

The Clay Way

Advanced Ceramics Practice
With Neha Kudchadkar

FAQs

1. Who is The Clay Way for?

The program is designed for artists and ceramics practitioners who already have foundational skills in ceramics and want to deepen their practice, develop a personal voice, and build a sustainable creative rhythm. It works well for people who want structure, accountability, and a thought partner in their process. This program is not suitable for absolute beginners.

2. Do I need to be “advanced” to join?

You don't have to be an expert to join. You do need basic facility with clay, an ongoing practice, an understanding of the studio environment, and a willingness to push your edges. The emphasis is on growth and developing a strong conceptual and material practice.

3. What does the year look like?

The Clay Way is paced across 12 months combining guided exercises, readings, group discussions and reflection. It is structured but spacious, so your own studio time remains at the centre. You will receive ongoing input on your work and process. The program is delivered online entirely. We have two monthly one-on-one meetings at mutual convenience, and 6 group meetings. You work from your own studio while being part of a supportive cohort.

4. What kind of time commitment is required?

The Clay Way requires you to commit considerable time to your studio and to reflection. You get from it what you put in. So, even though it is structured to be flexible, it is demanding. You can do it part time, and I have a lot of students who do that and benefit, but I have seen that the people who grow from it the most are those who prioritise their time in the studio like they would if they were in school.

5. How is The Clay Way different from short-term workshops?

This is not a one-off skills workshop. It's a year-long cultivation of making and thinking. It requires you take accountability of your practice. To show up, make consistently, observe, and refine your artistic voice. Many participants describe it as a shift in how they approach their work.

6. Is the program more technical or conceptual?

Technique, material knowledge, and surface explorations happen alongside prompts that push reflection, intention, and deep looking. Consistent making helps you grow your craft. The prompts and conversations aid conceptual thinking.

7. Can I join from outside India?

Yes. The program welcomes participants globally. It requires some flexibility from everyone, but we adjust the group sessions so that people can join from across time-zones.

8. When does the program begin?

The program begins in the first week of April 2026 for all new students, and ends by March 2027.

9. What is the fee structure?

The fees are Rs 1,50,000 for the year. You will need to pay a non-refundable fee of Rs 75,000 to book your spot on the course, and the remaining before the 15th of March, in order to get access to the sign up sheet. There is an early bird discount of Rs 5000 if you make the full payment by the 31st of December 2025. Write to me at nehakudchadkar@gmail.com for more details.

Unfortunately, I don't have any scholarships or discounts to offer at the moment. If you would like to sponsor a student, do get in touch.

The fees for returning students is Rs 1,00,000.

10. What is the cohort size?

Small. Usually between 4 and 10 participants. For 2026, I am able to take 8 new students and 2 returning students. I am interested in building a supportive, safe, non-competitive

community through the program. All alumni are able to join the group sessions. We aim to keep peer conversations curious, honest, attentive, and meaningful.

11. How do I apply?

Write to me at nehakudchadkar@gmail.com or WhatsApp on +919867721325 with an expression of interest, and schedule a call to determine if this program is the right fit for you. (Please do not message on Instagram, as I do not check it often enough.) If we feel you are the correct candidate for The Clay Way (selection is based on your commitment, clarity, and readiness for a year-long deep dive), fill in this [google form](#) (you are required to send me images of your work and artist statement) and I will send you the invoice with payment details and conditions.

12. Do you offer refunds?

The booking fee is non-refundable. The second instalment can be refunded up to two weeks before the course starts, if you are unable to do the course. Once the course starts I am unable to refund any fees.

13. What if I fall behind?

The program is designed to be forgiving. The progression is structured, but not rigid and I understand that sometimes life gets in the way. You have up to 15 months to catch up if you do fall back (it happens). If the problem is serious, I can extend this to 18 months, but that will be based on honest conversation and my discretion. Any further than 18 months, there will be a reasonable fee charged, since it impacts the number of students I can take in the following year.

14. What happens at the end of the program?

At the end of the year, if you have been engaged, you should have a body of work, clarity about your direction, and a stronger, more confident material and conceptual practice. We will have an online open studio to share this work and your process. Participants continue building on what they learned for years after.

15. Do you offer certificates?

I do not offer (or believe in) certificates. If you have been a committed student and engaged with the program genuinely, I will happily write honest recommendation letters for the various opportunities that you apply to.