

# ARROWMONT

*school of arts and crafts*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 22, 2007

CONTACT: Kim Newman, Public Relations  
Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts  
865-436-5860x34; [www.arrowmont.org](http://www.arrowmont.org)

## **Norwegian Ceramic Artist Leads Wood Firing Seminar at Arrowmont**

GATLINBURG, TN - Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts hosted international ceramic artist, Linda Lid of Voss, Norway July 21 through Aug. 4, for a two-week anagama seminar. The term "anagama" is a Japanese word for an ancient cave-like style kiln that is fired with wood, as opposed to electric or gas fuel, and requires round the clock stoking with wood for three to four days to reach the desired temperature of over 2,300 degrees.

Arrowmont's anagama kiln was built by Shiro Otani, from Shigaraki, Japan in 1981 and is usually fired annually.

The participants taking part in this special firing include five university professors from across the United States who were each asked to invite an undergraduate or graduate student to participate, a resident artist from the Archie Bray Foundation in Montana, and an Arrowmont studio assistant, as well as the facilitator Linda Lid and her partner Francois Pierre Eve, a French potter also specializing in wood firings.

"The goal of this special seminar," said Arrowmont's Assistant Director Bill Griffith, "was to create an elevated educational experience, as all of the participants have extensive ceramics and firing experience."

This type of firing is by its nature a team effort and a truly bonding experience. The first five days are spent furiously creating enough work to fill the cavernous kiln. Then in the days to follow, it will be meticulously loaded, as placement of work in the kiln impacts how the fire, heat and ash will play with the surfaces of the clay on each piece. The fire and ash act as the glaze that leaves rich brown earth tones on the surfaces of the pots.

"It is a true learning experience and I feel like I'll take away a little tidbit of information from everybody here," said Rusty Bouvier, an undergraduate student at Nicholls State University in Louisiana.

For the facilitator Lid, this was her first wood firing that she has played an integral part of in the United States. "Ceramics and craft education in Scandinavia is more academic, and places like Arrowmont do not exist there," she said. The

firing was different than traditional wood firings in the United States—what she brought to this seminar was her extensive knowledge of French firing techniques combined with traditional influences from Asia that includes lighter, more frequent stoking and more oxidation or air in the atmosphere of the kiln.

The kiln will be unloaded Friday afternoon, and everyone is excited to see their work, but contrary to what one might expect, the outcome has not been the focus of this seminar. Jill Lawley, Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa summed up the feeling for all of the participants when she said, “I would be happy leaving this seminar with all that we’ve learned through the process and never even seeing the results of what comes out the kiln.”

Linda Lid was born in Voss, Norway and first discovered her passion for ceramics in 1996 upon travels to New Zealand. While taking a break from her studies in psychology, she enrolled in a yearlong course at Auckland Studio Potters, New Zealand, where she excelled at the foundations of throwing, modeling, glazes and gas and wood firing. Upon discovery of her profound interest in ceramics, clay and fire, one could say a spark was lit. For the next 12 years she would travel extensively throughout the world apprenticing to master potters and studying in small villages in central France steeped in pottery traditions where she would learn the specialized techniques for throwing big pots, building, restoring and firing the ancient wood kilns. She has now returned to her native village of Voss, Norway and has set up a studio and built what she calls a “hybrid wood kiln” that has both a glaze and atmospheric chamber.

“The two weeks has centered around collective knowledge and has been very inspiring and exhilarating,” said Lid. “The bonds this type of experience creates goes beyond two weeks and gives you a feeling that you know you’ll meet again somewhere. We will all leave enriched and fulfilled.”

Arrowmont is committed to its mission of “enriching lives through art.” For more information, visit [www.arrowmont.org](http://www.arrowmont.org) or call 865-436-5860.

###