



The Art of failure.

As a ceramist, you often encounter surprises and failure is part of the long journey. It is good to know that this happens, for both beginners and professionals. In the first group, failure is due more to ignorance and lack of experience, the second to overconfidence.

It is not the failure itself that is important, but the way you deal with it. Failure is linked to success. It is because one exists that the other is there too. Failure does not exist, it is subject to change.

There are several reasons why a ceramic work is considered unsuccessful.

Here are some possible scenarios:

- The work did not become what we expected, disappointment and frustration are great. But does that mean it has to be like this? The job is only different from what was expected and someone else may have a different point of view.. When you leave a little time, you are able to let go of your first vision and you see the work in a different way.
- Maybe the piece is cracked, torn or enamel shows technical flaws. Yet this unexpected turn can make creation more interesting, accepting it as it is, opening it and doing something with it. By no longer considering creation as an end point, but as in a transition phase, you can continue working with it until a satisfying result emerges. Re-enamelling, annealing, sanding, cutting and cutting are among the possibilities.
- Even if the project fails, it may be an inspiration to re-start with the experience gained. Taking into account the causes, the reason for the tear or the crack, the error in the enamel or the clay, the bad calculation of the temperature. You will be able to work better armed the next time.

To fail or to miss, however, has no other impact on our lives:

The art of failure and the way we adapt to it, have a lot to do with our attitude, our way of learning and our "self-image". The

The vision you have of the development of your qualities has important consequences for your learning attitude. Are human capacities frozen or can they develop?



As we live in a performance-oriented society, our personal goals are often more focused on performance and competition, on achieving optimal results, than on developing our skills. The basis is the distinction between a static mental attitude and one that allows change.

The psychologist Carole Dweck gives us a vision of these two ways of thinking. In reality, they rarely occur separately. In some regions, people have a more static view (for example, withered by age) and in others, a more dynamic view (development, for example), the most important point being to be able to adjust the way we think in order to liberate ourselves and be more progressive.

"Static spirit"¹

Someone with this attitude of mind assumes that intelligence and skills are fixed. It avoids the challenges, because then you can make mistakes. He always seeks confirmation of his intelligence, personality or character. It is about being successful, being smart, being accepted and feeling as a winner. The big fear is failure, stupidity, being rejected and feeling as a loser.

The effort is useless, because if you really are a genius, you do not have to gamble. Whether you are talented or not, the success of others is a criticism they consider as a threat: there is little development and there is less progress than is possible. For such a person, failure is bad for his ego and he or she loses the vision. He or she tends to blame hm or herself and to consider it as a personal failure to the detriment of self-confidence.

Growth mindset / growth mindset

People are different when it comes to talent, interest and temperament. There is always a mix of the two starting points, but everyone is able to change by learning and gaining experience. Someone with this attitude assumes that he can develop his core qualities by making an effort. This ensures that he or she wants to learn. With an awareness that the true potential of man is unknown and one cannot predict what he can accomplish by working and practicing for years.

He or she is happy with the challenges and does not give up in adversity. Effort is the means of control. The love of full commitment and support allows these people to go through the most difficult times of their lives.

¹ C.S. Dweck (2006) 'Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. New York: Random House.



Someone with a growth-oriented mind learns from criticism and is inspired by the success of others. The result is to reach an even higher level. For those who adopt change, error and failure are parts of the learning process. They do not involve that in themselves and are less or not subject to that.

Change is possible

We are able to influence our way of thinking. As you know that there are differences, it can lead you to think and react differently when changing the internal monologue that plays a major role. The monologue aimed at destroying must turn into a monologue that directs development. Knowing how the brain works can contribute to this change. Recent research into the brain shows that it looks like a muscle: it gets stronger if you use it more often. In learning, new small connections are created. The more you challenge yourself to learn, the more brain cells appear. The result ? A healthier, more precise and more creative mind".

To be truly creative, you must dare to risk failure.

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