

Guild at a Glance

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

November 12, 2012

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 14, Issue 3

October's Meeting – Penny Jones & Maureen Hayes

Working North of the Malahat

The presentation at our October meeting was made by **Penny Jones** and **Maureen Hayes** who represent a group of our Guild members who demonstrate their determination and loyalty each month when they attend meetings – those who live and work in the area north of the Malahat Highway.

Maureen began to make pots when she lived in the Lower Mainland in the '70's, taking training at Emily Carr and Langara College. Although she worked in studios in North Vancouver and at the Shadbolt Centre in Burnaby, shift work limited the number of hours she could spend potting.



Like many of her / our generation, she was greatly influenced by the work of Bernard Leach and Hamada. From the beginning, Maureen has loved functional ware and the fine porcelain throwing of many Asian potters.

Since re-locating to Vancouver Island, Maureen has had more time to work with clay. Her goals are to focus on decorating pots – both with surface texture and glaze – and to do more hand building. The possibilities inherent in bird's nests and the potential to explore them with clay intrigue her.

Our Guild is grateful to Maureen for sharing her experiences and her work and we are greatly impressed she was willing to do so at her very first Guild meeting.



The next Guild Meeting is
Monday

December 10th

7:30 St. Michael's

Anglican Church

4733 West Saanich Road

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



... continued on next page

Penny has been a long-time member of SVIPG and currently serves as our President. She is also a long-time potter, beginning when she lived in Port Hardy and continuing now that she lives North of the Malahat. She brought examples of her 'signature' glaze (on the Ikebana dish at the right below), the use of horsehair on white clay (middle below) and hand-building (mask at left below).

Recently, Penny has focused on saggar fired pieces, using ferric chloride and salt to create beautiful (though somewhat unpredictable colours & decoration). As a base for the hand-built mask

Penny made a mold from a Styrofoam mannequin then a clay slab where she manipulated the face's features. After firing, the piece was finished with acrylic.



So ... what is it like to live and work North of the Malahat? Penny and Maureen agree that there are many potters there – both professional and non-professional – and that all are finding sales a challenge. Display and sales often happen at fairs and farm markets where tourists provide both funds and feedback.

Is it isolating? NO – after all, the Malahat is only a “big hill”!

Then and Now – Monika Burrell



The two miniature hand coiled pots were made in 1991 at my first year of Langara Art College. They are reproductions of ancient pots, one from Crete and one from China. I wasn't able to throw on the wheel yet so, they are hand built very thinly and then decorated with slips and oxides. They went into a gas kiln raw with no glaze. They are two of the few pots I have kept from the beginning, most likely because they have been easy to pack and store. However, my instructor mentioned that I should never give these away and I'm glad I still have them.



The lower piece is recent, within a year. You can see that the motif is taken from the same period of Ancient Greece. I often go back to my World Ceramics book for drawing ideas. I have actually taken the octopus form from Greece and the back ground fish scale pattern from China. That way I can add my own touch to the pieces. Drawing on pots has always been prominent in my work. I absolutely love to use slips and sgraffito to achieve clean lines in the design. The recent pot is thrown on the wheel and then a black slip has been applied and carved for the motif.

I have made many different styles in between but, my interest in Historic pots still remains strong.

Coming in December – The annual Christmas **PARTY TIME** :

bring finger food, sweet or savory. And bring a pot or piece for the Gallery, a display of what members have been doing over the past year.

‘You Know You’re a Potter If ...’ – by John Britt - **Part 2**

Once again we want to share the wit of John Britt, a renowned North Carolina potter (see his work at <http://johnbrittpottery.com>) , an able teacher (he’s taught at MISSA, for example), a published author (his book, “The Complete Guide to High Fire Glazes”, is in the guild library). Look for the final installment in the December newsletter.

