



Out of the Fire Studio/The Clay Teacher 4841 116th Ave NW Edmonton, AB T5W 0X7

Cindy Clarke and Jim Willett are "The Clay Teacher". The husband and wife team have worked together in clay since 1998, first in the town of Edson where Cindy had physically built her own studio and established the business Out of the Fire Studio.

Cindy Clarke has potted for over 40 years, first as a child with clay from her mother's garden in Dawson Creek British Columbia, then in elementary and high schools and finally as a profession. Cindy was one of the founding members of the Dawson Creek Potter's guild and also was instrumental in establishing the clay program and facilities at Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek, instructing university level courses in the 1980's. Cindy built her own studio in Dawson Creek and produced pottery there until she relocated to Edson, Alberta in 1998. In 2001, after relocating to Edmonton, the couple worked as production potters at their 2300 square foot studio, providing wholesale pottery to over 45 retail clients across Canada and processing over ten tons of clay annually into pottery until the end of 2006 when they made the decision to close down their wholesale pottery studio and open a retail studio and art gallery on Jasper Avenue, where they could sell their products and promote the work of many of their friends. After a year and a half they closed their downtown studio and gallery and downsized again, to a home studio, which became the home of The Clay Teacher.

Cindy has taught pottery making to students at all age and proficiency levels and has a special bond with school age children. As The Clay Teacher she teaches to elementary class rooms in the school system with demonstrations of wheel throwing on a real potter's wheel and then supplies direction in hand building curriculum based projects. She also is available for workshops to demonstrate wheel throwing and hand building for personal development days and in secondary classroom situations.

Jim Willett, with over 15 years of clay experience in wheel throwing and hand building, accompanies Cindy and as a team , "Mrs. Clay and Mr. Clay", the couple present an energetic, fun filled, informative workshop enjoyed by all ages! Jim has a background in industrial instrumentation and control with many years spent in multi trade supervisory positions. This experience is beneficial when dealing with studio kilns and equipment.

In June of 2011 The Clay Teacher released a six DVD set of project building lessons in workshop form. 27 of their most requested workshops are presented in easy step by step format.