

Guild *at a* Glance

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

January 14, 2013

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 14 Issue 5

December's Meeting – Show & Tell *no photos this month – sorry, Editor*

The show and tell session at the December meeting was chaired by Muriel.

Members had brought some very impressive pieces. As interesting as the pieces, were the stories behind them.

Fern presented one of her pressings, that is clay pushed into a mold, fired and finished. Fern used oxides and shoe polish for highlighting.

Tobias brought some Emily Carr inspired pots, acquired at Kilshaw's Auction. Emily Carr used local clay and fired it in a brick kiln. Typical designs were influenced by native art, i.e. the raven and totem poles.

Linda showed a brown plate with a crawl glaze down the centre.

Betty B. had come up with a new Christmas tree design. The hand built trees were free standing with a white glaze. According to Betty they sold like hot cakes!

Priska showed her new design - signs of the zodiac - on cups. Another lovely idea!

Elaine had brought some of her bowls.

Alice had a raku bowl by Maja with a black and white glaze, which included nails. Amazing what people come up with!

Paige introduced another technique - "fabric" decals and stamps on a white mug.

Libby Wray had brought samples from her new kiln and studio. She uses blueish glazes, sprayed on bisque.

Derek showed a bowl by Cathy, which he found in Toronto. The design resembled ancient Greek pottery. The brown glaze was Barnard's black plus Mason stains.

Pam T-W. had traveled to Mexico, where she found a stunning vase with an intricate "cut" design. The clay is used "as is", hand built without a wheel, burnished and pit fired.

Heidi produced some examples from the Sandra Dolph workshop in October, which was a lot of fun. Everybody came up with original ideas. Although we all listened to the same instructions, the results were quite unique.

Muriel showed one of her pieces, "Dancing Turtle", from her recent show at the Martin Bachelor gallery. She talked about the booklet, she produced with the help of friends. A lovely idea, which gave more insight into her art and accompanying stories.

Thanks to all presenters for a most inspiring glimpse into the world of clay.
submitted by Heidi

Coming in February – Michael Giles talks about his Potting Life

Long-time potter and pottery instructor Michael Giles will be speaking about his life with clay--how he works, what he does, why he does it--and will display some of his own pots and the pots that have influenced him over the years.
continued on page 2

The next Guild Meeting is

Monday

February 11th

7:30 St. Michael's

Anglican Church

4733 West Saanich Road

**Don't forget the
Raffle !**

He writes about his potting world:

“I’m what is known as a “mudder” among my fellow potters.

I like to tinker with glaze ingredients as the “chemists” do, searching for the perfect formula. And at a raku session, I can get as giddy as any “pyro” around the fire. But what really keeps me coming back to pottery is getting my hands in the mud and exploring what the clay can do.

Most of my work is wheel-thrown, sometimes with hand-built elements. I like to alter the symmetry created by the wheel by manipulating the form in different ways. Sometimes I stretch out pots from the inside to create surprising new surfaces. I also use many small tools—wooden spoons, old bread knives, cheese cutters, twisty wires—to paddle, dart, indent, slice, serrate, and facet my pieces.

I’m inspired by textures, shapes, and lines I see in the natural and industrial world, and I bring these



Check out:
<http://www.michaelgilespottery.com/>

ideas into my studio. When I am glazing my pots, I often layer the textured surfaces with clay engobes, metallic oxides, and glazes. I participate in raku firings once or twice a year; however, I fire most of my pieces to 1240 C in my 12-cubic-foot electric kiln. I re-fire some pots a number of times to get the result I want.

I made my first pot in a beginner’s class in 1975, igniting a lifelong passion for pottery. In 1980 I was profoundly influenced by a month-long workshop with Wayne Ngan, which left me with a deep and lasting appreciation for the traditions of Chinese and Japanese pottery. Much of my development over the past 30 years has been self-directed through voracious reading of pottery books and magazines and liberal experimentation in my studio. For me, the real joy of the craft comes not from producing a “perfect” pot but from true engagement in the act of creating the work.”

Back to the Land – LAST CHANCE!

