

# RAKU WORKSHOP

## OVERVIEW

Raku is a Japanese word that can be translated as enjoyment, happiness, or comfort.

Raku firing dates back to 16th century Japan as an outgrowth from the Buddhist tea ceremony.

Unglazed, muted ceramics were best suited for the savouring of tea at the time. The best of these unglazed ceramics were originally produced in Shigaraki, by the great tea master Sen no Rikyu and his friend Sasaki Chojiro.



The traditional Raku method includes putting thrown and bisqued (once fired) pottery forms, directly into an open Raku kiln, to be pulled out a few minutes later and plunged into water. The temperature shift between the kiln and the water causes the surface of the vessel to crackle and change in color.



Today, in the modernised form of Raku, pottery is removed from the kiln while at bright red heat and placed inside containers with combustible materials. Once the materials ignite, lids are placed upon the containers. This produces a reduction atmosphere where little oxygen is present.

The combination of glazes, combustibles, and reduction contribute to glaze surface effects and color development.



## LINKS

Below are links on the Raku process for you to see and familiarise yourself.

<https://youtu.be/RtXxhRF71jE>

<https://youtu.be/uYDqKLcaT2E>

<https://youtu.be/XaZbSHj23mo>

We will also be doing 'naked raku' firing which is a two part process. We will complete part one and the section in which you will participate is shown in the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNASYWQ1ETs>

## COST

BD 65

You will be going home with a couple of pieces of Raku pottery, an expensive and beautiful variation in ceramics along with the knowledge of a fascinating and ancient form of art.

The costs includes everything required.