

Guild at a Glance

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

October 8, 2012

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 14, Issue 2

September's Meeting – What We Found, Made & Learned

After a busy summer its wonderful to get back into 'normal' activities, to meet long time friends and make new ones. Guild meetings are part of doing just that.

The program for September's meeting consisted of members who volunteered to let us know what they had '*Found, Made and Learned*' since we were last together. The range was wide, the pieces and activities interesting.

Linda V. (shown at right) attended a MISSA course on Alternative Firing and brought some of the results. These pots were fired in aluminum foil saggars after being coloured by metallic oxides such as potassium dichromate or ferric oxide. Of interest is that the same oxide was put on the two pots at left.

Although this oxide is thought to be very stable, one turned out blue, the other green. Ah ... that's why we're artisans rather than technicians.

Betty B. (shown in middle) brought in a Don Ellis piece that reflects two surprises – its made of earthenware clay and its not hers, she neither made nor owns it.

The pot was one auctioned off at MISSA this summer and bought by Betty's son (Neil who is a fabulous photographer). Betty had borrowed it specially to show us.



This Summer

The second surprising aspect of the piece Betty brought is that it is not made of sandblasted glass (as it appears to be) but rather of white earthenware with a very shiny glaze fired on, textured with sandblasting and topped with a dichroic glass lid.



Karin S. (shown below) brought in two masks she had made this summer. She used the same red clay for both but decorated one with intricate sgraffito (lower left) and the other with beaded earrings (upper right).



**Don't Forget
the Raffle !**

The next Guild Meeting is
**Monday
November 12th**
7:30 St. Michael's Anglican Church
4733 West Saanich Road

... continued on next page



We must disagree with one of our more recent members, **Cher McK.** who brought in and told us about the head shown at right. While non-functional, your work is definitely NOT 'ridiculous'. Cher explained that she sometimes uses acrylic paint (rather than glaze) to colour her pieces once they have been bisqued. The surprise is that she's found this surface treatment to be quite durable – even outside, so long as its put in a somewhat sheltered place. Who knew? Our colour palates and ranges of possibilities just increased!

Daniel C.(shown below) brought us two pieces and talked about two things. Over the summer he focused on lightening the bottoms of his pots, often using a chattering tool to add texture as it reduced weight (dark pot lower left). The second thing he talked about – and we found very interesting – was that he had built a slab roller over the summer. Working from an article originally published in the 70's, Daniel found he could save considerable money by purchasing off-cuts of marine grade plywood but warned that careful attention to identifying ALL the materials needed was required. Justifiably proud of his completed

Joan K. preferred that we not photograph the gas-fired pot glazed by Sid Eston that she brought to talk about so we'll just have to imagine or remember how luscious it is.

The pot came from Orcas Island Pottery, which Joan loved, finding it casual and inviting despite producing large volumes. Sid is the grand-daughter of the original owners.

Rosemary N. brought a tile, part of a mosaic she'd made at a workshop held by Muriel S. She'd first created a panel, cut it into tiles while it was still soft, decorated them with coloured slips then single-fired them in oxidation to cone 6.

Louise P. brought Erin Furimsky's DVD that had filled her summer with an excursion into 21st Century ceramic decoration. She was particularly impressed by the use of photocopies to create patterns from the resist of water-based colourants.

Priska S. (shown at right) spent part of her summer filling a commission to make drinking vessels. Fired to cone 6 in oxidation, these pieces are delicately decorated with mishima (lower right) and feature poems ... in Portuguese (which are written / carved by hand). One can but hope that the recipient appreciated the skill it took to create them.

While the program at September's meeting ably demonstrated the wide range of proficiency and interests of Guild members, it held additional value in the hints it provided about the people behind the pots.

We're all grateful to the folks who presented and to those who organized this time of entertainment and learning!

Text & photos – L Parsons with input from Farida M.



project (saying it worked like a 'hot damn'), Daniel showed us a slab-built, basket-weaving textured piece he had created (near right).



Does no one have a story from their past?

