

Purple Sage Profiles



Iris Minc founded Purple Sage Pottery 31 years ago to create her own work and share her love of clay with students and fellow potters. Iris has been developing her own unique style since graduating from college in 1981, designing her own molds, stamps and other tools to make her work truly one-of-a-kind. Her independent style

and positive nature carries into her classes, where she helps her students materialize their concepts.

Anni Melancon has been a studio potter in Gloucester since 1978. For 28 years she has generously shared with her students at Purple Sage her broad experience with clay and glaze techniques. Anni's expertise includes decorative and functional stoneware, majolica, raku and pit firing.

Lisa Mistretta brings her passion for clay and easy going nature to her pottery classes. Students will benefit from her creativity and depth of knowledge, as she inspires them to take their creative energy to the next level.

Jenny Graf's connection to clay began in childhood as she watched her grandfather throw pots on his kick wheel. Jenny has been establishing her own voice in clay since 2007 and is thrilled to share her love of clay with her students.

Meryl Goldsmith's love for pottery began in high school. Although her degree is in Broadcast Communications, pottery continues to be a big part of her life. Whether by teaching classes at Purple Sage Pottery, or making and selling her own work, creating pottery is her passion.

Becca Sands studied ceramics, sculpture and painting at High Point University. She quickly took to clay and was drawn to surface decoration, using bright colors and intricate designs. Becca strives to help her students find their unique creative voice and love of clay.



To Register: Please call or email to check for availability. A deposit of \$200, made out to Purple Sage Pottery, sent to 3 Mechanic St., Merrimac, MA 01860 will hold your spot. You can also pay via Venmo. The balance is due on the first day of class, payable to the instructor teaching the class. The registration fee is refundable up to one week prior to the start of class. Please indicate the desired class and include your phone number and e-mail address.

Directions to Studio: from Rte 495 take Exit 115/Broad St. to Rte 110 W. Take first right on Liberty St., take first left onto Mechanic St.

Fall 2026 &
Winter 2027

Purple Sage Pottery Classes



- Adult Classes for Every Ability
- Saturday Open Studio

3 Mechanic Street
Merrimac, MA 01860
978-346-9978

iris@purplesagepottery.com
www.purplesagepottery.com



Purple Sage Pottery offers classes for adults taught by teachers as committed to teaching as they are to pottery. While grounded in the fundamentals of hand building, throwing and glazing, we strive to nurture your creative spirit. Classes are small, having at most 9 students. You can take full advantage of our well equipped studios, including electric wheels, slab rollers, extruders and various tools. We recycle the clay for you, which greatly improves your pot making experience. An extensive selection of beautiful reduction fired glazes is available. Your work is handled with great care, and we pride ourselves on the exceptional results we get from our 70 cubic foot gas fired kiln.

Saturday Open Studio

9:30am - 5:00pm

Saturday Open Studio Time is available to former and current students. No instruction is offered during this time period. Current students benefit from additional studio time between classes and former students may work independently. Either may bring a guest under their guidance. First time guests may attend free-of-charge. A link for our sign-up sheet is available at purplesagepottery.com.

Saturdays with class: an additional \$60 will cover students for 10 weeks in conjunction with a class. This fee is kept low to encourage students to practice. Current students may, however, pay \$17 per Saturday or \$8 per hour.

Former students and guests: may pay \$70 a month, \$22 per Saturday or \$9 per hour.

Classes for Adults

Monday night intermediate: Lisa Mistretta will help you discover the joys of working with clay through hand building and wheel throwing.

Tuesday morning intermediate+: Purple Sage Pottery owner Iris Minc will help you refine current skills and learn more advanced techniques.

Tuesday intermediate: Jenny Graf will teach the basic techniques for beginners and introduce more advanced techniques to others.

Tuesday night intermediate/advanced: Benefit from Lisa's depth of knowledge to boost your clay work to the next level.

Tuesday night beginner and beyond: Becca will teach you the basics of working with clay as well as more advanced skills through hand building and wheel throwing. #

Wednesday morning beginner and beyond: Jenny will teach you the basics of working with clay as well as more advanced skills through handbuilding and wheel throwing.

Wednesday night intermediate: Anni Melancon helps you express your creativity while refining your hand building and wheel throwing skills. ** #

Wednesday night beginner and beyond: Becca will teach you the basics as well as more advanced techniques. #

Thursday morning beginner and beyond: Iris will introduce beginners to clay basics as well as more advanced techniques to others.

Thursday night beginner and beyond: Meryl Goldsmith will teach clay basics to beginners and introduce more advanced techniques to others.

Class Details

Fall classes start the weeks of Sept 7 & 14
Classes starting the week of Sept 7
are marked **

Winter classes start the week of January 4

Most evening Sessions are 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Classes running 6:30 - 9:30 pm are marked #
Morning Sessions are 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

10 week Adult Fall Session fee is \$500
10 week Adult Winter Session fee is \$500

\$6.50 per pound materials & firing fee
is charged for finished pieces

iris@purplesagepottery.com
www.purplesagepottery.com

Studio Member Info

For the potter who is ready to work independently, studio access is available.
\$150 per month will allow you to
use the studio anytime.