

# Guild at a Glance

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

Apr. 1, 2008

[www.mypottery.com](http://www.mypottery.com)

Volume 8, Issue 8

## MEG BURGESS...A PASSION FOR CLAY



**Meg Burgess** began her fine arts education at the High School of Art in Manchester, continued in London at The Camberwell School of Art, and went on to master classes in Stoke on Trent. She opened her first studio in Wales and after nine years, emigrated to Canada. Meg currently lives and works in Comox, and has been very involved with **Fired Up** since it's inception twenty-four years ago.

"Your work is in the lap of the gods," says Meg Burgess. This idea resonated through much of Meg Burgess's presentation to the Guild on March 10. If that seems to imply that we have no control over our work,



one look at Meg's pieces would tell you that she is in control of a great deal of her work. So how does she reconcile those seemingly opposing ideas?

For starters, Meg has used a sketchbook all her working life as an aide-memoire. She jots down thoughts, words and sketches images that arise from daily life and make an impression at the moment. Many such small moments may be lost when one comes to the studio days later, so a sketchbook can re-stimulate the creative impulse.

Meg says that working in series helps her to find her

**Don't Forget The Raffle!**

Next Guild Meeting is  
Monday, May 12, 2008  
7:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Hall



own way. By starting out with an idea and repeating it, she subtly changes each successive edition, refining and developing the initial form and finish until she feels that it expresses what she is aiming for.

That her glazes and forms fit so wonderfully together is the result of this very methodical approach. She tests glazes continuously and advises us to test new formulae regularly, and to keep detailed notes. In all these ways Meg does everything in her power to get the results she originally envisioned.

With so many elements under control, the kiln must be the lap of the gods –where we release our work to the whim of the fire. She, as do many of us, finds that moment of peering into the kiln a high point on the journey. We see what the gods will allow us at that moment. Particularly exciting to her is seeing her work fired in Gordon Hutchen's anagama kiln on Denman Island.

Meg showed us a variety of pieces including pierced dishes, and small bowls. Pierced dishes offer many technical challenges to overcome, such as cracking, sagging, and surface smoothness. Meg uses her strong drawing skills, a special flexible scalpel and lots of patience.( she allows about 2 hours to carve these fine pieces ) When things go wrong she advises us not to try to fix them, but consign them to the recycle bin and move on. The





successful pieces demonstrate her skill, patience and control over the glaze, yet also acceptance and appreciation of the special results that are a happy accident of the dipping process.

Her closed forms receive a variety of glazes including tenmoku. She applies wax resist to the glaze surface often using a leaf motif. Meg particularly enjoys brushwork and her pieces really show her expertise. A pale creamy coloured glaze is then applied to the decorated area. Meg fires a gas kiln, in reduction, to cone 10 (half down). The results are stunning.

The question of pricing her work came up and Meg replied that she has difficulties with this issue as we all do! She feels that her interests are better served if she can sell directly at shows or through her gallery, rather than through a private gallery.

Throughout her presentation Meg communicated her love of her work and her warm, human approach to issues and problems. Meg Burgess truly has a passion for clay. It was a privilege and inspiration to see her work and hear her comments.



Roger Champagne

Photos: Roger Champagne and Tony Mochizuki



### **Upcoming Guild Programs**

**April** — Andre Gogol/Tony Mochizuki - Glazes

**May** — Alana Nast - Sm. Business Accountant

**June** — Swap 'n Shop & Party



## LIBRARY CORNER

Two new books:

