

Guild at a Glance

South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 4733 West Saanich Road, Victoria

April 8, 2013

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 14 Issue 8

March's Meeting - Angela Pistrucci

Muriel introduced our new member Angela Pistrucci, who together with her son Jeremy Hileman runs **Pistrucci Artworks** in Victoria.

Angela has been born with sculpting and painting in her blood.

She discovered only recently that her artistic heritage reaches back to a long line of well known painters and sculptors from Italy and England. She is a descendant from Benedetto Pistrucci, E.J. Corbett, and William Corbett.

Angela found her niche when she started her business designing and sculpting architectural tiles. She really believes in her medium – clay! She uses the same techniques as in her paintings, but elevates them to the sculptural level of a high relief, creating a 3 D effect with different heights and undercuts.

Despite all the choices Victoria's artists have to offer, there was no one doing architectural tiles. Angela and her son offer a wide range of tiles for applications as kitchen and bath back splashes, fireplace surroundings, weeping walls, fountains, sconces, Kacheloefen or frames.

The unlimited flexibility of clay allows to custom produce tiles to fit new or old buildings. This does not mean it is easy!

The multiple repeats of tiles are possible with molds (plaster is shown at right but rubber is also used).

Angela uses porcelain clay, which allows for fine details in her work.

Broken glass and glazes are incorporated in relief tiles. The tiles are fired to cone 6 to ensure the glass melts.

Keeping track of business (cost efficiency) is Jeremy's strength. You need to keep a log in order to ensure cost and return.

There is a demand for architectural tiles from designers, house builders, architects and installers. Pistrucci Artworks create the design and do the installing. So far, Angela has not yet found anything she could not sculpt.

She starts small making a Maquette and then proceeds from there to bigger pieces.

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The next Guild Meeting is

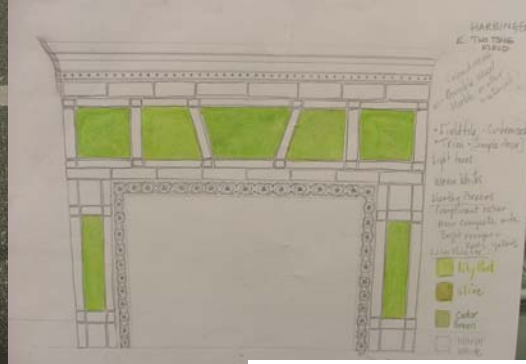
Monday

May 13th

**7:30 St. Michael's
Anglican Church**

4733 West Saanich Road

**Don't forget the
Raffle !**



Considerations for design are dictated by the space where the tiles will be mounted, i.e. no pieces should stick out where people walk by and could break them off. Safety, is another issue, i.e. resins are flammable and cannot be used around fireplaces.

Angela strongly advises that one consider what is **behind** the tiles!



For outside work, it is better to use high fire porcelain clay, which does not absorb moisture as compared to Mexican terracotta clay, which can freeze in our climate.

For molds, Angela recommends rubber molds, because they work better for undercuts. There is also a cheaper brand "mold builder" (available at Industrial Plastics). It is painted on in layers to build up a mother mold. It lasts longer than plaster molds and results in more detail and depth.

Questions and answers

Q. How to keep the tiles flat?

A. Work/stretch clay as little as possible

The clay slabs are put into the mold straight from the roller.

Only press molds are used, no liquid clay.

The tiles are left in the mold for 1 ½ to 3 or 4 hours, then are turned out onto drywall, covered with plastic wrap and weighted down with sand bags for two weeks.

Calculating the amount of shrinkage is quite a science. It has to be exact to fit the background. Measure repeatedly!

Muriel thanked Angela and Jeremy on behalf of the members for a most informative session.

Angela will be teaching at MISSA this summer

Notes by Fern W.

Submitted by Heidi



Coming in May – *Spring your new work on us!*

Bring a piece or two to show us your newest work
... to share a problem ... or a discovery! Think of
this as a chance to preview your activity before our
Guild sale in June.

Souper Bowls of Hope

An update about the accomplishments of the Youth Empowerment Society through its various programs for youth aged 12 – 18 and their families, which are available at no cost to them. These services include the Kiwanis Emergency Youth Shelter, the Youth Detox, the Youth Outreach Team, Mental Health Support Worker, Medical Clinic, Supported Independent Living, Life Skills classes, the Alliance Club and Youth and Family Counsellors. Through the SVI Potters Guild members' generosity and talent, the Souper Bowls of Hope raises funds to help maintain these programs. Your donations makes this a sought after noon hour event for the guests and sponsors. It will be held in the late fall at the Inn at Laurel Point.

