

Guild at a Glance

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

January 1, 2011

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volum 12, Issue 5

DECEMBER'S MEETING – A TIME TO SHOW, TELL & CELEBRATE!

Our meeting in December was a perfect mirror of the pre-holiday season – a time for members to show us what they have been doing, tell us of their travels and travails and then to celebrate with a wonderful variety of sweet and savory delicacies. The bounty of the potluck was matched only by our enthusiasm for what we'd been shown.



Murial S. told us about the vagaries of smoking pottery – explaining that the potter sometimes has little control over the outcome and how what is expected is often not apparent in the final outcome. Her bear plaque is an example of how serendipity can work to the creator's advantage.

Our members don't just work with clay, as **Tobias T.** so capably demonstrated. He displayed a luxurious shawl he'd woven and a sterling silver and fired glass pendant he'd created. In addition Tobias brought in three slip ware vessels he'd purchased at auction and reminded us that very interesting pieces are occasionally available at such venues.



The next Guild Meeting is
♥ Monday February 14th ♥
7:30 PM at Saint Michael's Hall

Don't Forget the Raffle!



Another story about how things don't always work out as planned was provided by our President, **Roger C.** He told us about how a decision to re-glaze a pot, not carried out completely (some of the previous glaze was left), combined with a bit of an experiment in which glaze was sprayed on last resulted in something he (and we) appreciated as quite special – and will likely never happen again.

GUILD MEMBERS' WEBSITES

Ann Coleman www.anncoleman.ca
Sandra Dolph www.sandradolph.com
Cindy Gibson www.gobc.ca/cindygibson
Joan Kagan www.joankaganpottery.com
Louise Parsons www.eartharts.ca
Ann Semple www.clayfootcrockery.com
Nancy Wall www.gobc.ca/nancywall
Susan Whitham www.mirasolstudio.com

If any other member has a website let the editor know so we can add it to this list.

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@me.com



Heidi R. explained to us how working 'flat' when portraying three dimensions can be quite a challenge. It was necessary for her to juggle perspective with foreshortening in order to make the girl's arm (on the far left of the piece) look realistic – almost as much work as hanging up washing!





Margaret W. brought two pieces she acquired in her travels – a plate with vibrant bamboo decoration in which one can almost feel the wind and a more subtly decorated tea bowl that murmurs serenity.

Overheard at the last meeting:
“... the Pot Luck - WOW”

“... we do such wonderful work
– I LOVE Show & Tell !”



Sometimes the urge to create can come from an otherwise mundane source. **Joy F.** brought a shallow vessel she made this summer and told us how the gift of a Kohlrabi leaf sent her down to the beach to mold the pot in the sand and how replicating the original colours became a consuming passion.

Paul Soldner 1921-2011

On the morning of January 5th, the NCECA office received news from our friend Doug Casebeer of Anderson Ranch of the passing of Paul Soldner. Paul was not only an historically significant figure in the rise of the studio movement in American Ceramics from the 1960's on, he was an ever present member of the NCECA community throughout its 45 year history. In 1989 Paul was recognized as an Honorary Member of the Council. Paul's accessibility as a person of warm, genuine and creative energy made an incalculable impact on the lives of artists, students and collectors throughout the world. We are all saddened by his loss from our lives. An observance of Paul's memory will be planned for the upcoming NCECA conference in Tampa/St. Pete, and Anderson Ranch is planning a celebration of Paul's life to take place in June 2011 in Aspen.

More detailed obituaries can be found at:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-paul-soldner-20110104,0,42646.story> and

<http://www.andersonranch.org/news/index.php?id=178>



POTTER'S TIPS*collected by Betty Burroughs*

To fill in carved lines with stain or oxide, try applying the stain neatly into the line with a hollow needle attached to a slip trailer. (These needles may be available at veterinary medical supply places.) Or you can use regular-sized insulin needles filled with stain. It takes a bit of practice to release the syringe at an even rate and not jab the clay!