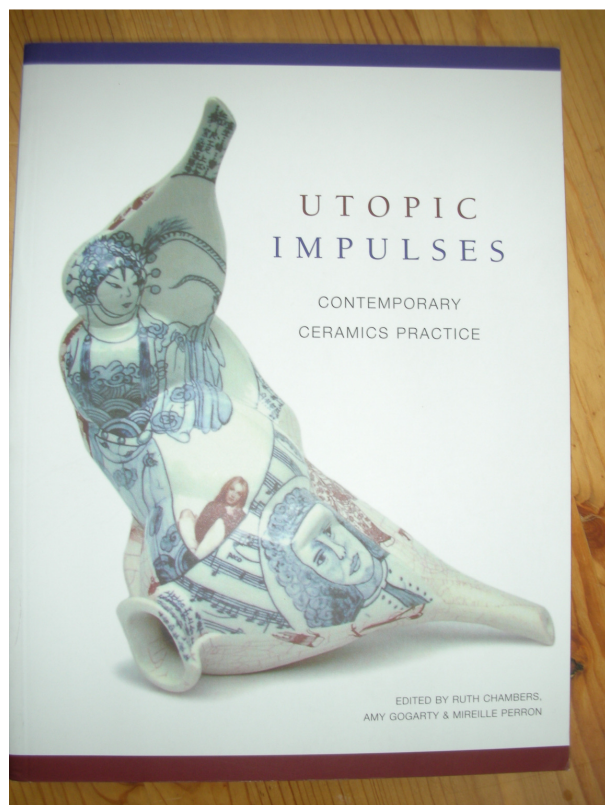
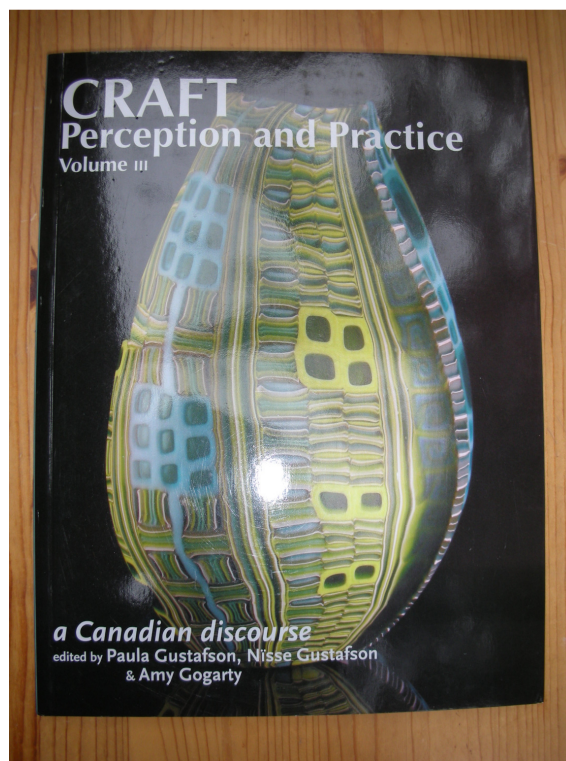
Craft, Perception and Practice Vol 111 A Canadian discourse

edited by Paula Gustafson, Nisse Gustafson & Amy Gogarty

This is a study of Canadian craft - ceramics, weaving, metal, glass, etc. The compilation of writings is complemented with superb images of work by Canadian craft artists.

I have randomly read a few essays and have spun off on reflecting on the role of pottery specifically. For example how hand crafted bowls have become Souper Bowls. Do read the last three page tribute to Paul Gustafson, a potter and the editor who died before completing this volume that she inspired. "In Memoriam" is written by her daughter.

Taking time from the practice of creating pots is a luxury. Exploring perspectives in this book is just that. Indulge in expanding the role of our clay art and read some of the essays in this book.



Utopic Impulses, Contemporary Ceramics Practice edited by Ruth Chambers, Amy Gogarty & Mireille Perron

Compared to the size of the pots we make, there are some big and expanding ideas for thought on the role of ceramics as a socially responsible practice.

There are ten critical essays and twenty artist projects presented in this Canadian book, all about ceramics, complemented with colour photos throughout. I really enjoyed reading "The Medalta Potteries Project". It made me think of Stella Meades' 1000 raku shoes and the resultant FOOTSTEPS: A GLOBAL RESPONSE display in Victoria, February this year. The intent was to be a statement of hope about children in war.

The editors offer this collection about thought and practice "in the hope that they will inspire others to recognize the utopic potential" of craft practices and creative endeavours.

Both books have inspiring ideas to keep one's heed "spinning" while one's hands are in tune with the spinning of the clay on the wheel.

Joy Finlay

Hello Betty,

I am interested in becoming a member of the guild. I am also looking for a studio that I can go work at.

Would you know of a place/studio where I could go and work and have access to an electric kiln? A gas fire kiln to fire in once or twice a year would be amazing! I am not really interested in taking classes since I want to develop my own work. I am a handbuilder by preference and would prefer a place to work where I can work with a slab roller. I live in Brentwood Bay and since we moved there last July, I haven't found a studio where I can go and work 1-2 evenings/ weekends per week. I don't have room at home. I am a graduate of Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. I have taught Art in a middle and high school for 7 years. I am a very clean worker and don't take up much table space. I would very much appreciate it if you could pass my name and phone number along to anyone who might be willing to work with me, or if you know of a studio, If you could email their name and phone number/email address to me, it would be much appreciated.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the monthly meeting in March, but I hope to attend the next one. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to my question.