You know you’re a potter if (cont’d) :

21. You sleep in the bed of your truck at shows to save money.
22. You get excited about NCECA’s vendors area.
23. You are actually choosing a lecture entitled “Cones and the Dynamics of Heatwork”.
24. Your Youtube history has more than 100 pottery videos.
25. Your tool box is so full it won’t close.
26. You own 4 pin tools and think that is ok.
27. You get excited about natural sponges.
28. You think wedging is a substitute for a health club.
29. If someone asks you to be in a recipe exchange in mid-November and you send a glaze recipe while everyone else sends in turkey recipes.
30. If you think that buying store bought clay or glaze is selling out.
31. If Bernard Leach’s Potter’s Book is number 1 on your reading list.
32. If you think that the cheese ball at an opening could be “dinner”.
33. If it occurs to you while drinking a beer with your friends that you could recycle your beer bottle in a glaze.
34. If after doing your taxes, you consider getting a real minimum wage job .
35. If while listening to a story on NPR about the cause of homelessness and poverty, you realize that they are talking about you.

More to come in December’s newsletter!

Submitted by Helen P

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GOING DEEPER...AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY

Find in your form what resonates at a deeper level...and use these insights to compose, block, texture and colour your work

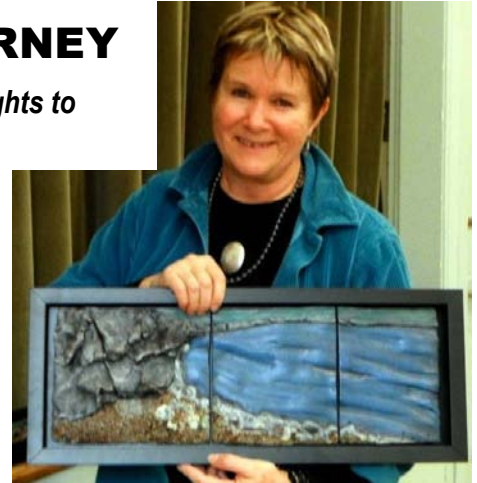
This is the essence of Sandra Dolph's approach to her landscape wall pieces.

For the guild-sponsored workshop on the weekend of October 21 and 22, participants were asked to bring objects that were meaningful to the landscape we planned to create. We were encouraged to spend time with our subject, connect with it, and translate these ideas into clay.

Sandra composes her scenes by blocking out simple shapes that correspond to the elements in the landscape...such as sky, water, rocks, sand and foliage. Her compositions vibrate with energy and lively texture. Her still-warm pieces were a feast for all the senses.

While we worked, Sandra told us about her journey. Out of an illness came the opportunity to sit and look more deeply at a familiar scene... a beach where she brought her dog to play every day. Over a period of time she began to absorb the essence of this landscape at a deep level.

Another chapter of Sandra's story is set in Okayama, Japan where she had an opportunity to deepen her connection to Zen Buddhism, as well as absorb the vast heritage of Japanese pottery. Over a number of trips Sandra has been accepted into the circle of devotees of Harada Roshi, a highly respected Zen Master. She sees her pottery as a manifestation of her *zazen*... the sitting meditation that is central to Zen. She says, "Meditation removes the barriers and allows me to see the essence of the subject clearly."



On Friday evening we made tiles to prepare for Saturday's work. Many interesting tricks and techniques emerged as we worked. Sandra demonstrated how incising the back of the tile allows for even contraction during drying and also provides a tooth for gluing backing or wall hooks for mounting.



On Saturday, Sandra, with Meira's technical assistance, presented a slide show outlining the evolution of her pottery. Her thrown work is incredibly elegant and classical in form. Her recent work has evolved from panel boxes to self-standing panels, to 2-D then 3-D wall hangings. She reminds us that we need to be open to life as it presents itself and be patient and stay with forms to allow for evolution and refinement. As her circumstances, attitudes and beliefs changed so did her methods and results. As she grew and changed so too, did her work. Firing methods have changed over the years ranging through wood, oil, reduction, raku, electric, cone 04 to cone 10.

The end of the day was spent watching Sandra develop her pieces with underglaze. Sandra usually applies underglaze to her greenware, thus eliminating one firing...although she pointed out that she often fires several times until she is satisfied. She uses her colours much like a watercolourist, applying them in diluted form first, with sweeping gestures. Colour may be laid down with sponges as well as brushes.



