



Qualifications for Juried Projects when Seeking Senior Certification

Evaluation

Evaluation for becoming certified instructor requires submission of 3 projects. Only those students who pass the criteria will be eligible to become an Art Clay World, USA Certified Senior Instructor. **These 3 juried works must be postmarked within 30 days of the completion of the Art Clay Senior Certification course.**

Requirements for the evaluation

The student is to make a total of 3 unique projects that fulfill each requirement as listed below. As long as each requirement is met in the submitted works, the applicant may include any additional techniques and materials at his/her discretion. Art Clay World, USA will focus on the originality, skill, finishing techniques, and requirements in judging the submitted projects. Fronts *and backs* of pieces should be of the highest quality. Designs, techniques, and finished works must reflect the quality of a Senior-level instructor. Pieces must be postmarked within 30 days of finishing the required level coursework.

Final Assignment

You need to submit 3 original pieces of Art Clay Silver (a ring, a pendant, and a brooch) which meet the following requirements:

Project 1) RING

Finished ring size must be an exact size 7, using the American system of measurement.

This evaluates...

An understanding of clay shrinkage and ring sizing, including repair methods if necessary.

A fireable, faceted stone of no smaller than 3mm must be set directly into the silver clay top. (Do NOT use a wire bezel, pronged setting, syringe setting, or cabochon-cut stone.)

This evaluates...

The skill of stone-setting. This includes capturing the stone's girdle and protecting the culet. Syringe work must not be used to hold the stone in place. The setting must be cleanly accomplished, indicative of quality work.

Ring shank must be completely round.

This evaluates...

The skill of rolling out the clay into a rope shape, which is a fundamental technique in working with Art Clay. Visible seams are NOT acceptable. Flat band rings will be rejected. Rings that have been filed flat on the inside are not acceptable. Rings whose bands are no longer round or which have warped are not acceptable.

Engraved or carved design must be shown.

This evaluates...

The skill of filing or engraving a desired shape into the clay using appropriate hand files. Engraving must

be done in the dry state. Simple notching (i.e. short straight lines) and round drill holes are not considered engraving and are not acceptable, as they do not reflect any level of mastery with engraving techniques.

Liver of Sulfur patina must be applied to the piece.

This evaluates...

The skill and knowledge regarding the use of Liver of Sulfur solution and the considerations before/after its application. IMPORTANT: The patina is intended to highlight the engraving and/or carving ONLY.

Project 2) PENDANT

A natural, stone cabochon must be set in a bezel made of flat fine silver wire.

This evaluates...

The skill and knowledge about natural stone-setting using flat fine silver wire. Finished bezels must have no visible seams. Bezel wire may be straight-edged, scalloped, or otherwise designed, so long as it is fine silver. Alternate metals, such as Argentium, are not acceptable. Embellishments covering the bezel wire and its attachment, rendering the wire hidden, will cause the piece to be rejected. The bezel wire must be fully visible for critiquing.

Fine silver flat screw eye or fine silver bail back must be attached as a finding.

This evaluates...

The skill of how to attach Art Clay exclusive findings in a pendant. Screw eyes must be embedded properly, and bail backs must be attached properly, with no obvious protrusion of the "feet."

A mirror finish must be evident over no less than 50% of the front surface of the piece.

This evaluates...

The skill of how to sand and polish the surface before/after firing to obtain a mirror finish. Tumbling, use of a burnisher, or use of any power tool is NOT acceptable. Wet polishing with sandpapers, pads, cloths or similar materials must be used. Finish must be achieved completely by hand only, using the wet polishing technique. True mirror finish is attained only on flat clay, where the entire surface is accessible during hand-working. Polish with jewelry-grade silver polish before submitting. Pieces with tool marks, pocking, or scratching are unacceptable.

Finding and chain must be attached.

This evaluates...

An understanding of how to attach the finding in the proper position and appropriate direction.

NOTE: Sterling (SV925) findings will not be accepted as fired-in objects. Package project so that it does not become scratched during shipping.

Project 3) BROOCH

Both Clay and Syringe Types must be used.

This evaluates...

The skill to create a piece using materials with different characteristics. Connections between clay and syringe must be smooth, showing mastery of connecting different consistencies and formulas of clay.

Art Clay exclusive brooch findings must be used.

This evaluates...

The skill necessary to attach the brooch findings in their appropriate positions based on understanding of the clay shrinkage. Screw-type and catch-type brooch findings of either 35mm or 55mm lengths may be used. Brooch attachments must be properly attached, with no evidence of protrusion of the "feet". Attachments must be facing the correct direction given the design of the piece. If the safety-catch-type is used, the tip of the pin must be hidden under the catch and not extend out through the end. Cutting of pins is prohibited; trimmed pins will not be accepted.

Include flat clay as a part of your technique.

This evaluates...

The skill to mold the clay into a flat shape in the brooch, which is one of Art Clay's fundamental techniques. The clay must be handled during drying and firing to remain flat; pieces submitted without true flat areas will not be accepted.

Include an openwork design with Syringe Type.

This evaluates...

An understanding of the durability of delicate syringe lines in an open work design, which is one of the features of Syringe Type. "Openwork" means that the syringework is self-supporting, with nothing behind it, and should be NO LESS THAN one inch across. Work may be filigree or specifically designed. The one-inch area is a diameter; the open syringe area should be broad, rather than long and narrow. Pieces with too little open syringework will not be accepted.