

Raku Process

楽



The kiln chamber is heated and the pots warmed on top.



Using tongs the pot is placed in the heated fire chamber – approx 1700° F



The chamber is gradually heated to approx 1900° F. Usually in three increments. This process may take as little as 30 minutes.



Well on the way to needed temperature, the lid has been opened to show the all encompassing flame.



Most raku glazes mature at approx 1900° F. Notice the shine on the surface of the pot inside the kiln. A sign that it is ready to be removed.

When “the surface looks like the glint of the moon on the ice”, it is done. Shoji Hamada



Tongs are used to remove the fired piece.



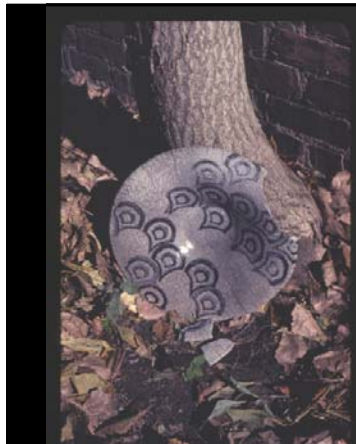
It is next placed in, under or surrounded by combustible material which instantly burst into flame.



The reduction area is covered to extinguish the flame and cause it to smolder, creating smoke. This process forces carbon molecules into the exposed clay body and effect any glaze with the bombardment of carbon.



Reduction times vary depending on artist and glaze used. After the reduction process is complete the surface typically has a layer of residue the can be scrubbed off when the pot is cool.



The finished piece has been scrubbed after cooling.

Notice the broken edge which happened during the scrubbing. At any point in the raku process tragedy can strike.



The raku process using the PCC Rock Creek raku kiln



Warming the pots during the pre-heat



Loading



Loading



Removing the first load



Heading for the reduction chamber



The hot pot ignites the combustibles



Covering the reduction chamber to extinguish the flame



Retrieving a hot pot



There are many ways to prepare for reduction



Placing the hot pot in the reduction chamber



Waiting for just the right moment to start reduction



Preparing to move the reduction chamber out of the way. It can get crowded in the tight space.



Waiting to be opened



Opening for a view of the results



