

Jen Allen Workshop

April 26, 27, and 28, 2024

“From Slab to Fab: Creating and Utilizing Templates to make Repeatable Forms”

Pattern Play

The focus of this workshop is to build confidence in creating slab built pottery from paper patterns. We will learn how to dress up slabs with handmade texture stamps, practice various techniques to alter forms, construct 3D sketches using clay, and design our own templates from our 3D clay sketches. Bring an open mind. You will leave with handfuls of new patterns (and 3D sketches in clay) and the knowledge and confidence to continue to design, repeat, and tweak your slab built pottery forms!



Artist Bio: Jen Allen received a BFA (2002) from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and an MFA (2006) from Indiana University, Bloomington. From 1998-2002, she worked as a production assistant to Kris Bliss at Bliss Pottery in Anchorage, AK. In March 2008, the National Council for the Education of Ceramic Arts (NCECA) recognized Jennifer as an “Emerging Artist”. Among other awards, she was the recipient of the 2006-2007 Taunt Fellowship at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT. In addition to keeping a home studio, Jennifer currently teaches ceramic classes at West Virginia University. She lives in Morgantown, WV with her husband [Shoji Satake](#), their two kids, Annelise and Finn, and their pup Margot.

Artist Website: <https://www.jenniferallencermics.com/>

Artist CV: <https://www.jenniferallencermics.com/curriculum-vitae>

Artist Instagram: [@jenallencermics](#)

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Materials list

Please have all of the following on hand for the workshop

- **Sketchbook/ Pencil** – Take notes!
- **Template making tools** - Heavy Paper/ Manilla file folders, scissors, ruler, compass, pencil and sharpener for template making.
- **Basic clay tools**- Including metal and rubber ribs, pin/needle tool, cut off wire, wooden knife, rasp or sure form, smoothing tools, small scoring tool, rolling pin, **serrated rib**. Square-end trimming tools for making clay strips.
- **Banding wheel/ turn table**- preferably a free spinning one/ Tall Shippo style
- **X-acto knife or similar** (*dull is imperative*)- this is for cutting clay. Sharp ones cut your hands and the canvas on the table...
- **Towel**- for wiping of your hands while working
- **Bats/Wareboards** – each person will want around 3-4 wooden bats/wareboards to work on and store work on.
- **Brushes** –For smoothing out seams. Bring a variety if possible.
- **Cornstarch**- about a ¼ cup or more- for construction of lidded pieces and for stamping.
- **Stamps** – Feel free to bring stamps you have already made, or anything you'd like to impress into clay to make a stamp. Keep items small and think about repetition
- **Clay** – Standard #211 or similar. Mid-range stoneware – 25-50# per person
- **Packing material/ plastic** to bring home any work

Heavy dose of patience coupled with a sense of exploration