

Guild at a Glance

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

March 1, 2010

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 11, Issue 7

Mary Fox

An Artist's Way

Curiosity is an important element in an artist's development. This seems self-evident; however, with Mary Fox we got a real sense of how it has to be a driving force...a force that one might have to protect and defend.

This idea came through clearly in Mary's presentation of her journey, as she came up against obstacles both in her life and in her studio. Being committed to finding out how and why things do what they do... repeating forms over and over, allowing them to subtly evolve...analyzing results and refiring pieces several times until YOU FEEL that it is finished.

These are at the heart of Mary's journey and what we might heed in our own journey. These ways of working take the potter out of the stream of pressure to produce, and move toward working according to inner drives; they help a potter find her own style; they allow influences and experiences to be expressed in a natural, organic way.

Seeing Mary's work evolve through her slide show made it clear that finding your OWN way is the only reason for any artist continuing to work. Early on Mary acknowledged the influences of Greek Classical forms of amphorae and chalice and the work of Hans Coper as powerful starting points in her development. As she outlined her path, she also demonstrated how these influences perhaps set her out in a certain direction initially, but her progression with a form and its surface was based very much on her own inner responses and feelings to



Don't Forget The Raffle!

Next Guild Meeting is
Monday, Apr 12, 2010
7:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Hall

these forms. Starting with major influences, and pushing form and surface in response to personal esthetics offers a way for an artist to create authentic, satisfying work.

Mary's work is stunningly beautiful. Many of the pieces combine reduction, oxidation, shivering, crawling and multiple firings. Many were as breathtaking as looking out into the universe, into swirling gas clouds and deep black holes.

She let us look into her studio at her recent work on vase forms with wavy rims. A long series of photographs demonstrated the subtle differences

between some of the vases; however it was the movement of the smooth line upward, combined with the softly angled rim that lifted the pot away from others. For Mary this was the goal attained.

This was a very inspiring presentation, from a potter who is a national treasure. We are blessed to have an evening with her.

Roger Champagne



Belle L., Farida M.

YOUR 2009-2010 EXECUTIVE

President	Roger C.	250-388-9642
Vice-Pres	Ann S.	250-478-2341
Secretary	Belle L.	250-721-2976
Treasurer	Linda V	250-479-5966
Archivist	Fern W.	250-744-1096
Library	Elaine W.	250-382-0317
	Cherlynn L.	250-727-8388
	Helen P.	250-383-5808
	Priska S.	250-385-2303
Membership	Betty B.	250-382-0974
Newsletter Committee	Betty B.	250-382-0974
	Tony M.	250-474-1532
	Jocelyn S.	250-920-0196
Webmaster	Deb C.	dlclay@shaw.ca
Program Coordinators:	Penny J.	1 250-715-1403
	Louise P.	250-655-3811
	Helen P.	250-383-5808
Raffle	Ester G.	250-658-4523
	Tobias T.	250-383-3893
Coffee	Kris J.	250-384-5344
	Maria G	
Directors:	Meira Mathison, Betty Burroughs, Betty Fulton, Nancy Wall	

Masterminds Art Exhibit

Guild Members Rachel Coward and Sophia Morrison will be presenting Pottery and Art in the "Masterminds Art Exhibit" March 12, 2010 - April 23, 2010 at the Maltwood Art Gallery, University of Victoria Gallery open 10am till 4pm, Monday through Friday.



Sophia Morrison



Rachel Coward

You Get a Say in New Books and DVDs for the Library!

Two great things are happening to make our library even more accessible and useful to all guild members. First a simple record of our library inventory has now been created and will soon be posted on the Guild's website – the list will have multiple sorts - by registration number, by title and by author and will soon include a sort by category. Members will be able to browse the list, find the registration number and then find the book in numerical order when they come to the meeting. By reviewing the list, members will also be able to see what topics or artists are missing and need to be included.

Our Executive is in the process of confirming the funds available for the next round of library acquisitions, but while the \$'s are not yet firm, as of press time, it appears that the funds will cover from 10 to 20 new additions depending on a range of costs and our library committee's skill in negotiating deals.

So, what do you have to do??? Check your email for the notice of the inventory posting on the web, scan the inventory for what's missing, then scour any sources you have (such as online) for the latest and greatest in source materials for potters. Then, just email your recommendations to Helen.pedneault@shaw.ca. Recommendations will be collected until April 15, 2010. The hope is that the new additions will be received in time for the May meeting, so the new books and DVDs can get into circulation as soon as possible.

Look forward to your input!

-- - - Helen P.