Sincerely,

Julie Proulx  
412-5216  
jcproulx@shaw.ca

### **Upcoming events**

**Masters Series 2008** Arrowswith Potters Guild April 26, 2008. Parksville Conference & Community Centre.

The next **Saanich West Studio Tour** takes place on the 10th and 11th of May. We are always looking for artists to join in. Questions? phone Heidi at 479-6470.

**MISSA 2008** June & July 2008. Lester B. Pearson College. 391-2412 or [www.missa.ca](http://www.missa.ca).

**KELOWNA CLAY FESTIVAL 2008**  
August 8th - 12th, at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna, BC

**October—Souper Bowls of Hope**  
Phone Helen Hughes 361-0217 or email [hhughes@victoria.ca](mailto:hhughes@victoria.ca)

### **YOUR 2007-2008 EXECUTIVE**

<b>President</b>	Nancy Wall	479-3524
<b>Vice-Pres</b>	Pam Wood	642-0638
<b>Secretary</b>	Rachel Coward	721-2976
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cindy Gibson	592-8257
<b>Archivist</b>	Roger Champagne	388-9642
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	Alice McLean	642-3522
	Kyoko Kusano	592-4638
	Elaine White	382-0317

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Betty Burroughs 382-0974

**Newsletter Committee**  
Betty Burroughs 382-0974  
Roger Champagne 388-9642  
Jane McAllister 383-6240  
Tony Mochizuki 474-1532  
Jocelyn Steedman 920-0196  
Caryl Wilford 642-7169

**Program Coordinators:**  
**VACANT**

**Raffle**  
Ester Galac 658-4523  
Tobias Tomlinson 383-3893

**Coffee**  
Betty Fulton

**Directors:** Meira Mathison, Betty Burroughs, Betty Fulton

## **Scattered Artists Studio Tour**

Guild members Cindy Gibson and Elaine White are two of the four potters taking part in this year's Scattered Artists Studio Tour.

The other two clayworkers are Katy Adams and Ieuan Edwards, who also happen to be Elaine's studio mates. Twenty-one artists scattered around Cedar Hill Golf Course will open their studios to the public on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, from 12 noon to 5 each day.

For further information on the artists, as well as a tour map, visit [www.gobc.ca](http://www.gobc.ca) (BC art & studio tours / Victoria Saanich Scattered Artists), or pick up one of our lime green brochures, available from Elaine, Cindy, or at the Cedar Hill Rec Centre. Everyone is invited to come by to see our new work. Free admission.

Fence post topper for 4 X 4 post, cone 10 porcelain, Cindy Gibson

Teapot, Elaine White



West Virginia University Ceramics Program would like to announce that scholarships are now available for the 2008 Fall Semester Program in Jingdezhen, China. If you are a student or know a student who may be interested in this program please let them know of the funding opportunity.

For more information please feel free to contact me or go to: <http://art.ccarts.wvu.edu/undergrad/ceramics/index.htm>

Sincerely,  
Bob Anderson, Professor of Art  
West Virginia University, College of Creative Art, Division of Art, Creative Arts Center  
PO Box 6111, Morgantown, WV 26506  
email: [bob.anderson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:bob.anderson@mail.wvu.edu),  
Tel: (304)293-4841x3135



**Raku with Alice McLean, Feb. 27/08,** photos by Joy Finlay





### **May 10 and 11, Pottery Studio Tour and Hummingbird Banding Demonstration**

Both days, pottery by Joy, Pam and Don

Sunday, Hummingbird monitoring on site with Cam Finlay, from 6 to 11 a.m., (that's hummingbird time!)

Come early at 270 Trevlac Place, ph. 479-9833 joyandcamfinlay@shaw.ca

Note: This is an Artist in the Country event in Saanich. Attached photo by Bryan Kemper of hummingbird just banded.



### **Tozan Society**

The Tozan Society is looking for volunteers for a kiln building workshop for the new Tozan Naborogama Kiln that will be constructed on the Tamagawa School site. They are offering these workshops to the various guilds on the island. They would like to have groups of 5 or 6 folks to work over a week period.

The Tozan Kiln Society hopes to have their first kiln firing to correspond to the "Official Opening" during the weekend of June 14th. If you have any sushi sets that you'd like to donate for the firing, (cone 10 to 12 clay), please prepare them. They must be bisqued, and if you wish to glaze them, please bisque the glaze on as well. If you'd like to donate a sushi set already finished and glazed for their fund raiser, that is also a possibility.