If you have ever tried decorating with a brush on top of glaze, you know how quickly the glaze will absorb the liquid from the brush and how hard it is to get a long flowing line. Try adding glycerin to your stain, oxide or glaze. It will not affect the colour ~ just add enough to get a long flowing line.



Use a foam brush when applying wax to the bottom of pots. You won't get those threads of wax from stray bristles.



Protect your eyesight when peeping into your gas or electric kiln. Instead of looking directly into the firing chamber, use a small mirror and position it in such a manner that you can see inside through the peep-hole of the kiln by looking into the mirror.



BRUSHES.....A dime store brush will produce dime store results.

- Having a camel-hair brush does not mean it came from a camel. It refers to the soft type of hair used in making the brush. Squirrel is the finest.
- Dip your brush into dishwashing liquid before using liquid latex. As soon as you have finished, wash out immediately. Otherwise the latex will dry and be very hard to remove.
- Never wet a brush before applying metallics, lustres or mother-of-pearl.
- Brushes will last longer if you hang them upside down after washing.

Crazing Happens

Clay and glaze
both expand in heat . . .
knowing how much
can't be beat.

How much they expand
they also contract,
by the same rate
is a general fact.

If glaze contracts
more than the clay,
after it cools
the glaze might craze.

If the clay shrinks
more than the glaze,
the glaze shivers and crawls
in the cooling phase.

If the clay shrinks
more than the glaze,
the glaze shivers and crawls
in the cooling phase.

Matching clay and glaze
to shrink near the same . . .
that is our goal.
That is our aim.

Alkali oxides
are really a hit,
but be careful of how
they make your glaze fit.

Soda and potash
are really great,
but they have the highest
expansion rates.

Lithium is odd,
it expands with heat,
but doesn't contract.
Isn't that neat?

Silica too
has low expansion . . .
as an anti-craze ingredient
there is no comparison.

Some like crazing
while some do not,
but it stresses the clay
throughout the pot.

Easy to chip,
absorbs water too . . .
these are some defects
crazing brings to you.

© Chic Lotz
www.PotteryPoet.com
Chic@PotteryPoet.com

submitted by Ester Galac

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL – STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

If our 'liquid sunshine' is getting you down, why not consider one of these ?

SMOKELESS WOOD KILN WORKSHOP - in HUNGARY

July 1 – July 21

The International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemét (ICS) has been established here in Hungary for over 30 years now and is one of the worlds leading ceramic art centres. Potters, ceramists and artists come here to work on their own individual projects or as part of one of our organised themed programs. In pursuit of a greener studio practice, the International Ceramics Studio is hosting a Smokeless Wood Kiln Workshop to construct an efficient and sustainable wood-firing kiln with the world famous kiln designer and builder, **Masakazu Kusakabe**.

In the summer of 2010 we staged a successful wood-firing symposium under the direction of the Master Potter, Masakazu Kusakabe. In 2011 he will return to Kecskemét to lead this three week kiln building workshop in July.

Kusakabe sensei is a versatile artist: potter, kiln builder, sumi drawer and astronomer. His pioneering invention is the eco-friendly "smokeless kiln", which allows artists to build wood-firing kilns in built-up locations because it produces very little or no smoke.

He is the co-author of "Japanese Wood-Fired Ceramics", Krause Publications, 2005.

The program starts on the 1st July to 21st July and there is also time available after it to perform more firings in the new smokeless kiln. The program will run if there are enough applicants. (minimum 8 persons).

Costs are 260,000 Hungarian forints for the three week workshop. The cost includes accommodation in a single room (self catering), tuition, design notes and building plans, plus your work in two firings of the new kiln. Material costs are not included.

Application deadline is 1st April.

In Kecskemét we have comfortable ceramic studios and on site accommodation in single bedrooms (provided with bedding, pillows, blankets, towels etc.). The accommodation is self catering and we have large modern kitchens for preparing meals and lounges for socialising. Artists have full 24 hour access to their studios.

