable to give a refund.

8. I am a teacher/group leader. Can I share your methods with my class?

Ans: YES. I would be honoured if you were to share with your group and welcome this. Please only share with your own group and do not put videos on youtube or other platforms. I am not responsible for any actions or sharing of material outside of Facebook. You may need to have a licence for some reading material etc. You will be responsible for sharing any material to minors or anyone under the age of 18 yrs.

9. What if my clay bust collapses?

Ans: this might happen! Start again... do another and another. While your clay bust might be the most precious thing you have made, you will go on to make another. The hope is that you gain the confidence to explore figurative clay in your journey as a sculptor and learn to play and not be so precious with your work.

10. What if I have difficulty in viewing or hearing the videos?

Ans: The videos will be recorded in person with a clear view of my face and the sculpture. Every effort will be made to keep the recordings precise and to the point with clear instructions. The camera will be close up with good lighting, giving a clear

image of the sculpture. Opportunity for clarification at the end of the video and throughout the weekly sessions.

11. Can I download the videos and keep them?

Ans: If you have the right equipment or app, you can. But, please honour the generosity of skills sharing within this clay club and only use these videos for yourself! This is my only income and I wish to make things as accessible as possible for everyone. (Tell me how to do it if you know how!)

12. Do I have to join in with the group?

Ans: Not if you don't want to! Clay is a sharing experience and you will get much more out of clay club if you are an active member though!

13. Will I be using a model or images? Who's face will we be sculpting?

Ans: There will be some examples of faces for you to download and work from. You can use a combination of these faces or use your own. I prefer to work intuitively and from memory or drawings.

14. Bullying. I am being bullied! What should I do?

Ans: If you feel that you or your work is being targeted unfairly, please message me in the first instance. I will do everything in my power to help resolve the situation. There will be zero tolerance bullying behaviour and the person who is acting out will be removed from the group without a refund. Gremlins, trolls or otherwise will be removed immediately.

15. What if I can't keep up?

Ans: You will have plenty of time to complete your sculpture if you put aside 1 hour per week. If you don't manage to complete your sculpture within the timeframe given, you can finish it at your own leisure. Wrap your work well and it can still be worked on for up to about a year if it is kept damp.

16. I can't access the facebook group! What should I do?

Ans: for support, email me, clayclub25@gmail.com

17. Can I pay in instalments?

Ans: if you are experiencing difficulty in paying, please email me, and I will do my best to help!

18. Can I pay for someone else (a pay it forward scheme)?

Ans: That is of course a wonderful thing to do! **The Facebook Profile needs to link with the email you paid with**

19. What if the clay club has already started and I am late?! Can I still join?

Ans: Yes. You can be added to the group up until the 2nd week. After this date, you might struggle to catch up if you are a beginner.

20. Will there be another clay club if I miss this one?

Ans: If there is enough demand for another clay club, I will do my best to make it happen!

21. Will there be a celebration or certificate once I have completed the clay club?

Ans: You are welcome to put on your own exhibition or share your journey in person or by using social media platforms. A celebration within the group will be available if required and of course I will be jumping around the studio with pure joy watching your creations! The clay club is not an accredited course.

22. If I have a question, who and where do I ask it?

Ans: there will be a Q & A section in the facebook group. Tag me (@sharonmassey) and I will see it.

23. If I post something in the facebook clay club, can anyone see it?

Ans: The Facebook Group is a secret and what goes on in clay club, stays in clay club! It is a safe place to play, to create freely and to share ideas.

24. Do I have to be 18 or over?

Ans: Yes. Sadly, I cannot be responsible for those under 18. If you are under 18, and you wish to take part in clay club, please ask your responsible adult to assist you. No children will be allowed to take part in clay club.

25. What if I don't have a kiln?

Ans: ask a friend! Or get in touch with your local school, college, university for kiln share access. If you don't have access to a kiln, you can use air dried clay and use paint and PVA to finish off your work in your own time.