If you are interested in any of the above project, please contact Tobias Tomlinson for more information.



**'Chosin Pottery**

Check out Robin Hopper's and Judi Dyelle's new website:

<http://www.chosinpottery.ca>

Judi has just completed uploading it and it is worth having a look! Judi designs all their brochures and advertising and has become a master at using her Mac computer.

**Demonstrator Wanted**

My name is Diane Thorpe and I am the Community Arts Specialist for the District of Saanich. I was hoping that I could attend one of your meetings to meet the members of the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild and hear a little about the work you do. I have seen your website and you are certainly an active group.

Also, Saanich Youth Services is hosting a Youth Festival on May 3. ([www.teen.saanich.ca](http://www.teen.saanich.ca)) It will be an Urban Village Art Exhibition for youth age 12 - 22. The Exhibition will be held at Pearkes Recreation Centre on Saturday May from 11 - 4pm. It is open free to the public and the focus is to support and encourage youth and the arts. We are looking for someone to demonstrate on the wheel and expose young people to ceramics. Would anyone involved with the Guild be interested? If so, please have them contact me directly.

Your assistance is much appreciated.

Diane Thorpe, Community Arts Specialist, District of Saanich  
770 Vernon Ave., Victoria, V8X 2W7  
Phone 250-475-5557, Fax 250-475-5411 [thorped@saanich.ca](mailto:thorped@saanich.ca)

**CLAY WANTED**

I own a small business in Sooke, BC. I create Cob ovens and structures. The main ingredients in cob is sand, straw, water and clay. I would be interested in connecting with anyone from the potters guild that has surplus clay (any colour is fine). I am willing to barter or pay for the clay. Gifts are always gratefully accepted. Here is my contact information:

Pat Wass, West Coast Cob & Compost Creations,  
Sooke, BC, 7071 Maple park tr  
250-642-7224 home, 250-363-2018 work  
[westcoastcob@shaw.ca](mailto:westcoastcob@shaw.ca) email

**Throwing teacher**

Victor Brodeur School is looking for a potter who would teach throwing to Grade 7-8 students. It would be helpful if he/she could speak French. This would entail 6 sessions of 1 1/2 hrs. each. If you would be interested please phone Tobias Tomlinson at 383-3893 for further details.

Wendy Lambert, (Community School Worker), Chemainus, BC, 1-250-246-3588, [ccsa@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:ccsa@sd79.bc.ca)

Is looking for craft people to conduct various art programs in the school. These include: after school programs, artist in the schools programs, and week long summer programs. If interested, please contact her for more information.

Cheers Tobias

**Chemainus Community Schools' Association**  
**3172 Garner Street, Chemainus, BC V0R 1K2**  
**Phone: (250) 246-3588 Fax: (250) 246-3501**

**Wendy Lambert**  
**Community School Worker**  
**Email: [ccsa@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:ccsa@sd79.bc.ca)**

[www.sd79.bc.ca/schools/Chemainus\\_elementary/more/CCSA/CCSA](http://www.sd79.bc.ca/schools/Chemainus_elementary/more/CCSA/CCSA)

**"SOUPER BOWLS** for 2008 will be Wednesday, October 22, with set up taking place on Tuesday, October 21. The Conference Centre was booked as fully as the Fairmont Empress and the Empress had just the one date that would work in October."

This is the latest word on Souper Bowls from Helen Hughes.

However, if any of you have been making bisqued bowls for the school students to glaze and decorate, please bring them to the APRIL 14th Guild meeting so the students can finish them before school closing in June.

We also need YOUR decorated and glazed bowls as well. Would you believe, some folks attend the event so they can add to their collections of potters' bowls, so do tape your business card to your pieces or sign your work clearly on the bottom. Finished bowls will be accepted right up until the October Guild meeting so you have lots of time for these!

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South Vancouver Island Potters Guild's newsletter

**Guild at a Glance**

is ONLINE!

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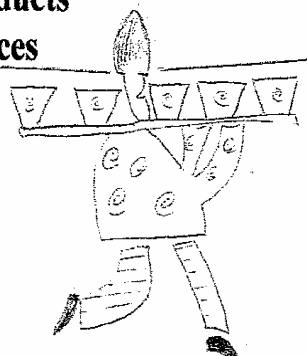
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and : [www.gobc.ca/SVIPG](http://www.gobc.ca/SVIPG)

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