Featherstone Center for the Arts is a year-round hub for art and creativity, now celebrating 30 years of serving the Island community. Between class and summer camp enrollment, gallery visitors, and special events, Featherstone sees thousands of people pass through the doors annually. While there are offerings in a variety of mediums including jewelry, painting, printmaking, and fiber arts, the busiest building on campus by far is the pottery studio.

Every weeknight, multi-week classes are held for potters at all levels, with both introductory classes welcoming new faces and intermediate/advance classes where continuing students can hone their skills. Open studio times are available multiple times a week, allowing for more opportunities to work. These classes and open studios provide more than an instructional space – they create a community environment.

Drop in to any of these classes and you will find closeknit groups who, in some cases, have been working together for months or even years. The studio is always full of joyous conversation and lively music as dedicated instructors spend time with each student, giving detailed demonstrations, instruction, and encouragement. Join a Saturday morning open studio session and you will be surrounded by people who excitedly discuss each other's projects while diligently working on their own. Everyone is eager to share their experience, techniques, and even their tools or materials. Discussions often shift between a variety of topics, from local news to personal anecdotes, and can grow to involve the entire room. If you did not know anyone's name before arriving, you will leave knowing everyone.

The studio is also a welcoming place for children. On Saturday afternoons there is Ceramic Exploration, a weekly drop-in class for ages seven and older. Often full, these classes allow local children the opportunity to express their creativity through unique and engaging projects. Week after week, they produce whimsical creations and have time to visit with their friends. In the summer, Island and visiting children alike come together for Featherstone's Ceramics Summer Art Camp, with weeklong offerings for ages eight through ten. These weeks are carefully structured to allow children the

opportunity to fully complete several projects and create a place where new friendships are formed.

Outside of recurring classes, one-day workshops are offered monthly, many of which are designed for those who have never worked with clay before. These workshops give both residents and visitors the opportunity to have an accessible and memorable art experience where they can walk away with a usable mug, bowl, or vase that they have created. Whether coming alone or with friends, everyone is welcomed into the space and able to socialize as they learn. While some people are satisfied with an individual class, for others these serve as an introductory experience to ceramics. Former participants from one-day workshops can now be found in more advanced courses as the ceramics program continues to expand.

Ceramics are a large part of Featherstone's Holiday Gift Show, an annual winter market where Vineyard artists fill the gallery with everything from knitwear and candles to paintings and jams. Here, tables are occupied not only by instructors but also by students, some of whom are selling for the first time. Featherstone offers more than a place to create, providing opportunities for artists to showcase their work and support themselves through art sales and exposure.

Between one-day classes, weekly offerings, and summer camps, the studio is a lively place that allows artists of all levels and ages a chance to come together and create. Even local artisans who may not have full studios of their own are able to participate in workshops and fire their work at Featherstone. Whether it's a quick drop off in the kiln room or involvement in workshops, those who are not routinely in the studio are seamlessly welcomed. From visitors participating in single workshops to dedicated students that return week after week, the pottery studio at Featherstone Center for the Arts is a vibrant space that truly creates community through the arts.