Further information about this event and applications contact George Varsanyi:

v.gyorgy@freemail.hu

MOROCCO EXCURSION Oct.13 - Nov. 3, 2011

Discovery Art Travel has organized a new and exciting Morocco itinerary for October 13- November 3, 2011. I encourage you to join us in the exploration of this diverse and rich country, with its fascinating history, architecture, geography and ceramics.

Please consult my website www.denysjames.com for full details and registration options.

I am offering you a \$100 discount if you register before April 1, 2011. I have a limit of 12

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.



The cost of this trip is approx. \$3975 USD.* *Due to currency fluctuations and possible increases in surcharges and taxes, prices may vary within 7%, and final prices will be determined 30 days prior to departure.

Package details are on the website at www.denysjames.com

Please contact me if you have any questions.

All the best, Denys James, Discovery Art Travel

Email: denys@denysjames.com Phone: 1 250 537 4906

ICWAT 2011

Just a reminder for those of you interested in participating in IWCAT 2011 (International Workshop of Ceramic Art in Tokoname, Japan July 16 - August 22, 2011). The deadline for applications is February 28, 2011. For applications and more information on

IWCAT: <http://www.japanet.ne.jp/~iwcats/>

Italian Clays in a Japanese Snake Kiln May 9th to May 28th Umbria Italy.

Claywork, kiln building & Firing - 3 week workshop with **Kouichi Ohara** from Tokoname, Japan

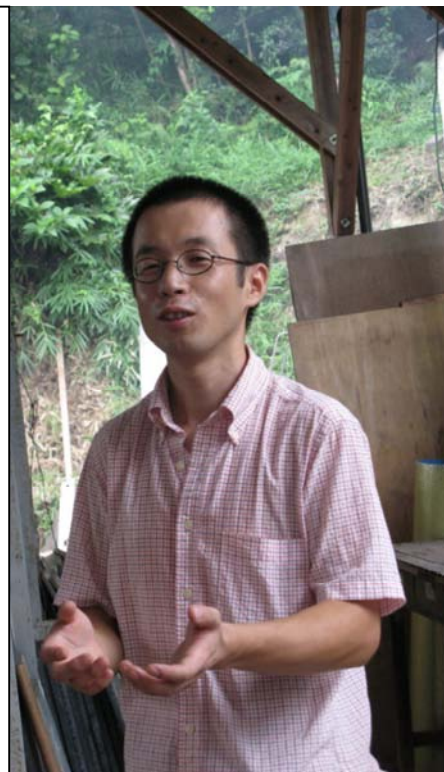
Wood firing is the focus, the place is an old farm house by the forest, in Umbria, central Italy, where I live, 30 km north of Orvieto, just half way between Rome and Florence. There will be time to also visit ceramic villages and towns in this area, walking, hot-springing, having good food and good wine!

Cost of the workshop (including your stay, simple italian meals, materials, firing) is 900 euro per person; if you want to stay 2 weeks only , you may come just for the last two weeks, bringing your pieces to fire, or ... just working hard, it is 700 euro, plus clay cost.

We will host you for free, in a simple way (no need of a sleeping bag). If you want there's a B&B at 5 minutes walk (40 euros a room for 1 person; 25 euros per person when in double room).

This workshop will be possible when about 8 people would join it, so that it's possible to pay Ohara's flights, his wage, and materialsand food of course!

paola
bipaola@gmail.com



Your 2010 -2011 Executive

President	Roger C.	250-388-9642
Vice-Pres	Ann S.	250-478-2341
Secretary	Bell L.	250-721-2976
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Archivist	Fern W.	250-744-1096
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	Cherlynn L.	250-727-8388
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	Helen P.	250-383-5808
Raffle	Ester G.	250-658-4523
	Tobias T.	250-383-3893
Coffee	Kris J.	250-384-5344
	Maria G.	250-474-1593

