

*“Steam your mind & sharpen your hands,
make something usefully beautiful.”*

ARTISAN LAB



“If you can think it — You can make it”

Maker Space / Incubator
Artisanal EVERYTHING
PROCESS Engineering

Focus — *what we believe and why*

Artisan Lab exists to inspire personal growth through craftsmanship. Through direct experience, participants build skill to invent their futures.

“Learning-by-doing” develops self-esteem, perseverance and patience.

The experiential learning of Artisan Lab blends appropriate technology & traditional skills to fire the subtle geometry of self-reliance. Myriad facets of individual intelligence, guide hands and mind to build community & compassion.

The belief that direct experience builds a balanced and versatile mind and nurtures the ineffable is a guiding principle.

Mission — *what we do and for whom*

Artisan Lab is a hands-on experiential Maker Space enriching local and global communities with programs and services which build creative capacity. Our mission is to fan your smoldering spark. To be your creative “*bridge over troubled water,*” from aspiration to concept to tangible result.

Vision — *what we will look like in the future*

Artisan Lab is a place to lose track of time through making. A place to explore tangible aspirations normally impeded by the rumble and roar of everyday life. A place to receive experienced support doing what you have never done before, or doing what you already do well in a fresh & positively distracting circumstance. A sometimes busy, frequently quiet, and always resource-rich environment to physically create your seminal idea. A functionally organized or energetically messy make-it incubator jammed with tools, materials, and potential.

Purpose — *the reasons we exist*

1. To inspire personal growth by blending craftsmanship and technology.
2. To model the benefits of experiential education and learning.
3. To stimulate the creativity of local and global communities.
4. To serve all races, genders and ethnicities.

Scope — *our diverse capacity*

Though Artisan Lab is intensely focused on ceramic media & processes, our you-can-do-it capacity (in terms of materials / equipment / attitude) is diverse, inclusive and multidisciplinary. We are Artisan Engineers who see that product (whether machine or hand made) is the result of process. We will support you with 50 years of tool, material and design experience and 8,000 square feet of shop space & equipment.

Attitude — *why we do what we do*

Following Kurt Hahn's example—if we can find a way to “*encourage both thought and action—not one or the other*” our goal will be accomplished. While we value conventional education, our experiential attitude follows a mind / hand focus outside the norm. We believe path and intention is always more important than result because path and intention create result.

Community — *servicing local and global*

We are guided by the challenges and aspirations of our local and global community—telling us who we are and where we want to go. Serving all races, genders, and ethnicities, success will be in direct relation to our capacity to understand, honor, and return value to community.

Mentors — *our inspiration*

Artisan Lab is inspired by the philosophy of Kurt Hahn and the indefatigable activities of Lance Lee and Jon Wilson to model this example. Artisan Lab uniquely reflects aspects of Black Mountain College, The Archie Bray Foundation, Penland School of Craft, and The Apprenticeshop. We are locally inspired by Mandala Farm, College of the Atlantic, Schoodic Institute, and Eagle Hill Institute and encouraged by Maine Community Foundation.

Who We Are — *how we are unique*

We are Process Designers and Artisan Engineers who encourage magic to happen. We are enthusiastic blenders of appropriate technologies and traditional craftsmanship. We are stubbornly ordinary people making an infinitesimal contribution to creative exploration and expression. We are alchemists of passion, persistence, and heightened attention to detail. Believing you alone hold the key to your unique destination—we aggregate resources to amplify your effort. We will teach and inspire—but will first listen, encourage, and collaborate.

Partnerships — *no one is an island*

Essential to Artisan Lab development—we are recruiting experienced partners. We seek exceptional individuals with unique skill sets who find their professional development and idealistic inclination at the proverbial “fork in the road.” The ideal candidates would have extensive ceramic experience as well as design & fabrication skill with a broad range of media—supported by experience in nonprofit management and strategic planning.

Programs — *means to our goals*

We offer the opportunity to practice thinking and making as you interact with a community of others doing the same. Our programs build capacity to focus attention to detail. Our goal is to experience thought and action independently so we may fluently use them together.

Internships— *full depth immersion*

Our premier program offering will be Internship programs. Internships will draw people (from local and global communities) with widely varied interest and experience in a broad spectrum of media applications. This program will provide unique opportunities to creatively explore Artisan projects complementarily supported by hybrid processes. The opportunity to work with innovative teachers in the peaceful and beautiful setting of coastal Maine sparks potent catalytic potential.

Workshops — *taste experiential learning*

Artisans-In-Residence & Internships programs will provide teachers for a diverse series of hands-on Mini and Mega-Workshops. Artisan Lab will be a magnet for maker-enthusiasts passionate to hone their skills and create beautiful and innovative projects in a supportive environment.

Result — *experiential understanding*

“The tangible object of the program is secondary to skills which are exercised and the individual whose life is nurtured and expanded. Since it is only a vehicle for growth and learning—the scale and content of the project is infinitely adaptable as fuel to nurture the intuitive spark in the mind of the learner.” — Brady Gow (Rockland Apprenticeship graduate)

“It taught me just to take a breath, and believe that I could do it. One step at a time and get it right and not bullshit my way through a paper the night before, or whatever tricks you play at college to get the marks. I couldn’t pull any of that—it was all right there in your face when you came in the next morning, your mistakes. It’s got to be done right and that’s what I enjoyed the most—being given the space, the opportunity, and the materials to realize how I enjoy making stuff when it can be done right, with good instruction, from those around you—and from yourself.”

— Juliet Brown (Rockland Apprenticeship graduate)

Parent Organization — *from acorn to oak*

Maine Kiln Works / Water Stone Sink is an Artisan Workshop creating functional works of stoneware, porcelain, wood and metal—with 4 decades of dedicated effort and experience.

In 1971—Dan Weaver declined a university teaching position—moved to rural Maine determined to make a living pursuing a passion as Maker. Joined by his wife, Liz (in the late 1980s) and recently their daughter, Joanna (a documentary film maker & editor).

Our Gallery and work shops are located in a tiny coastal village, on the way to the Schoodic Point section of Acadia National park.

Philosophy — *our intuitive guide*

"I can't believe that!" said Alice. "Can't you?" the Queen said in a pitying tone. "Try again, draw a long breath, and shut your eyes." Alice laughed. "There's no use trying," she said. "One can't believe impossible things." "I dare say you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

— Lewis Carroll -- *Through the Looking Glass*

"If a kiln is small, I might be able to control it completely, that is to say, my own self can become a controller, a master of the kiln. But man's self is but a small thing after all. When I work at the large kiln, the power of my own self becomes so feeble that it cannot control it adequately. It means that for the large kiln, the power that is beyond me is necessary. Without the mercy of such invisible power I cannot get good pieces. One of the reasons why I wanted to have a large kiln is because I want to be a potter, if I may, who works more in grace than in his own power."

— Shoji Hamada — from *Unknown Craftsman* — Soetsu Yanagi

"Start to Finish — Concept to Completion"

Snug to Brook & Pond
WINDOW to Flanders Bay
West GOULDSBORO, Maine
Village pop 50 ±