



## Visiting Potter to Offer Workshop at BMCA Clay Studio

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts Clay Studio will offer a 6-week workshop on Hand Building and Sculpture, taught by Cassie Ryalls, on Tuesdays, 6-8 pm, from May 5 – June 9, at the studio located in the old city garage behind the Center at 225 W. State Street. Cost of the workshop is \$185. Materials are included in the cost. To register or for more information, contact the Center at 828/669-0930.

Ryalls' focus on hand building and sculpture is clearly seen in her own work. In assisting clay students in this workshop she will be encouraging creativity with the sculpture, and helping them experiment with the surface of hand built objects from beginning to end. The class will use low-fire clay and glazes.



Cassie Ryalls graduated from Berea College in Kentucky, but grew up in West Virginia. As an art and psychology major, she found the influence of nature was through the human form – a foot, shoulder, lip, etc. Cassie writes, “As I [hand] build each piece, working coil on top of coil, the process reminds me that each person is made up of many different layers. The human forms are minimal and simplified to draw more attention to the way they interact with the other forms. Texture and metal additions are used to communicate the relationships amongst the figures. The human forms are minimal and simplified to draw more attention to the way they interact with the other forms.”

She continues, “To recognize a human form is simple. To understand another human is not. Our lives are built around forming relationships with other humans. My body of work is my interpretation of these connections as well as portrayals of different situations that lead us to a greater understanding of our fellow humans.

The BMCA Clay Studio offers a variety of workshops throughout the year, taught by both resident and visiting potters. Classes are offered on a weekly basis as well. To learn more visit [blackmountainarts.org](http://blackmountainarts.org), and <http://blackmountainartsclay.blogspot.com>.