At the bisque stage a black underglaze is used to create depth and shadow. After brushing on the dilute black wash, she wipes most away leaving dark areas which lift the forms away from the plane. With the addition of signature lichen glazes, it is ready for the last firing. On completion of this stage, she breaks all the rules, and using acrylics, sponges and clear gel mediums, brings the surface alive!

When asked what her daily working schedule was, Sandra admitted that it is governed by "what Sandra feels like doing now." She has learned to be open to what is being presented to her that day. Her daily routine inspires and feeds her. She feels "lucky in her life to be rich in time." She exemplifies the laughing Zen Buddhist potter, with a broad sense of humour and openness to the energy of life.

It was a very inspiring workshop and spoke to us all about how work and life can be deeply and most satisfyingly intertwined.

Thank you Sandra.

Text: Roger Champagne
Photos: Nancy Wall

Back to the Land – Ongoing at AGV

Back to the Land – *Ceramics from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands 1970-1985* continues at the Art Gallery of Victoria until February 3, 2013. This show is meaningful to many of us – we may know someone whose work is exhibited, we may remember that era, we may have begun working ourselves in this period. The photo below (submitted by **Tobias**) shows many of the exhibitors today – can you put names to faces?



Another SVIPG member (**Joy**) sent along the following quotation by Peter Voulkos:

"The minute you begin to understand what you're doing it loses that searching quality. You have to forget about the little technical problems that don't matter – you've overcome them long ago anyway. You finally reach a point where you're no longer concerned with keeping this blob of clay centred on the wheel and up in the air. Your emotions take over and what happens just happens. Usually you don't know it's happened until after it's done"

Helen Hughes Honoured by Royal Rhodes University



In October's Fall Convocation, Royal Rhodes University bestowed honorary degrees on one of our members, **Helen** Hughes and her husband **Ted**. As a civic leader, organizer and volunteer, Helen has worked throughout her life to improve the lives of those around her.

At SVIPG we see Helen at our meetings, reporting on the Youth Empowerment Society's 'Souper Bowls of Hope' project (and often urging us to make and donate bowls that are sold at this event).

Many newer guild members don't realize that Helen has a long history of helping others – and that she is a long-term member of SVIPG not because she's a potter but simply because she like us!

That affection is returned in spades! We're so very proud to consider ourselves her friends and grateful for her work.

For more information about this most recent honour, as well as history of Helen's activities, go to:

www.royalroads.ca/news-events/convocation/awards/helen-hughes-0

Be Seen

If you are selling your work you want to make it easy for people to see the work and to get to know you as the creator. At shows and other selling events, you set up your table to display your work, meet and greet potential customers and give contact information in the form of business cards, brochures etc so a person can find you in the future. The same is true for your website - you want to display your work, give a little history and explanation of what you do and make it easy for people to contact you.

If you don't have a website and want to experience the possibility then use the free bonus you are given as a member of SVIPG - a member page. Check out what others members have done at <http://www.victoriapotters.ca/member-profiles>

Here's how it works: send your information in an email to me at design@earthwordcreative.com and in a few days I will post your member page and send you the link.

What's needed:

- name, studio name if you have one
- contact info such as email and/or phone number
- any other websites you have or are on
- a photo of you, headshot or working in your studio
- 3 to 7 images of your work with titles, sizes and other descriptors
- a short bio
- a short artist statement

If you're not sure what to write in your artist statement here are a few links to inspire you:
<http://www.mollygordon.com/resources/marketingresources/artstatemt/index.html>

<http://www.ebsqart.com/Education/Articles/Business-and-Marketing/14/How-to-Artist-Statement/75/>
or google "artist statement" for ideas and examples. Also visit other artist's websites for inspiration.

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

A note from Helen

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the potters who assisted with the Souper Bowls of Hope at the Inn at Laurel Point on October 30th.

The guests were ecstatic as they chose a bowl to take home! The displays on the four tables were so eye catching and the ooh's and aah's were evident as each person commented on what the next person to them had chosen.

The high decibel of chatter was because of the generosity of the many potters at both the take home bowl tables and the sale tables.

The latter raised the most number of dollars in the last 15 years!

The Youth Empowerment Society Board and staff send their gratitude on behalf of the youth who are working towards a better life in the future.