Directors: Meira Mathison, Betty Burroughs, Betty Fulton,
Nancy Wall

FOR SALE - ESTRIN CLAY MIXER \$375.00

This is the last piece of pottery equipment Vallance Pottery has for sale. We had it as a back up to our other clay mixer. This mixer is 120 volts and great for mixing small batches or processing scraps or whatever. Just plug it into a wall outlet and she is good to go.
Bruce Vallance sbvallance@shaw.ca or 250-598-0880



UPCOMING ISLAND EVENTS

TONY CLENELL WORKSHOP – APRIL 21 & 22, 2011

Presented by the Arrowsmith Potter's Guild

Tony's specialty over the years has been sectional or composite throwing, where many pieces are added together to make one vessel. Participants who normally cannot throw more than a few pounds of clay, often throw with ease 3-5 times as much after the workshop.

Tony's recent work has been exploring textures using roulettes, stamps and other found objects. The maker's marks and details of process in the finished works are his interest. Tony's return to graduate school at Utah State University has opened up new thoughts, new tricks and insights into making work that expresses the character of the maker.

Tony's recent work has been exploring textures using roulettes, stamps and other found objects. The maker's marks and details of process in the finished works are his interest.

Workshop runs 9 AM – 4 PM each day. Early bird fee for two day workshop is \$110, \$125 after March 4, 2011.

For more information contact: Al Bubnys at 250-951-1815 or email info@arrowsmithpottersguild.bc.ca

The 5th Tri-Annual MASTERS CLAY SYMPOSIUM in Parksville April 23, 2011

What: Arrowsmith Potters' Guild presents our 5th Masters Ceramic Symposium.
When: Saturday, April 23rd, 2011, 9:00 am—5:00 pm
Where: Parksville Community and Conference Centre 132 E. Jensen Avenue, Parksville
 V9P 2H2 Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada
Registration begins: December 15, 2010 Workshop: Early Bird Rate Until March 4th, 2011
Registration ends: April 8th, 2011
How: Google Arrowsmith Potters Guild, Parksville and click on Events
How Much: Early Bird Rate \$85, After March 4th \$95, Student Early Bird \$60, Student after March 4 \$65
Why: Why not? ... because we have a great lineup of presenters you should not miss!!

Presenters include Meira Mathison, Martha and Gordon James from Quadra Island,
 Debra Sloan from Vancouver, Tony Clennell from Beamsville, Ont

For full details and registration form: <http://www.arrowsmithpottersguild.bc.ca/Masters11.pdf>
 or Google Arrowsmith Potters Guild, Parksville and click on Events.

ARTISTS WANTED

We are looking for potters, sculptors, anybody working with clay to take part in the **Saanich West Studio Tour May 7/8 2011.**

This year the tour is going to emphasize clay artists since many of the original members happen to be potters. You can show in your own studio or join a group in another location.

We would also like to invite artists working with a different medium. You don't need to live in the Saanich West area to participate.

Questions? Ask **Joy F. at 250-479-9833** or **Heidi R. at 250-479-6470**, who are not the coordinators, but pull all the threads - so far.

South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild ANNUAL SALE

Saturday, June 18, 9:30 AM – 4 PM

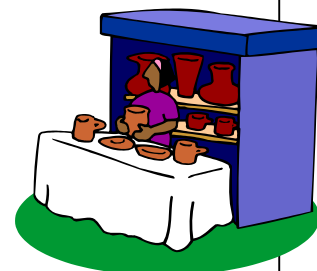
New Location: Gary Oak Room of the
 Fairfield Gonzales Community Hall

Watch the '*Guild at a Glance*' for
 more information

or contact

Joan K.

jekegan@telus.net





Victoria Clay Art

654 Burnside Road W.
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8
250 384-3831

As of June 1st, 2009
VICTORIA CLAY ART
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654 Burnside Road West

Please visit our new store where we
Will continue to offer:

- A wide variety of Clay
- Glazes
- Pottery and sculpting tools
- Kiln and wheel sales/service
- Kiln firing
- Chemicals, and
- Other art supplies.

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") :
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or
\$150 for 10 issues

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contact editor at:
eartharts@me.com

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