Last month we invited you to share your stories 'Then & Now'. Rather surprisingly, we haven't heard from any of you. Its such an intriguing topic we thought to make one more invitation before abandoning the idea. How has your work changed? How has it remained the same? What challenged you then? ... and now? Send photos & / or text to Louise P. (eartharts@shaw.ca) before the first Monday in November.

Coming in November – Derek Kasper



Derek will talk about design considerations and his method for creating an inexpensive but effective spraying set up. He will bring along some homemade wooden jigs and discuss their use and possibilities as well as other ideas he intends to try using variations on the theme. Derek will describe and show some homemade trimming tools and will talk about chattering effects, both how to create them and control their look. If time and interest permit, he will discuss glaze effects and recipes that he uses.

Examples of Derek Kasper's work can be found at <http://NoTwoAlike.ca>

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Souper Bowls of Hope

October 30 is the date for Souper Bowls of Hope at the Inn at Laurel Point from 11 AM to 1:30 PM. If you have extra pots to donate and have not handed them at this Guild meeting, please let Helen Hughes know by phone at 250 – 361 – 1291 or email hh456@shaw.ca. A pick up can be arranged! Your donation will enable the Youth Empowerment Society to provide at-risk youth and their families assistance to have a better future.

Many thanks to all Guild members who are involved!

'You Know You're a Potter If ...' – by John Britt - *Part 1*

John Britt is a multi-talented man. He's a renown 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) and a wit. He posted 50 ways you can tell your a potter online and kindly gave us permission to print it here. We don't have room for the whole list this month so will be making it a serial over this fall.

You know you're a potter if :

1. You are doing the laundry and emptying out your jean pockets and they are filled with clay dust.
2. You are on the way to a weekend craft show, after just unloading your still hot kiln, packing the pots in newspaper and loading them into the back of your 1990 Ford Ranger. You are going 75 miles an hour down the highway trying to make it on time and you notice flames coming from the back of the truck.
3. You consider making ceramic earrings because the jeweler next you in the last show had a line that spilled over into your booth where you sold 3 cups.
4. You consider making your next show the local flea market so you can save the jury fee
5. If you cry during the Ghost throwing scene.
6. You think that taking Sundays off is a decadent guilty pleasure.
7. You come home after a weekend show with \$1,000 and think you are rich.(Before you realize that you had a \$500 jury fee, \$67.00 in sales tax, \$50 in gas to get there, \$150 for the motel, \$50 for food, and had to donate something for the auction.)
8. You take a job as an adjunct instructor and actually believe that they are going to try to get you on full-time.
9. You consider taking a part-time job at McDonald's so you can have a steady source of food.
10. You consider copyrighting your "new" cup design and actually believe you will make money.
11. You think using an electric wheel is selling out.
12. You open your kiln a bit early, because you can't wait to see the work and your leather gloves start smoking and then catch on fire.
13. You check clayart on your cell phone, the first thing in the morning and then 5 more times that day.
14. If you have all the Ceramics Monthly's from 1954, all in the labeled boxes, and in order.
15. If, while considering buying an Ipod, you think, I would only have to sell 7 more cups...
16. If you think that wedging is morally superior to a deairing pugmill.
17. If, after 30 years of being a potter, (living the dream) working 6 days a week, 12 -16 hours a day, no health insurance, no paid vacations, and no savings account, you suddenly realize you will have to live on social security. Unfortunately, you haven't put anything in to it!
18. If you hurt your shoulder and realize you can't afford surgery not only because you have no insurance but because you can't afford to take 6 weeks off with no income in order to recover.
19. You spend your one day off a week, addressing show announcements, updating your mailing list and taking photos of your work so you can meet the deadline for the next show.
20. You eat peanut butter sandwiches more than 5 days a week.

More to come in November's newsletter!

Submitted by Helen P.

Guild Members at the Clothesline Show



August 19th the grounds of Coast Collective became a magical place – a Clothesline Show - where artists and artisans hung their work for display and sale. Thanks largely to Susan Whitham, our guild was well represented (see list below).

