

The Potteries

Stoke-on-Trent:

The city's history is bound up with that of the ceramics industry; the Stoke-on-Trent area is, in fact, generally known as the Potteries. The production of pottery dates back to at least the 17th century and was founded on the area's abundant supplies of clay; of salt and lead for glazing; and of coal, used to fire the kilns.

From the 18th century until the 1960s, bottle ovens were the dominating feature of the Staffordshire Potteries. In the heyday there were up to 4,000 [bottle kilns](#) with as many as 2,000 still standing in the 1950's. The Clean Air Act, meant the mass decline of the pottery industry, due to the smoky, coal fired ovens. There are only 36 bottle kilns still standing today - most are [listed buildings](#).

Pollution has been a major problem in the Potteries because of the large number of kilns. Not surprisingly the area had a very high death rate associated with diseases of the [lungs](#).

Clay is a type of soil. It has been cleaned and refined. To turn it into pottery it gets 'fired' in a Kiln at 1060-c. This is called 'biscuit fired'. A chemical reaction takes place, and the 'state' of the clay cannot be reversed.

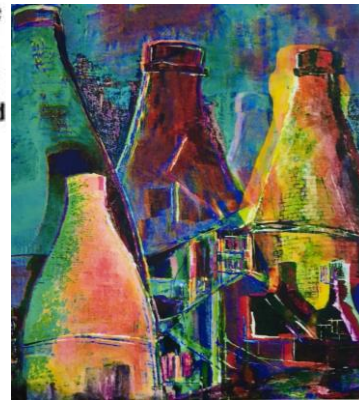
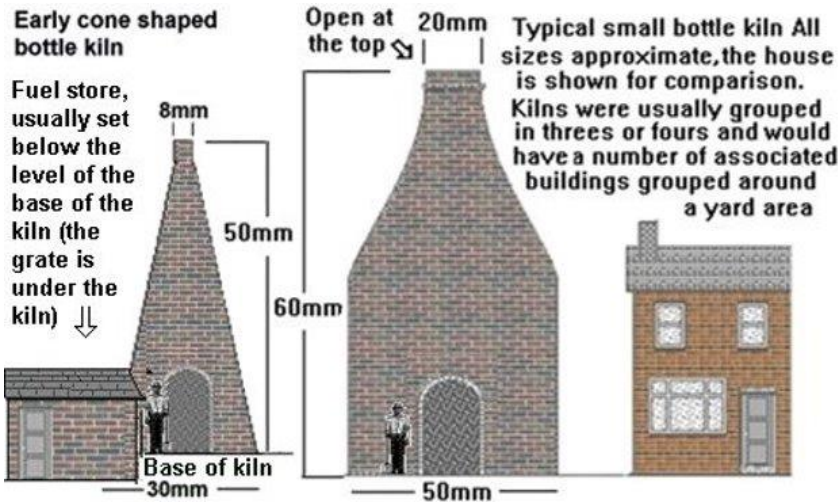


Key knowledge - How to join Clay

1. **Score**
2. **Slip**
3. **Stick**
4. **Smooth**



MICHEAL PRITCHARD (B. 1945)
 Micheal Pritchard has been capturing the dramatic urban landscape The Potteries horizon since the 1960's. The industrial Heritage of the North Staffordshire has always played a part in his work alongside colour. He devised the multi layer chromatic effects in the form of bottle ovens shapes. He continued to work from his massive collection of early photographs of the factories and bottle kilns which he obsessively recorded.
 Micheal works in oils, acrylics, watercolour, as well as photographic and digital collage



Art Keywords

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| Some dry | Clay that is ready to be fired |
| Clay | Moist sticky earth |
| Coil | A rolled ring of clay |
| Coiling | Fixing rings of clay on top of each other |
| Ceramics | The art of making objects from fired clay |
| Firing | Applying heat to harden clay |
| Form | The 3D/solid nature of an object |
| Glaze | A coating applied to ceramics |
| Hollowing | Removing the inside of a solid |
| Kneading | Pressing together and working with the fingers |
| Kiln | A type of large oven for baking pottery |
| Leather hard | Clay that is too dry to be worked |
| Modeling | Working clay into a shape or form |
| Pinching | Squeezing between the thumb and a finger |
| Pottery | Objects shaped from moist clay and hardened by heat |
| Plasticity | Capable of being shaped or formed |
| Recycling | Soaking un-fired clay in water |
| Scoring | Cutting or scratching the surface |
| Slab | A flat evenly cut/rolled layer |
| Slip | Liquid clay |



keywords - potteries, industry, kiln, detail, glaze, textured, manipulate, oil pastel, resist, clay