

# PROJECT "CLOSER / NÆRMERE"

CERAMIC WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
2022-2024



Between 2022 and 2024, NPoK successfully completed the program titled "Closer / Nærmere."

With the financial support of Sparebankstiftelsen DNB, NPOK organized eight ceramic workshops and presentations, culminating in a showcase during the Oslo Open weekend.

We provided free ceramic workshops to over 110 children, youth, and young adults from diverse national and social backgrounds.



# PART I

## The beginning



Project "Nærmere"  
Ceramic Workshops  
2022 and 2023





Group of 11 children age 7-9 (grade 1 and 2) at Vollen Montessori Skole where children have created ceramic in relation to the "Christmas" theme. Workshop was carried out in December 2022.

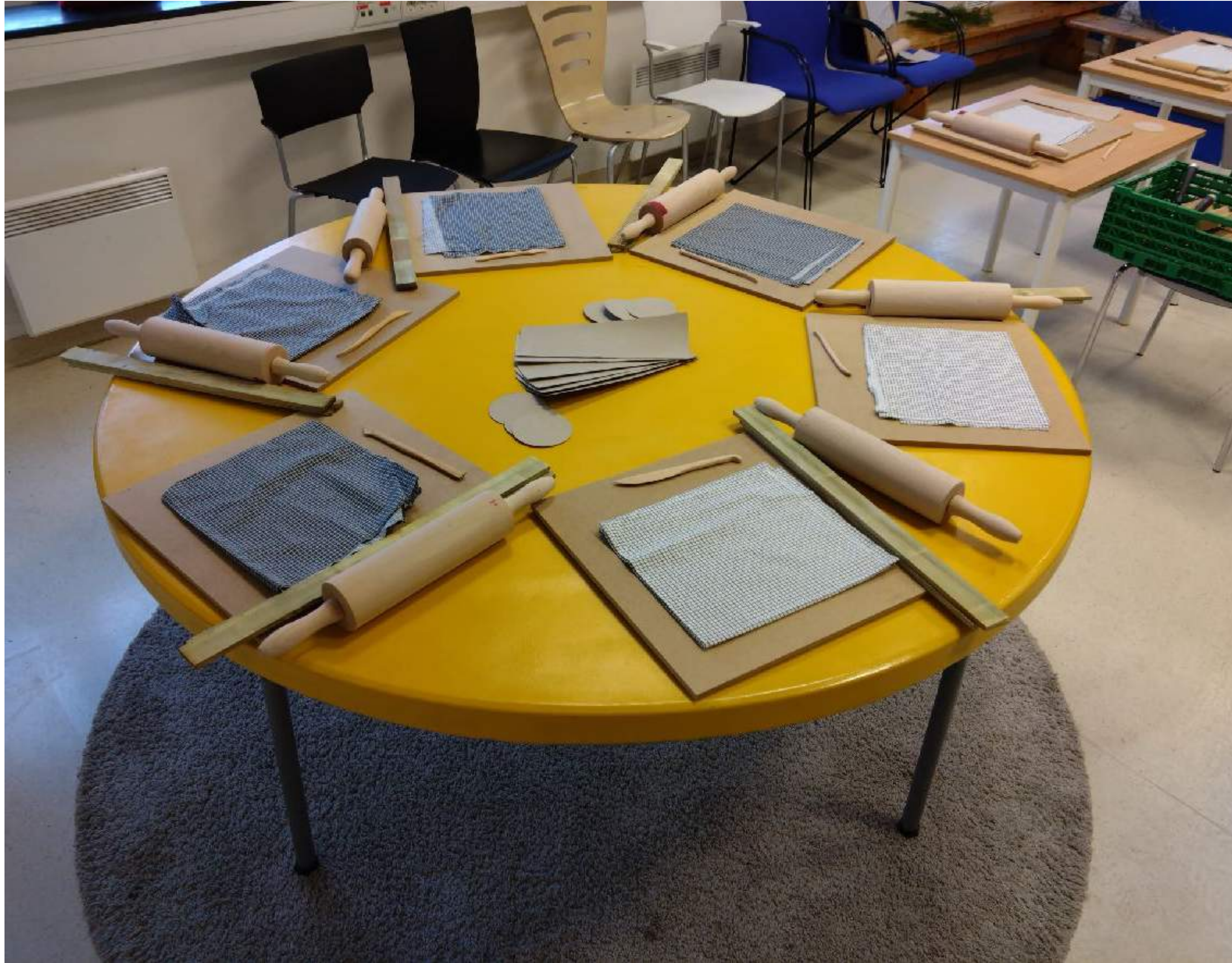


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Group of 17 Young adults group age 19-25 years. This was private group organised by the instructor artist herself in a private studio space in Nydalen in Oslo. The theme of the ceramic workshop was "Midsummer flower vase". Workshop was carried in June 2023.



