

Guild at a Glance

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

January 9, 2012

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 1, Issue 5

December's Meeting – 'Show & Tell'

Derek talked about being out of control, Karen revealed naked raku and Roger noodled along. The three were among the Guild members who took part in the "show and tell if you want to" exhibition at the December meeting. Members brought recent work for a gallery, and those who attended chimed in with their own knowledge in a wide-ranging exchange of ideas that preceded the annual Christmas feast of finger food, wine and punch.

New member Derek displayed a large bowl that demonstrated his love for shapes that are slightly out of control, with colourful weird elements. "Most of what I like the most is just beyond the role of structural control," he noted. Betty brought along a miniature chest of drawers that is a co-creation by herself and her daughter, with her daughter building the wood frame and Betty making small ceramic drawers that dovetail nicely into the wood.

Debbie demonstrated a piece that had been fired in a Japanese wood kiln. Roger's noodle pot was glazed half with a celadon and half with a matte green glaze, with a blue effect on the edges where the two glazes meet. Elaine demonstrated a crystalline glaze in a cone 6 firing on a mug. Ester showed how her work with oil and vinegar vessels had expanded into a teapot. Dan related the misadventures in firing that resulted in a uniquely glazed teapot.

Tobias talked about his research into his Cherokee heritage is resulting in more native input into his work. Joy showed a piece created with an impressed burdock leaf, with Bernard's black wiped off and a watered down clear glaze swept over: this resulted in a discussion of how to deal with clear-but not inert-glazes that bleach out the colour from iron oxides. Penny talked about her efforts to recreate an eggshell colour. Beth showed a shaped, carved and sanded Cone 6 creature. Heidi brought a "picture" showing hanging clothes on a line—and commented that she has to explain to some young people what that is all about. And Rosemary showed a leaf-decorated large plate that, to her amazement, did not slump in the kiln, with a green and rusty red glaze that replicated autumn maple leaves.

Submitted by Rosemary Neering (with thanks for her last minute work)



*A photo would have
been here
– if one had been sent*

The next Guild Meeting is

MONDAY

February 13th

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

4733 West Saanich Road

***Don't forget
the Raffle !***

MALCOLM DAVIS October 17, 1937- December 11, 2011



Thanks to you, Malcolm!

Dear friend, mentor and inspiration to thousands working in clay, Malcolm's life journey served as an exemplar for many who have chosen the path of the publicly engaged studio potter. As a humanitarian and potter, Malcolm somehow managed to seamlessly interweave strands of altruism, idealism, pragmatism and improvisation. He taught us what was required to lead a meaningful life as a maker, teacher and friend. In the process, he shared with us lyrical, carbon-kissed pots that came from his own hands, raised our awareness of the great works made by others, and generously gifted his knowledge, passion and love for material, process, meaningful moments and human connection.

In the introduction of his closing lecture for NCECA's 2010 Conference in Philadelphia, entitled [How Did I End Up Here?](#), Malcolm shared...

The earth binds us potters to one another; none of us are here without the other, so gratitude must be paid to this community of makers and creators... And then there is The Clay. None of us would be here today, struggling and surviving, creating and making, if it weren't for the power of the living earth that seduces, sustains and keeps us growing. Thanks to The Clay, to all those workers and makers over the millennia who paved our way.

Source: nceca 2011

West Saanich Studio Tour ARTISTS WANTED

We are looking for potters, sculptors, anybody working with clay to take part in the **Saanich West Studio Tour May 12/13 2012 (Saturday & Sunday – Mother's Day)**. The cost for participating is \$50 (used for advertising) with no additional percentage taken.

Once again, the tour is going to emphasize clay artists since many of the original members happen to be potters. If you live in Saanich West you can show in your own studio or join a group in another location. You don't need to live in the Saanich West area to participate.

We would also like to invite artists working with a different medium. If you know of anyone who might like to be involved, please pass this information on to them.

Deadline: If you want to be included in the brochure, we need your contact information, selling location and payment by February 14th.

Belle Leon collecting information about participants (250-382-1328 or belle.leon1@gmail.com) **Nancy Alexander** is collecting the money (250-479-8559 or alexanders@telus.net)

GUILD MEMBER'S WEBSITES

Ann Coleman www.anncoleman.ca
Cindy Gibson www.gobc.ca/cindygibson
Joan Kagan www.joankaganpottery.com
Sophia Morrison Google Sophia Morrison, click on Sitka Studios
Louise Parsons www.eartharts.ca
Ann Semple www.clayfootcrockery.com
Nancy Wall www.gobc.ca/nancywall
Susan Whitham www.mirasolstudio.com

... and

BLOGS

Robin Hopper is writing a new blog! 'Phoenix' will cover a wide variety of topics – and - Robin plans to update it daily. Information on his blog can be found on his web site: www.chosinpottery.ca

*Do you have a web site or a blog not listed?
Please email Betty B (betbur@shaw.ca)
with the information.*

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
that 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.

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

These three things
will make a good glaze,
get the right ratio
and you'll be amazed!

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www.PotteryPoet.com
Chic@PotteryPoet.com

Outside the Studio

Your Website in the New Year

Do you have a website? The new year is a perfect time to refresh and update your site. Odds are you changed in 2011 - did your website keep pace?

There are many simple ways to update your site. Where to begin? Read your website. Does it still fit with your philosophy? What do you want visitors to see when they first go to your site? What are you showing and telling about yourself and your work? Have you indicated that some of your work is for sale? Is your work described as to size, materials, name? Is there something on your site you don't do or make anymore? How can people contact you? For inspiration it is a good idea to visit other artist's website. Consider your reactions, likes and dislikes. Jot ideas down and then move in the direction of change.

Some simple ways to do this:

- update/change your opening page in terms of images and information
- update/change photos in your gallery
- write/reflect on your body of work
- offer a calendar/overview of upcoming dates in 2012 to do with your work, shows, workshops etc
- update your headshot
- update your copyright date to 2012

Some more detailed changes:

- change your website colour, background, header, navigation
- add a blog - this is something you have to want to do on at least a weekly basis. What to say? What you are working on, how it unfolds, your artist statement for a current project, your experiments (successful and failed)
- a complete re-do from structure and design to what and how information is displayed

The added bonus of a website is that it makes you look at your work in a different way. By having to consider your work from the viewpoint of a visitor to your site and write about it, you might discover something about your process. It is also a good way to chronicle your artistic development.

For anyone with a website or considering one - educate yourself in the basic terminology and site set up. Do make sure that your site is backed up, kept up to date and give people a reason to return.

We can get technical - If you have any questions you would like answered here please email them to design@earthwordcreative.com - Deb Clay

Your 2011-2012 Executive

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	Tobias T.	250-383-3893
Coffee	Priska S.	250-642-7422
	Nancy W.	250-479-3524

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



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 wedging 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.

Guild at a Glance

... 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

program writer: Nancy A. 250-479-8559
 editor: Louise P. 250-655-3811



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 Newsletter!**

SVIPG Members:

This space is waiting for YOUR input

Do you have a show coming up?

Have you seen a pot you liked a lot (or didn't)?

Do you have a favourite clay-working tool? ... or tip?

Have you been somewhere pots are made?

Do you have photos?

Email the Editor – Louise Parsons at eartharts@shaw.ca anytime **before** the first Monday of a month and you will be featured in the next newsletter!

Its up to you all – pages stay blank without you!