Left to right: Susan N., Helen P., Betty B., Ester G., Carol H., Linda V., Sequoia Miller, Nancy W., Kris J., Katia C., Farida M., Penny J., Judi D.

SEQUOIA MILLER WORKSHOP

Saturday, Feb. 21st saw 12 SVIP Guild members attend a 2-day workshop on Saltspring Island at the Art Centre in Ganges. The presenter was Sequoia Miller from Olympia, Washington. Saturday night the Saltspring Potters Guild held a great potluck supper for all participants at the home of Judy Weeden, whose studio/gallery and home were full of beautiful pots and artworks. Even Judy's kitchen shows her work in beautiful tiles inlaid in the counters and curly strap knobs on the cupboards and drawers. Sequoia was full of energy and worked tirelessly demonstrating his particular style in making functional ware. Here are comments from some of our Guild attendees:

"The Sequoia Miller workshop on Saltspring was completely absorbing from start to finish. Sequoia, himself, is warm, humorous and playful...very uplifting to be with. He seemed eager to show us all his techniques to the finest detail. Aside from sharing his craft he was very open and generous with himself, giving us insight into how he approaches his work and how it is a reflection of his life.

A joyful, stimulating and inspiring weekend spent in good company!" - - - Carol Harris

"The Sequoia Miller workshop was amazing. His demos, willingness to share a lot of information and a new approach to handling and working with clay opened some new possibilities to altering in my work. He uses a knife and strapping material for cutting and faceting. Using very grogged clay he doesn't use sponges or water to clean and wipe, just dry, clean hands.

The organization on the part of the Saltspring Island Guild members was superb and made us feel welcome. It was a memorable and fun weekend."

- - - Ester Galac



"The most important idea/tip that I got from Sequoia, was how he pressed/applied his coils to the pot to form handles. This is an easy way and a lot less hassle than other methods." - - - Penny Jones

"One thing that impressed me was that right from the get go, when he was just starting out and didn't have much of a studio established, he went to the big Baltimore gift show as a first time seller and laid out his rules for prospective buyers. He did not want to do production work and be tied to certain items or even styles. He suggested they place a \$ amount on orders and he would fill that amount with some items they were keen on but he would have the ultimate say in what he produced and how his work would evolve. A bold step for someone at the outset of his career. Obviously worked for him!" - - - Linda Vigliotti

"My 'take aways': - there are disadvantages in pursuing perfection and overworking a piece.
 - one simple knob alteration can grow into many variations of add-ons from feet to rims.
 - an addition can be completely incorporated or can stand as a distinct and separate element.
 - bold strokes when cutting can be the goal.
 - there are rich treasure troves of tool-making scraps in hardware stores - yeah! banding steel and duck tape!"
 - - - Helen Pedneault

And from Nancy Wall, with accompanying photos:

Sequoia Miller was raised in the craft community of Maine. In 1996 he set up *Swimming Deer Pottery* in Olympia, Washington where he is a full-time studio potter. His pieces have been featured in the Craft in America Project, Ceramics Monthly, The Studio Potter and Clay Times, and his work is exhibited in craft stores and galleries nationally.

www.sequoiamillerpottery.com



Sequoia's pieces all began on the wheel - but most of his time was spent squeezing, assembling and faceting pots as they dried - creating sharp angles and wonderful feet and faceted bases. Sequoia uses a cone 10 clay which he has made-to-order with a fine grog added. As he worked, we watch various finished pieces emerge: a slender oval pitcher, a rotund lovely-footed teapot and similar 'hut' jar, a tea cup, lidded rectangular boxes one short/narrow and a 'high-rise' style, a vase and rectangular serving dish.

While we watched slides showing the progression of



his work, Sequoia noted that after 15 years as a full-time potter, he has shifted from “trying to make my work” to “allowing it to emerge”. He says, “I see my clay-work as gesture, and my job as performing gesture - the finished piece is simply the artifact of this experience.”

I like the details and chunky lines of his rectangular faceted serving dish. It is thrown slightly thick without a base. A rib leaves circular markings inside, hinting that the piece was once a round form. The shape is altered to rectangular by squeezing corners from base to rim, and at the soft-leather stage a ½” slab base is added. Once leather dry, Sequoia facets the sides using a hand-made steel-banding tool (banding is discarded at lumber stores). Final refining cuts are made to the bottom leaving a foot and base with obvious facet marks.



Photos: Susan N, Nancy W, and Judi D.