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# PART II

## Hands On



Project "Nærmere"  
Ceramic Workshops  
2024

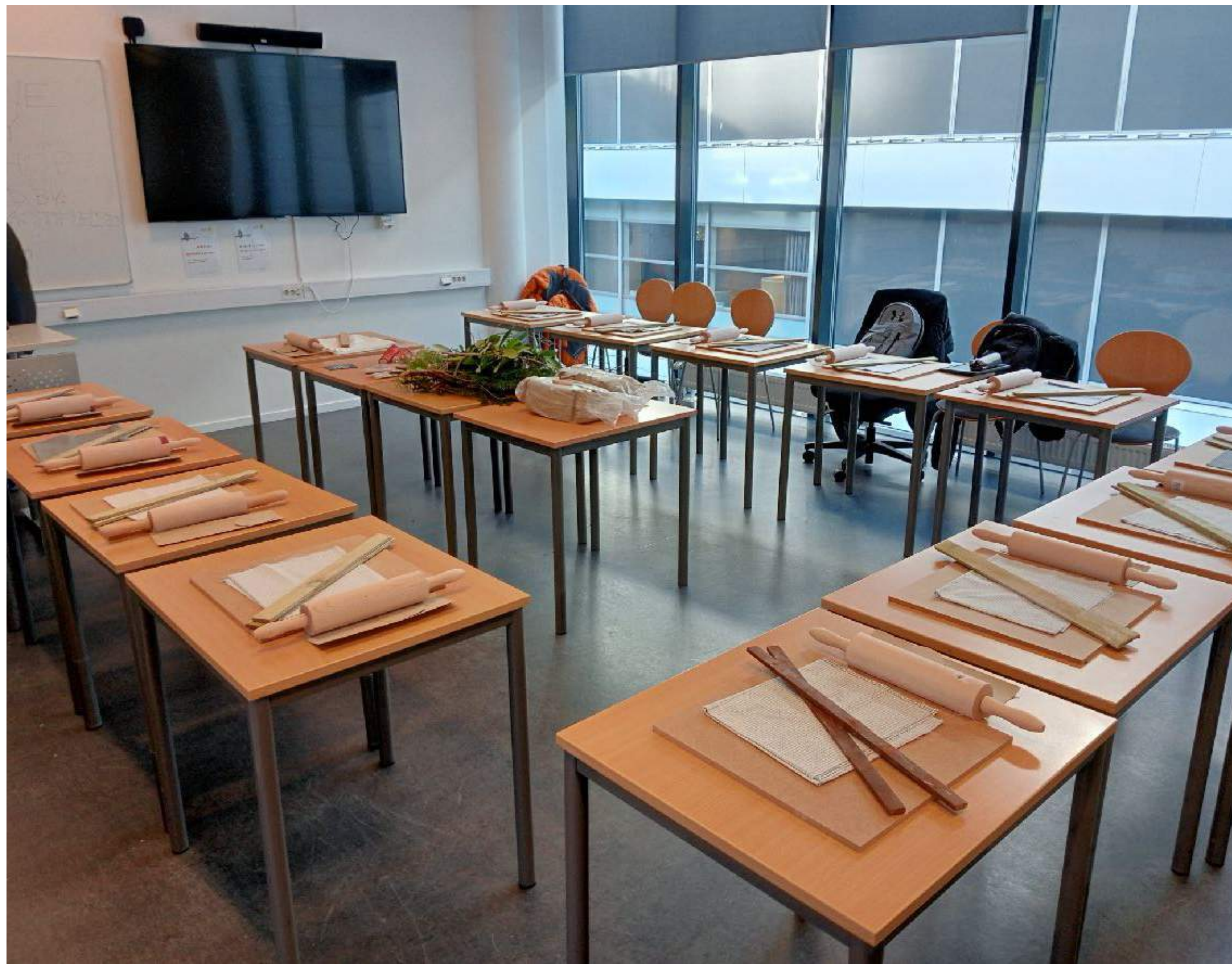




Group of 15 Young adults group age 19-25 years at Voksenopplæringscenteret in Sandvika. The participants were from migrant and refugee minority groups. The theme of the workshop: "Integration through the clay and new skills". Workshop was carried out in January 2024.



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*“The NPOK ceramic workshop was an interesting and enriching experience for my students. They were provided with a comprehensive introduction to the art of ceramics. The hands-on approach allowed the students to get a real feel of working with clay. Tools and materials were readily available, and the instructor offered personalised guidance to help the students improve their skills. They had an opportunity to learn a new craft and create unique handmade pieces. It was a memorable experience especially for the ethnic minority students from diverse cultural backgrounds who had never had a chance to participate in such a workshop before.”*

Monika Pelczarska

Teacher

Voksenopplæringscenteret Sandvika



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Group of 13 children, age 5-6 years old (grade 0-1), at Polish School in Oslo. The children were creating ceramic hearts for the "Mothers Day" (26th May in Poland). Workshop was carried out in April 2024.



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Group of 13 children, age 5-6 years old (grade 0-1), at Polish School in Oslo. The children were creating ceramic hearts for the "Mothers Day" (26th May in Poland). Workshop was carried out in April 2024.







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*"The workshops in the children's department were an excellent experience for the kids - they showed them that it's worth believing in their manual abilities, and that everything is possible - even giving mom a beautiful clay heart! It was wonderful to participate with the children in such an exciting event and watch as our usual school rooms turned into a workshop, and the kids - into creative artists!"*