An example of a program is the Alliance Club which is open 3 – 9 PM each day, had over 8000 youth visits and assisted 150 parents last year. There has been an increase in female youth and a significant and unsettling increase in 13-14 year age youth coming to the Club. There is also a dramatic increase in the use of laundry and shower facilities. Over 150 youth were assisted to connect with the school system. The Club served about 5500 meals and snacks.

More information about the Youth Empowerment Society is at yyes.ca

Copies of the full Report are available at the information table at the regular meeting of the SVIPG on April 8 or from Helen Hughes, hh456@shaw.ca

Suggestions – Tools to Make

- The spokes of a large umbrella (don't we have those here!) can be cut into manageable lengths and sharpened to make good piercing tools
- A plastic bottle (from dish soap or the like) filled with sand and slipped into a sock makes a good paddle. For variety, textured cloth such as burlap or cord may be glued to the surface.
- Wafer-thin slabs of your standard clay body, laced generously with fireclay and/or dusted with flint make excellent setter tiles for protecting shelves from overly (or potentially) fluid glazes. In England, these clay pads are called 'biscuits'.

from a 1976 Ceramics Monthly - some things NEVER change! Ed.

Poem of the Month – Glaze the Amazing Glass

When silica melts
it makes a glass.

“So what makes a glaze?”
you might ask.

Silica melts near
3000 degrees,
firing a kiln that hot
won't be a breeze.

So add a little flux
and you will see –
the silica melts sooner
and happy you'll be!

But molten silica
when it is hot
runs down the sides
and off of your pot!

So if you want
that silica to stick,
alumina is the one
that you should pick.

Alumina bonds
silica to clay.
“Very Important!”
most potters will say.

Silica plus alumina
add in some flux –
getting the right ratio
is really the crux.

Alter their ratios
and you will get
changes in glaze surface,
stability and fit.

To find the right ratio
for the glaze you desire,
mix a small test batch
and test in the fire.

Silica makes glass,
alumina helps bond,
flux is a melter,
of these we are fond.

These three things
make up a glaze
vary their ratios
and you'll be amazed!

© Chic Lotz

www.PotteryPoet.com
Chic@PotteryPoet.com



No Tour – 'just' STUDIOS !

The Stinking Fish Artists are not having a set tour this year but have decided to produce a

studio guide so people can visit the studios of 26 different artists all year long. You just have to call ahead to make sure that they are available at the time you would like to visit. These are artists in the Metchosin and East Sooke areas.

There are several potters involved in the guide, Marlene Bowman, Alice McLean, Peggy Elmes, Ann Semple, Judi Dyelle and Robin Hopper.

A pdf, a map and list of phone numbers is online at the SF website www.stinkingfishstudiotour.com

CLAY IN MOTION A Guild Workshop with James Hibbert

10 am 'till 4 pm
Saturday April 20 & Sunday April 21

at the Strawberry Vale Hall

(11 High Street View Royal – off Burnside near Helmecken)

**Guild members \$70, Non-Guild members \$85
(or \$100 to include a membership to the Guild)**

Pot-luck lunch each day

For more information or to register, contact:

Linda Vigliotti

Make cheques payable to SVIPG - pay at the meeting or send to
345 Hector Road, Victoria V9E 2C3
For more information phone: 250-479-5966



Members at the Clay Symposium Saturday, March 23rd, 19 intrepid SVIPG members went to the Shadbolt Arts Centre in Burnaby for the 6th Triennial Canadian Clay Symposium. Many of us took the first ferry there and a late ferry back – it was a GOOD day! Because the Editor was one she could have filled all 8 pages of this newsletter with photos and quotes (but practiced restraint). Here is some of what we saw and said were the 'best' parts:

- *lunch was the BEST its ever been! (mentioned 4 times)*
- *LORNA MEADEN – loved her work, though thrown it was over the top - frilly! In her throwing & assembling her attitude was humble but she emphasized good craftsmanship.*
- *ROBBIE LOBELL's idea of flameware – a clay tea kettle yet.*
- *Although the Zapotec potters couldn't come, their translator (and huge supporter) ERIC MINDLING's enthusiasm in presenting their work was contagious!*