Stan Clark

I was just told yesterday by Jeff at Greenbarn that Stan Clark, the founder of Greenbarn in a green barn in Langley, had died last Saturday. Stan was a wonderful mentor to British Columbia potters, and I think he repaired more kilns through his years than anyone else will come close to doing. He loved throwing pots, but didn't love glazing them, somewhere there is probably still a stash of Stan's un-fired pots. He was also a wood turner, and well known in the wood-turning world. Pottery and Greenbarn was his second career, he started it after he had retired from his regular job, and he worked until he was 90+. Stan was 96 when he got pneumonia, he was almost over that when he died quietly in his sleep. Up until this he had been living independently, still driving, and keeping himself busy with his interests.

Tri City Potters editor in Richmond



Vasefinder 2010

www.vasefinder.com

Tobias Tomlinson

Title: Olive and Leaf Berry

Year of Creation: 2009

Glaze: Lithium base glaze with copper

Clay Body: Cone 7-8 porcelain, CKK6

Dimensions: Height 6.5 inches, Width 6.5 inches

Judy Weeden

Title: Floral Block

Year of Creation: 2009

Glaze: Terra sigillata over slip with feldspathic glaze inside

Clay Body: White stoneware

Dimensions: Height 8 inches, Width 12 inches



CLAYWORKS POTTERY SHOW & SALE

MARY WINSPEAR CENTRE
2243 BEACON AVE. SIDNEY, BC

****FREE ADMISSION****

FRIDAY, MARCH 26
5 – 9 PM **RECEPTION**

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
10 AM – 4 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 28
10 AM – 4 PM

FEATURING CERAMICS BY:

ESTER GALAC - MEIRA MATHISON
BETTY BURROUGHS - DEBBIE ELKINS
SANDRA DOLPH - LORRAINE KUPFER
HIROKAZU YOSHIHARA - ANDRE GOGOL
CATHI JEFFERSON - TONY MOCHIZUKI
LESLIE MACKENZIE - MELISSA SEARCY
LINDA VIGLIOTTI



POTTERY TIPS

collected by Betty Burroughs

If the plastic pan on your electric wheel should crack you can patch it with PVC cement. This colourless adhesive is available at hardware stores or plumbing supply places and is used to cement plastic water lines so it works great on hard plastic pans.

When mixing plaster, line your bucket with a plastic bag. When the job is done it becomes a simple matter to just throw the plastic bag in the garbage. No need to clean the bucket.

A simple way to mark even divisions around a pot is to string sections of plastic drinking straws.....5 or 3 or however many equal sections are required. It is easy to mark the position for holes or lugs or an evenly-divided design on a platter or bowl by simply placing the straws on the rim and making a mark.

Use your electric wheel to smooth the bases of fired pots. Cut a circle out of a sheet of silicone carbide paper, glue it onto a spare batt and hold each pot against the revolving disc for a couple of seconds. Much quicker than smoothing each pot by hand.

GLAZE of the Month: Metallic
Black Glaze Cone 6 ox. (from Clive Tucker)

EPK	5
Custer spar	79
Whiting	6
Gerstley Borate	10
Manganese dioxide	4
Cobalt ox.	2
Copper carb.	4

Try re-firing this to Cone 017 for a really metallic look.



South Vancouver Island Potters Guild display at the Emily Carr Library to April 1, 2010

Photos by Roger Champagne



ANNUAL GUILD SHOW & SALE - Sat., June 26, 2010 10am – 4pm
SET UP in HALL: Friday 6:30-8:30pm Sat - OUTSIDE 8am-9:30am Set up

COORDINATOR: _____

Hall is booked – confirm fee (\$150?) St. Michael's office and ask Treasurer to pay fee. Stay in touch with Sub-Comm. leaders to see that they are on-track with jobs, volunteers, etc. Track expenditures of Sub-Comm's. - they should OK spending with Coord. & keep receipts for reimbursement. Receipts should be given to Treasurer for reimbursement AFTER confirming with Co-Ord. Post-Sale debriefing gathering - suggestions for the next years sale; *arrange time/place*

1. ADVERTISING: _____ [for 2010 – coordinate tog. with 10th Anniv exhibit advertising]

Design Rackcards/Poster and arrange for printing (~600?). Ensure distribution to local shops/ galleries/ members for tours/ May Sales (*Pacific Rim; Fired Up, etc*), - available to members at Apr.+ May mtgs. Main distribution suggested for late May (except studio tours, Sales, etc). Email invitation prepared to be forwarded to SVIPG members – to send to their personal clients lists in June. In April - ads to various Magazines (*Focus, Island Parent, Gardening, etc*), Newspapers, Shaw Cable & CBC Radio, etc.