Ewa Matusik  
Teacher  
Polish School in Oslo



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Group of 16 children, age 7-8 years old (grade 1A), at Polish School in Oslo. The children were creating ceramic hearts for the "Mothers Day" (26th May in Poland). Workshop was carried out in April 2024



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Group of 11 children, age 7-8 years old, (grade 1B) at Polish School in Oslo. The children were creating ceramic hearts for the "Mothers Day" (26th May in Poland). Workshop was carried out in May 2024.



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Group of 11 children, age 7-8 years old, (grade 1B) at Polish School in Oslo. The children were creating ceramic hearts for the “Mothers Day” (26th May in Poland). Workshop was carried out in May 2024.





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*"The workshops diversified the students' activities. Thanks to them, they understood that nature gives us many more possibilities than we think. The children had the opportunity to see how beautiful patterns are created from leaves, twigs, and flowers. Thanks to the impressions in clay, they could observe details that they would not have been aware of otherwise. Then they tried to recreate them by drawing on paper. It was a wonderful lesson and creative fun."*

Danuta Sierakowski  
Teacher  
Polish School in Oslo



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Group of 17 children 12-13 years old (grade 7), at Vollen Montessori Skole where children were creating ceramic flags in relation to the 17th of May. Workshop was carried out in May 2024.



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Group of 17 children 12-13 years old (grade 7), at Vollen Montessori Skole where children were creating ceramic flags in relation to the 17th of May. Workshop was carried out in May 2024.