More about Souper Bowls of Hope

Read Betty's review on the next page, or the one in the Times Colonist at:
<http://www.timescolonist.com/entertainment/Souped+fundraiser/7495888/story.html>

Souper Bowls 2012 – a ‘WONDERFUL SUCCESS’!

Souper Bowls, held Oct. 30th at the new venue of the Inn at Laurel Point, was a wonderful success in spite of a dreary wet day. There was a huge line-up of customers long before the 11am opening and the crowds kept on coming until after 1pm. The Inn's glass ceilings and full wall windows overlooking a beautiful garden and the sea beyond provided so much natural light that it made everyone feel happy and cheerful. Estimates of how many attended this fundraiser event ranged from 500 to 1200 (!) but we will know a more accurate number when all the tickets are counted.

Our Potters Guild received much praise for the great number of lovely bowls made and donated by our members as well as Saltspring potters and others. This year we had the best selection of well made bowls than we have ever had and, thanks to all of you who contributed, we had plenty to satisfy even the late comers.

Rachel Coward and her team of helpers did a beautiful job of organizing the pottery sales tables. They had many good items donated so it was a busy, popular place. In the end they almost sold out and were pleased to have taken in \$1600.00.

The event was a lot of fun for customers and volunteers alike and everyone expressed how much they liked the new location. Hopefully, it will be held there again next year and as you may have guessed, Helen is already working on it!

Submitted by Betty B.

Upcoming Events

IAA Island Artisans Association presents

Gifts

for Myself and Others

24th Annual Juried Fall Show

Fri Nov. 16 Noon - 8pm
Sat Nov. 17 10am - 6pm
Sun Nov. 18 11am - 5pm

Da Vinci Centre
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Event Pass \$4
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10 to 4

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Now! Sagger fired pots

Sagger Firing is a method of firing in which the pieces are placed in a container called a sagger, along with weeds and other combustibles which mark the pots in interesting ways. The pots are not meant to hold liquid (like raku) but unlike raku the fire is allowed to cool naturally. I've just begun this new adventure and am enjoying it very much. If you'd like to learn more about it, Wikipedia has a good article.

New paintings too!






Once again I'm happy to be part of the Stinking Fish group. In addition, I will be hosting an open house at my studio on Saturday November 24 from 12 to 4 pm, with my usual baking and mulled wine. There may not be a lot in the way of pottery there, (it will be at Stinking Fish) but I hope you can make it out to enjoy the goodies.

Ann Semple

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November-- 2012

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24th (10 am to 6 pm)

25th (10 am to 5 pm)

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<http://www.outofhand.ca/flyer.pdf>



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Jacquetta Nisbet
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Morgan Saddington
Kathy & Selby Saluke
Ann Semple
Cheryl Taves
Nicole Valentine Rimmer



Artist Talks/Q&A

Metchosin Community House
4430 Happy Valley Road • 7-9 pm, with refreshments

Artists from the Stinking Fish Studio Tour will be giving talks on their work in an informal, visual-presentation style.

Thursday, November 8th
Hailey Finnigan, MAG curator • Kay Lovett, painter • Robin Hopper, ceramics

Friday, November 16th
Doug McBeath, woodturning • Bev Petow, metal • Jacquetta Nisbet, weaving

Friday November 23rd
Lesley Forman, stone • Nicole Valentine Rimmer, glass beads
Chianna Loggia, printmaking

With Thanks to the West Shore Arts Council and BCAC for their support.



Kristin and I would like to welcome you to our new home and studio for my

7th Christmas pottery show and sale.

November 17th and 18th 2012

Anytime between 10am -4pm

5074 Clutesi Street, Victoria B.C.

I look forward to showing you my latest pieces, which include functional and decorative stoneware.

Please feel free to invite anyone who may be interested.

To see some examples of my work and get a link to our new address on google maps, please have a look at my website (link below).

Hope to see you soon,

Harry the Potter



Email: harrisonw@shaw.ca

Website: www.potterybyharrison.com

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Harrison-Worsley-Pottery-by-Harrison>

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contact editor at:

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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

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editor: Louise P. 250-655-3811

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