2. ORGANIZER OF SIGNS: _____

Arrange for volunteers & sign placement: positioning at key neighbourhood intersections & W. Saanich Rd. entry. Put in place Sat. 8am – 9:30am. Arrange for collection of signs at 3:30pm, for return to owners.

Helpers: _____ ; _____

Large 'sandwich-board' sign (Esters) for W. Saanich Rd. - just south of parking entry.

A sign directing customers from parking lot - around the church & into hall; and morning GREETERS (a rotation?) to welcome/direct people to the Hall & around church. Another sign directing customers into the Hall (at double doors) entry .

3. TREASURY & WRAPPING: _____

Members now manage their own cash (float) and wrapping (*voted 2008*).

Purchase newsprint and (sm./large) bags – enough to divide between # of vendors.

10% of Sales collected (approx. 3:45pm) from each vendor & Group table vendors, noting amounts p/vendor.

Income/ Exp. statement for Sale passed onto Coordinator after the sale. Report finances at Sept. guild mtg.

4. ORGANIZER TO RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS FOR FOLLOWING AREAS: _____

a) Kitchen: organize snack platters; purchase cream, juice, etc & rotation list _____

Helpers: _____

b) Set-up Hall: Friday 6:30pm–8:30 (KEY -- PASS ONTO _____ FOR SAT. 8AM): _____

Helper: _____

c) Clean-up Hall: Responsible with a helper for Hall clean up and Lockup _____

d) Demonstrations: Recruit members to demonstrate. Arrange for wheel & setup _____

5. ORGANIZER – GROUP TABLE: (members with >10 pieces) _____

Request and Set-up 1-2 tables with tablecloths, risers, stands + Profile binder; brochures & table-sign; pieces need a 'removable' tag with initials/price. Bring a page marked with columns for each vendors 'sold' tags. Organize rotation of volunteers to do cashier/ wrap (Cash 'float' needed). Total the sales for all vendors 3:40pm and set aside 10% for Treasurer from each vendor. By 4pm have envelopes with cash/chqs. & list of items sold for each vendor. Vendors to pack up their unsold items. Organizer ensure all items removed.

6. ASSIGN SPACE - TABLES & TENTS: _____ (onsite 8am-10am & 4:00-5:30pm). Lockup.

Canvas members for # tables required (5' x 30") & indoor/outdoor preference, incl. Group table (inside), Kids Zone table outside. Ensure enough tables (some members supply own table(s) / display unit). Arrange for loan/rental of Tents (+ weights). *See previous years lists*. Sketch of Hall & Outdoor layouts to scale: copy to Coordinator end of May; Find volunteers to Set-up tents/tables outside at 8am Sat. Borrow shims for uneven ground (Joy)

Clean Up crew for tents/tables 4:15pm–5pm _____ (see #4 also).

7. KIDS ZONE (*near hall*). **NEW** Find volunteers to oversee *Kids Zone* _____

Arrange for clay (self-drying?)/ water tubs/ sponges / hand tools etc, / wash pails + hand towels. Arrange rotation times and clean-up. Kids *take home creations to dry (styro meat trays donated by Grocer?)*. Clay cost will be paid by guild.

Helpers: _____ ; _____ ; _____ ; _____

Cone 6 Glazes

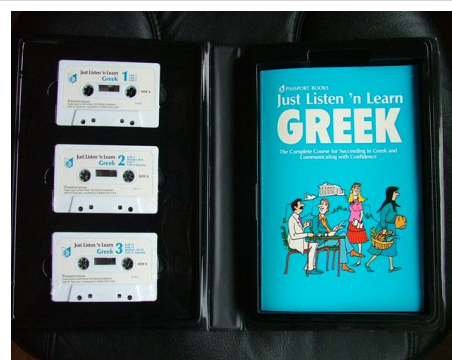
I have been looking for some nice cone 6 celadons to experiment with and thought that maybe someone in the guild might have some recipes to share. Would you forward this request to the members. I am not having much luck so far. Thank you.

Regards,
Carol Harris, carolkarris@yahoo.ca

For Sale: Learn To Speak Greek.

Is anyone planning to go to Greece, perhaps on the pottery tour? Here is a way to learn a few phrases and make the most of the trip. I'd like to trade for some copper carbonate and/or cobalt carbonate. Otherwise \$10.

Fern Walker 250 744-1096.
Efharisto'!

**Property for Sale**

Hello, if you are interested in our property on Thetis Island or know of someone who is, please pass on this email and link.