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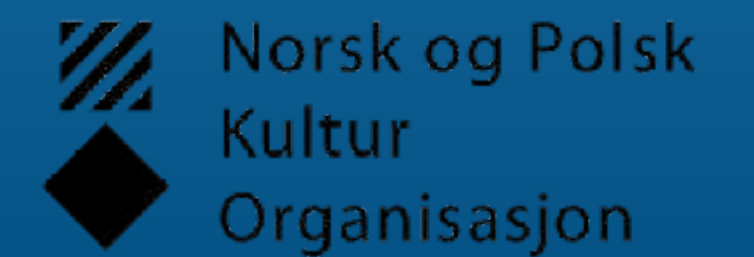


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# PART III

## Culmination





Group of 31 people including 10 children, during Oslo Open Weekend 2024 located at the artist atelier. Event was open to all and included: ceramic workshop (hand building), pottery workshop Baltic Raku and art presentation to the public.

The group of visitors included families with children, ceramic practitioners and artists, local community residents and invited guests. This international event included nationals such as: Norwegian, Polish, Italian, South African, Mozambican, British, Swedish, Kenyan and others unspecified.



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*"Attending the workshop as a neighbour it was a delightful journey into the world of artistry in the local area. The pottery workshop was a hands-on revelation, allowing us to mold our visions into live creations. The kiln firing added an element of ancient tradition, mesmerising us with its fiery transformation of clay. Artist presence brought the event to life, offering personal insights into the creative process and her artistry.*

*The organisation NPoK's dedication to cultural projects, supported by its partners like Sparebankstiftelsen DNB, made this a memorable day of learning, appreciation, and local community spirit."*

Ann  
Mother of two



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*"The open atelier and pottery workshop was a truly welcoming event. As a foreign parent, I felt the inclusive atmosphere immediately. The hands-on pottery session was not only enjoyable but also a unique opportunity for my son to experiment in clay.*

*The artists provided insight into the creative process, making it a day of creating and learning.*

Sandra and son Hugo



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*"It was great to be at the ceramic workshop. As a parents watching our kids and others, I saw how much fun they had with the pottery and raku firing.*

*The artists showed us their work, which was cool to see.*

*Members of Norwegian Polish Culture Organization made sure we all had a good time and learned something new."*

Henrik and Rosanna  
with kids



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*"A fantastic adventure with imagination. Great joy in creating art. We have broadened our knowledge about the production of clay objects we deal with every day. A plate, a cup, a vase, and other decorative items now represent a different way we look at them.*

*Thank you NPoK, it was an extraordinary adventure, and each of us will remember it fondly."*

Marzena and family



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We have successfully conducted ceramic workshops for all the designated age groups. Furthermore, we ensured the inclusion of national minorities by collaborating with Voksenopplæringscenteret in Sandvika and conducting sessions at the Polish School in Oslo. Additionally, workshops were provided to first and seventh-grade students at Vollen Montessori Skole, achieving a well-rounded demographic representation among the workshop participants.



The culmination of our program was marked by the final workshops held during the Oslo Open Weekend 2024 at the artist's studio. These sessions were attended by local families with children from diverse national backgrounds, including but not limited to Norwegian, Polish, Italian, South African, Mozambican, British, Swedish, and Kenyan, with the age range of the children being 1 to 11 years old. The event garnered significant interest from the local families residing in the Vestre Aker/Holmenkollen area, which is predominantly Norwegian-born.



The community has voiced a strong desire for the continuation of such events, citing a lack of family-inclusive activities in the vicinity.

In response to the positive feedback and the discernible impact on the community, we are committed to organizing such events biannually, thereby enriching the cultural fabric of this residential area.

We provided free ceramic workshops to over 110 children, youth, and young adults from diverse national and social backgrounds.



Photography credits:

Maria Juchnowska

Thanks for extra photography goes to:

Ewa Matusik

Tauriq Adams

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