

PENLAND LINE

PENLAND SCHOOL OF CRAFTS • PENLAND NORTH CAROLINA 28765 • WINTER 1992



PENLAND INITIATES TWO-YEAR CONCENTRATION

In the fall of 1992, Penland will launch a two-year program designed to prepare students for full-time professional studio work in ceramics, glass, metals and possibly one additional studio. The heart of this new Concentration will be intensive studio work which will be augmented with drawing and design, business practices, history of crafts and other subjects supportive to development of the crafts person.

Here's how it will work: Students will be reviewed through an admission process which will determine their level. The full program will consist of six two-month sections — fall, winter, spring — in the two-year period. Typically, relative beginners or those starting over in a new medium will take the full program. Those who are at an intermediate or advanced level may spend only one year. There will also be opportunity for advanced students to attend one section in order to take advantage of an instructor who is offering a particular technique.

Instructors will be recognized professional studio artists and/or university instructors on sabbatical who will come for an eight-week period. The curriculum is being planned so that students will be exposed to a full range of techniques and approaches during the two years. Students will work in their major studio four days a week; all enrolled students will attend classes together on Fridays in the additional subjects. These classes will be taught by persons already resident in the area or faculty from nearby universities who might come for the weekend. Field trips to studios near Penland as well as longer trips to museums, galleries and craft fairs will also be part of the program.

As always at Penland, studios will be open twenty-four hours a day so that students can work as much as they want to. However, unlike the summer, instructors will be producing their own work when they are not teach-



Winter at Penland (once in awhile)

ing, so they will not be available through the weekends. In each media there will be both a studio coordinator and a studio assistant to provide continuity.

Penland's mission is to assist people to become professional craftspeople. The curriculum in the two-year program is totally geared to that end with the expectation that, depending on their level when they begin, those who complete the program will be ready to open their own studio, go into an artist-in-residence program or an apprenticeship.

STUDENT CONCERNS

As it is now in the eight-week Concentrations, all students will be scholarship students. In order to keep cost as low as possible, the work done in the summer through the work study program will be divided among all students. There will be work rotations so that not everyone is working in the kitchen every day. In addition there will be studio assistants and core students.

Housing is currently being upgraded with new bathrooms and other improvements. Penland recognizes

that the needs of students who will be here through the winter in terms of living arrangements and recreation are somewhat different than for two weeks in the summer. This is a consideration in the planning.

The curriculum committee (made up of Board members and other craft professionals) has also considered the studio facilities. Some changes are being made particularly to the ceramics and glass studios in preparation for the two-year program.

If students participating in the two-year plan want to do so for college credit, this can be arranged through Western Carolina, East Tennessee State University or the University of Florida at additional cost. Penland does not want to seek accreditation as an institution because we feel it would not serve the program well. The reason for initiating the program in the first place is the belief that Penland can provide a kind of educational experience that is distinctly different. This is possible, at least in part, because we do not have to have a permanent faculty and there are no degree requirements for instructors.

At present there is no provision for financial aid in addition to the work-study aspect of the program. For those opting for college credit, financial aid through the credit-granting institution might be an option.

PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

Throughout its history, Penland School has consistently provided a great experience for people coming here for the summer sessions. While we all recognize these two-week classes can barely scratch the surface, there are a lot of good reasons to continue the summer program unchanged. For many, it is really the only

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