

FIN-1 Research Paper  
Followup Report  
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## **In Search of the Essence of Clay: Kyllikki Salmenhaara's Influence on Finnish Ceramics**

My paper deals with Kyllikki Salmenhaara's influence on Finnish ceramics and her importance to it. I discuss why she is called "the mythical figure of Finnish ceramics", how she changed higher level ceramics education in Finland, and what consequences her lifelong career both as a ceramist and a teacher had on Finnish ceramics. I also cover how her legacy lives on in Finland. In my opinion, all these questions are answered in enough detail for a paper this short.

At first I thought about choosing some dog agility-related topic because I know the subject through and through, but since proper source material was more than scarce, I ended up going for art, more precisely ceramics, that has also been a hobby of mine for a long time. My former ceramics teacher, a student of Salmenhaara's, had told me so much about Salmenhaara and her respect for clay that I had been interested in her career for some time. Once I started going through source material, I realized how much she had actually influenced Finnish ceramics. For some reason, Salmenhaara's influence wasn't really covered in the sources so I was able to get something new out of the topic.

Once I had found my topic, the rest was easy. The structure of the paper was clear to me from the beginning and the writing process went quite smoothly.

### **What to Do Differently?**

If I were to start from the beginning, I would think ahead a bit more. This time I had scores of courses ending just when I should have started to write, which put off starting this paper. Apart from that, I think I would do everything in pretty much the same fashion as I did now.

### **Ideas for Future Study**

One interesting topic would be to study how and why ceramics education in general has changed in Finland the way it has. Maybe somewhat harder to study, but of great interest, would also be to study the image Finnish ceramics or industrial arts has abroad.