<http://www.usedvictoria.com/classified-ad/11032852>

We are selling so that Ted can retire!
Thanks, Fern and Ted

Hey and good day!!!

My name is Thomas and I have returned to the greater Victoria area after living up island since '98. I am coming out of a breakup and find myself without a kiln and more importantly I am in an unsuitable place to fire anyway. Is there anyone in the area that rents out kiln time? I have spoken to Victoria Clay Art on Burnside but the owner was far too interested in my secrets for me to be comfortable using his facilities. I have had professional success with my work in the past, and I am eager to continue my work again.

Any ideas??? Thanks for any help you can provide.
Thomas, olskool66@live.com

SVIPG Member webpage

The Potters Guild of BC now has a SVIPG 'members webpage' posted on their website. To view it and other potters pages, go to their site www.bcpotters.com and click on the box 'Member Webpages'. There are photos from SVIPG activities dating back to the guild start-up (1999) through to our current executive, workshop, and some individual pottery pictures. These web-pages are included as part of our annual guild membership fee with the PGBC.
Nancy

Victoria Arts Survey

Victoria Arts Survey ~ The City of Victoria is gathering info on local arts/cultural organizations/facilities/services, to determine where opportunities & gaps may exist. Data collected for this inventory will be used to identify future priorities for the City in supporting our arts & cultural community. As part of the Arts Scan process, an online survey has been created to allow citizens of Victoria to share their ideas, thoughts & experiences as the City develops a new Arts and Culture Plan. This is a way for the public & local artists to let us know how Victoria's arts and cultural community can be enhanced. Please take survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DFML2JT>

SOUPER BOWLS OF HOPE

This event is held in the fall at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. Through the sale of bowls and other pottery items, the Youth Empowerment Society is able to continue to fund programs for youth - at risk so they can get the help they need to change their lifestyle for a better future. So if you have extra pots or other items in your studio (even seconds) please bring them to the next meeting or phone Helen Hughes 250 - 351 - 1291 for pick up. Your help is VERY much appreciated!!

Porcelain Workshop Video

Hi everyone,

Here is a video that you will enjoy watching.....starring.....our own Guild member, Meira Mathison, and Tom & Elaine Coleman. It is taken from the recent Porcelain workshop in San Diego.

Subject: Video of the Week - Highlights from Porcelain Workshop: Meira Mathison, and Tom and Elaine Coleman Share Helpful Tool Tips

<http://ceramicartsdaily.org/clay-tools/porcelain-workshop-video-meira-mathison-and-tom-and-elaine-coleman-share-helpful-pottery-tool-tips/?floater=99>

OUT OF HAND

We have been notified by Paul Yard of Circle Craft (in Vancouver) that they have had to change the dates of their show due to construction. The only dates available to them are the same weekend as Out of Hand. We realized this is a problem for many of you as you do both shows. Luckily we have been able to change the dates of our show to Nov 26 - 28, with set-up beginning on the 25. Hopefully this will be a good solution for most of you who would otherwise have been unable to do both shows. Please pass this information along to anyone who might be interested. The applications that were mailed out 3 weeks ago are still valid.

www.outofhand.ca

Stephen and Ramona

When you shop.....

**PLEASE MENTION
TO OUR ADVERTISERS
that you saw their ad
in the Guild newsletter.**

ADVERTISING RATES

**Business card size (2" x 3 1/2"): \$10. per issue,
\$75. for 10 issues.**

1/4 page ad: \$20. per issue, \$150. for 10 issues.

Sale announcements, events, classified ads: Free.

South Vancouver Island Potters Guild's newsletter

Guild at a Glance

is ONLINE!

go to

www.victoriapotters.ca

and : www.gobc.ca/SVIPG

Vancouver Island Potters Supply 'Under New Management'

**Friendly Service
Expert Advice
Service and Savings
Quality products
Great Prices**

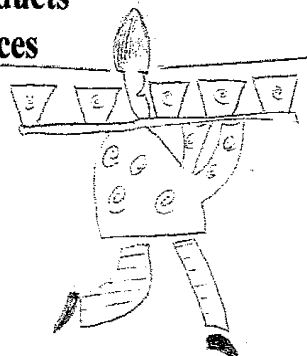
**#2 1009 Herring Gull Way
Parksville, B.C.
V9P 2N1**

Ph: 250.248.2314

Toll free 877.248.2307

Fax: 250.248.2318

Email: supplies@vanpotterywarehouse.com



Victoria Clay Art

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

As of June 1st, 2009
VICTORIA CLAY ART
Will be in its new location at:

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.