According to all it was a great day – “ the weather was lovely - not too hot, not too cold, not too windy, not raining. [As an added bonus] the smells from the bakery stall across the road from me were devastatingly enticing” (Ann S).



Pamela T-W “felt it was a good venue, lots of people, excellent weather, good company to chat amongst my fellow potters

... and many said their sales were pretty good too!

What more could one ask?



Guild Members who participated include:

Nancy Alexander
Daniel Casey
Roger Champagne
Penny Jones
Karin Stotzer
Pamela Truscott-White
Ann Semple
Susan Whitham
Libby Wray



photos submitted by Susan W.



Call for Vendors for the 37th Annual “Holiday Gifts Galore”

Location – St. Joseph’s School Gym, 757 Burnside Road West, Victoria, BC

Hours of Operation – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

Set Up – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9, 2012 only

Table fee -- \$75.00 for two days

Traffic – varies year to year, between 650 and 1,200 potential customers expected

Items being sold must be handcrafted by the vendor

Eight foot tables are provided, but vendors must provide coverings that cover the front and sides of the tables to the floor. Chairs also provided

Space is reserved only when payment is made in full. Cheques for \$75, payable to Juan de Fuca Arts and Crafts Guild, can be mailed to P.O. Box 28083, CanWest Postal Outlet, Victoria, BC, V8B 6K8. Table fee is non-refundable after October 31.

For more information Anne at 250-474-7060 or Gail at 250-478-8439 OR

email Susan W. susan@mirasolstudio.com or Louise P. eartharts@shaw.ca for a form

A R T

GALLERY

OF GREATER VICTORIA

GalleryEvents | Your invitation to our Fall Season Opening

BACK TO THE LAND

Ceramics from Vancouver Island
and the Gulf Islands 1970–1985




Art Gallery of Greater Victoria October 5, 2012 – February 3, 2013

Friday October 5,	7:00 pm Members in Conversation, 8:00 pm Public Reception
Saturday October 6	1:00 pm In Conversation with the Artists, 2:30 pm Discussion with Nancy Janovicet
Saturday October 27	2:00 pm Curator’s Tour with Diane Carr

POTTERY HANDBUILDING

Workshop Retreat with Sandra Dolph

10:00am - 5:00pm Daily *Galiano Island, B.C.*




CEDAR GROVE POTTERY STUDIOS & GALLERY

OCTOBER 10th - 14th, 2012

\$425 plus \$50 course supplies, firing and shipping. Lunch is included.

For more information about the retreat/workshop, plus accommodation possibilities and info about the island and it's amenities, contact: Sandra at sandradolph.1@gmail.com



Join us for daily morning walks in the forest and along the beaches of beautiful Galiano Island in Canada's Pacific Northwest. These ramblings in nature will supply us with found natural treasures that we'll use in the pottery studio to make sculptural pots for gardens and flowers, plus wall reliefs. Shells, foliage, seed pods, bark, pebbles. It's all useful tools for our artwork. We'll explore different handbuilding techniques as well as colored finishes.

Sandra Dolph is a well-known potter from the Northwest and has been making pots, sculptures and wall reliefs for 40 years. She's an active teacher of clay, and has given many local and international workshops. Her work is in numerous galleries in Vancouver and Seattle and Japan, but her main locale for selling is right here on Galiano in her studio gallery.

This retreat/workshop is open to beginners as well as experienced artists. Class size is limited to 10 participants.

www.sandradolph.com

2012

FIRST NATIONS AND METIS ART SHOW & SALE



Sept 28 to Oct 21
Community Arts Council Gallery
at Tulista Park - 9565 Fifth St.
SIDNEY (Lochside & Weiler)

ADVERTIZING RATES

Business card size (2" X 3 1/2") :
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or
\$75 for 10 issues

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or
\$150 for 10 issues

**Sale announcements, events,
classified ads:**

FREE

contact editor at:
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
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Victoria Clay Art

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We're now stocking heavy duty canvas from Pakistan. Great for making wareboards or wedding 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.

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