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Beginner lessons for Wheel Throwing

Master the Art of Wheel Throwing: A Beginner's Guide

DEFINITION

Wheel throwing is a pottery technique where clay is shaped on a rotating wheel. Beginners learn to create functional and artistic pieces using this method.

KEY CONCEPTS

Centering Clay

Centering is the first step in wheel throwing, ensuring the clay is balanced on the wheel.

Opening the Clay

This involves creating a hole in the centered clay to begin shaping the vessel.

Pulling Up Walls

Once opened, the walls of the piece are pulled upwards to create height and form.

Trimming

Trimming is done after the piece is leather-hard to refine its shape and remove excess clay.

Glazing

Glazing adds color and a protective layer to the finished piece, enhancing its appearance.

EXAMPLES

- Creating a simple bowl using the centering technique.
- Making a mug by pulling up the walls and adding a handle.
- Trimming a vase to achieve a smooth finish.

MEMORY TIPS

- ★ Remember 'C-O-P-T-G' for the steps: Center, Open, Pull, Trim, Glaze.
- ★ Visualize a spinning top to recall the motion of the wheel.
- ★ Think of 'walls' as 'height' to remember to pull them up.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Not centering the clay properly, leading to uneven shapes.
- ✗ Opening the clay too wide or too narrow, affecting stability.
- ✗ Over-trimming, which can weaken the structure of the piece.

QUICK RECAP

Wheel throwing involves centering, opening, pulling, trimming, and glazing clay. Mastering these steps allows beginners to create beautiful pottery pieces. Practice each technique to improve your skills and avoid common mistakes.