- *the boat there was EARLY and the one home had no buffet!*



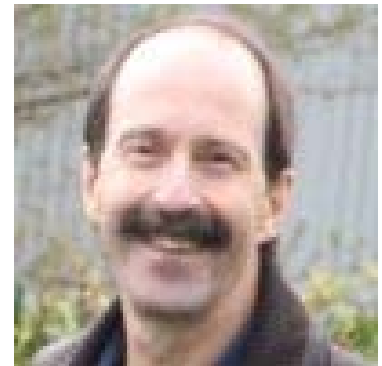
- The 'Roadshow' was astonishing! Thank you LES MANNING.
- ROBIN HOPPER's presentation was inspiring ... and the room was definitely too small!

The VERY best part?

The applause when someone got back on the bus (and he wasn't even late).



- BOB KINGSMILL was funny - I loved his simple tools, he uses whatever's at hand - his work is fabulous! - I'm really glad they gave him the Lifetime Achievement Award



- I'd known her work for a long time but was thrilled to get to know JUDY WEEDEN as a person - she's great!

- TAKESHI YASUDA - at first I wondered if he would say anything, he just worked, but then he showed us that he has a very dry and funny wit. One of the highlights of his presentation was his philosophy about "good clay (being) the one that suits your purpose".

Then there was his rather unusual technique ... and perspective.



Next time ...

GO !!!



WHAT WE DO

Frances Beckow and Nancy Alexander



Two and three dimensional works by Frances Beckow, visual artist and Nancy Alexander, potter.

Our new series of works explores renewal through colour, light and form.

“Let that which we love Be what we do
There are a thousand ways to kneel
and kiss the earth.” – RUMI

*We will setup a studio in the gallery where
you can come and watch us do what we
love.*



Tulista Center

May 26th to June 2nd

For more information please call 250-656-7400 or
email admin@cacsp.com.

Your 2012-2013 Executive

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**SAANICH WEST STUDIO
TOUR**

May 11 and 12, 2013

11 AM - 4 PM

A Mother's day outing

- 16 artists showing - A guest minstrel in the woods
- Sticky buns to taste - Sip a coffee and watch the birds

TWO STOPS TO MAKE

At: 270 TREVLA C PLACE PH 270 479-9833

off Interurban on Hector
mostly clay artists

AND

1717 WOODSEND DRIVE ph 250-479-6970

off Prospect Lake Road
garden sculpture and pottery
painting, photography, glass art
metal art, etc.

GEORGIE'S CAFE is our sponsor again,
Its worth a stop **4649 WEST SAANICH ROAD**
- for tasty homemade soup, Mt. Royal bagels and country
baking

ADVERTIZING RATES

Business card size (2" X 3 1/2") :
\$10 per issue
or
\$75 for 10 issues

Quarter page ad (3 1/2" x 4 3/4") :
\$20 per issue
or
\$150 for 10 issues

**Sale announcements, events,
classified ads:**

FREE

contact editor at:
eartharts@me.com



... is the newsletter for the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild.

It is published monthly, September through June, and is available on line at: www.victoriapotters.ca

Articles and items of interest to members are welcome and will be included as space permits.

Items for inclusion are best emailed to the editor, Louise P, at: eartharts@shaw.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The earlier submissions are received, the more likely there will be room to include them. Our meetings are held the second Monday of each month. Be kind to the editor, please send items for inclusion *before* the

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

Newsletter Staff

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editor: Louise P. 250-655-3811

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**Open Monday to Friday
9 am – 4 pm**



Victoria Clay Art

654 Burnside Road W.
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8
250 384-3831
vcart@shaw.ca

We're now stocking heavy duty canvas from Pakistan. Great for making wareboards or wedding tables. \$8.95 per yard.

Custom wareboards are available as well, call for details.

Dirty Girl pottery tools available including foot fetish, wiggle wire and oak angle wood tools. These make great stocking stuffers.

We have tea pot handles from England, finest quality cane sized from 3" to 8". Great selection, priced from \$5.75 to \$12.95 each.

Great new items in stock for texture on clay such as: Amaco rollers, Mayco designer stamps, wooden rollers, star cutters, ribs, haxe tool, paddles, alphabet and number stamps, rasps, slip trailers, etc.

When you shop

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