



# KILN YARD

## HIRE AGREEMENT

---

Yorkshire Artspace has 2 gas kilns located in our outdoor Kiln Yard facility at Persistence Works in Sheffield city centre. These are available for gas/reduction firing of ceramic work made offsite.

### SMALL KILN 15 cu/ft LPG downdraft, sprung arch

- Packing space: each layer accommodates 2 x kiln shelves @ 18" x 12" each per layer = total area available 3 ft<sup>2</sup> per layer. Example pack of 4 layers = 12 ft<sup>2</sup> packing space.
- Overall internal volume measuring 27 x 27 x 33 inches (w x d x h) + 4 inches height at apex of sprung arch (13.92 cu/ft excluding arch volume, 15.25 cu/ft including arch volume).

### LARGE KILN 60 cu/ft LPG downdraft, sprung arch

- Packing space: each layer accommodates 8 x kiln shelves @ 18" x 10" each per layer = 36" x 40" total area available (10 ft<sup>2</sup>) per layer. Example pack of 4 layers = 40 sq/ft packing space.
- Overall internal volume measuring 45 x 45 x 48 inches (w x d x h) + 6 inches height at apex of sprung arch (56.25 cu/ft excluding arch volume, 61.77 cu/ft including arch volume.)

### SUPPORTED FIRINGS

Kilns are hired as a whole, and firings managed by our Kiln Technicians including loading, firing and unpacking. Hire rates are listed in our Hire Rates document, available [here](#).

Firings must be booked in advance via our booking form. We will ask you to provide information about clay, glaze and preferred firing schedule including details of intended temperature gradients and any reduction periods, which will be subject to approval from our Kiln Technicians. Extra charges may need to be applied for slower programmes or for firing of large sculptural work that demands a slower curve.

For shared firings one person will need to apply on behalf of the group, be the main named contact and assume overall responsibility for booking and paying for the hire. It is the responsibility of those hiring the kiln to divide up the internal space and costs amongst themselves.

To preserve the service life of the kiln facilities, the maximum temperature will not exceed 1300C during firing. If you require higher temperatures than this, you will need to discuss this with our technicians/make a special request. The kiln facilities are not designed for atmospheric firings i.e. soda, salt, wood, and there will be no introduction of these or any other materials into the kilns at any point during firings.

## INDEPENDENT USE OF KILNS

Ceramicists hiring kilns regularly may wish to move to independent self-managed firings to decrease costs, rather than firings managed by our kiln technicians. Independent solo use of kilns can only occur following completion of supported induction with our Kiln Technicians and at the discretion of Yorkshire Artspace. In principle this process will require:

- Observation at a number of managed firings to gain experience.
- Public liability insurance and undertaking to abide by H&S requirements of the facility
- Payment of supported Induction fee - £150
- That any damage to the kilns is paid for by user

## FIRING SCHEDULES & TIMELINES

Pre-arranged supported firing dates are regularly updated on our [website](#).

If advertised dates do not fit with your requirements, please get in touch to see if we can accommodate an alternative date for you.

Loading will usually occur a day prior to the firing so work needs to be dropped off in advance of this. The whole firing cycle typically takes 5 days i.e. Monday packing, Tuesday firing, Wednesday/Thursday cooling, Friday unpacking. When making your booking please factor in time for drop off and for collection in the following week.

## DROP OFF & PICK UP

A drop off schedule will be communicated to you at booking confirmation.

You will be notified by email when work is ready for collection. You are responsible for transporting work to/from the Kiln Yard. Please note that following firing we will hold your

work for 30 days; if this time has elapsed with no communication from you, your work will become property of Yorkshire Artspace and be donated or thrown away.

## CONDITION OF PIECES

To minimise risk of cracking, breaking or explosion during the firing process and to avoid unnecessary liability and disappointment please ensure the following:

- Minimise clay wall thickness; ideally less than ½ inch unless approved by our technicians. Up to 1 inch thickness could be permitted especially if pre-biscuit fired. Raw ware up to 1 inch would need a very slow firing which may incur an increased LPG cost.
- Provide full information about clay body and glazes; doing so will greatly reduce the risk of damage and will help us provide best service. If you are unsure, please ask our technicians for advice.
- Ensure that the top temperature of your specified firing schedule falls within the tolerance of your chosen clay body. Check the manufacturer's information.
- Ensure your chosen glaze also falls within/matches your specified firing schedule. If you have no experience of using a particular glaze then we advise you test beforehand to avoid disappointment.
- Glaze must not be too thick or flaking off.
- All bottoms of pieces are free of glaze. Ideally with at least a ¼ inch margin.
- All pieces are biscuit fired or if raw must be 100% dry and fire-ready at drop off.
- Pieces have a legible name, usually on the bottom, that will be visible after glaze firing.

Kiln technicians will assess work going to the kilns based on the above and reserve the right to refuse work not meeting these requirements.

## DAMAGE & LIABILITIES STATEMENT

We will always treat your work with the utmost care. However, there is always a chance that piece(s) might be damaged during handling or firing. Yorkshire Artspace assumes no responsibility or liability for any damage that may occur due to firing or handling or for poor/unexpected glaze results and you are still responsible for payment in full for firing services.

Yorkshire Artspace reserves the right to assess work going into kilns prior to packing and to refuse any work based on construction or glaze concerns or which we deem might cause serious damage to the equipment or pose a health and safety threat.

## BOOKING IN WORK

All work to be fired needs to be booked in advance via our online [Kiln Yard Booking Form](#). Please contact us in advance of booking in your work if you have any special requirements or questions for our technicians: [kilnyard@artspace.org.uk](mailto:kilnyard@artspace.org.uk)

On completion and submission of the Booking Form, your booking will be reviewed by our technicians and any special requests or queries responded to. Following approval of hire payment will be due in full in advance of the firing via bank transfer.

Please see our [website](#) for a downloadable Hire Rates document.