The last day for **Back to the Land: Ceramics from Vancouver Islands 1970 – 1985** at the Victoria Art Gallery is Sunday Feb. 3, 2013.

There is a Curator’s Tour of **Back to the Land** by Curator, Diane Carr, 2 P.M. Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013,

DON’T MISS IT!

Your Website

Read, Review and Revise - go through your entire website and take a good look at images and information.

the basics:

- ❖ update copyright to 2013
- ❖ remove outdated material including images and information
- ❖ add new material (older images etc. can be moved to an archive section)
- ❖ review what you are saying on the website - has anything changed, have you changed?
- ❖ does your headshot and "about" need changing?
- ❖ do you have a list of dates and info for any shows or sales you are involved in? Post as soon as you get them.
- ❖ overall, does the site still reflect you and your philosophy? Is it time for a new look?

A caution: always keep a safe record of who your hosting company is and what your renewal dates are. Keep all your contact information up to date. The same goes for your domain name. Sometimes domain names are included with your hosting package. Sometimes they are separate. Educate yourself on this - the past year I have had clients receive official looking but fake mailings (snail mail and email) requesting payments for "renewals" on their domain names. If in doubt, consult your hosting company. Most have an automated system for renewal which can be the safest route - especially if you are forgetful. How would these companies know who you are and how to contact you? Most info is on public record unless you pay a little extra for "privacy". Try checking out your domain name at a "whois" site like <http://www.whois.com/whois/>

Business

If you are selling your work, review how you are doing it. Your website is the starting point to let people know what you are doing, show off your work etc. If you don't have a website then consider a simple brochure that gives an overview of you and your work and always have business cards with contact information to hand out at any events you participate in.

If you don't sell your work, is this the year to try it? Do some research, talk to other people in the same field. Do they sell online? How do they collect payments? How do they ship? What are some good local shows or galleries to research? For inspiration, surf the web and see how others are presenting their work. For a different kind of experience visit etsy.com, a whole village of craftspeople selling their work.

Your Art

Is this the year to try a different technique? To perfect a certain style or glaze recipe? Is this the year to approach galleries? to enter shows? Is this the year to challenge yourself to make 1, 5, 25 pots a day? Is this the year to take a class to learn something different, to be inspired? Check out classes and workshops - MISSA comes to mind, but there are a lot more learning opportunities out there including getting together with other creative types to share and discuss creative process, technique, selling your work etc.

If you have any questions you would like answered here please email them to me at design@earthwordcreative.com - **Deb Clay**

Meet the Member – Angela Pistrucci

One of the more recent members of SVIPG is Angela Pistrucci – a teacher, an artist and an architectural ceramicist.



continued on page 4



Angela Pistrucci currently resides in Victoria BC with her family. She is a Fine Artist with a passion for all mediums. Currently she spends her time between figure drawing, painting and working with her son Jeremy Hileman at Pistrucci Artworks designing and sculpting. Architectural ceramics is a perfect voice for her artistic vision forming an alliance between painting, drawing and sculpture.

Born in Canada, she has recently discovered an artistic heritage descending from a long line of well known painters and sculptors from Italy and England. Most notably Benedetto Pistrucci, E.J. Cobbett, and William Cobbett.

Inspired by the Masters, Alphonse Mucha, the textural qualities of the art nouveau period, artists and craftsman of old, Angela could not help but fall in love with sculptural works of art. Becoming enamored with clay for its subtle, yet bold characteristics and when coupled with dimension and design it springs to life – creating architectural works that are different, personal. Above all Angela enjoys inspiring and working with other artists on joint projects teaching and learning.

Angela is an award winning artist, currently an instructor at Coast Collective and Metchosin Summer School of Arts 2013.

An Invitation from Yunomi Studio and Gallery

Yunomi Studio and Gallery would like to welcome everyone to the new larger studio space. Hours have been extended which means **we are looking for more part time instructors**. If you have any interest or would just like to drop by to check out the studio you are most welcome.

Please check out the website www.VictoriaPotteryStudioSchool.com

Ann Coleman

Note new address
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eartharts@me.com

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: Heidi R. 250-479-6470
 editor: Louise P. 250-655-3811

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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.

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