

Guild at a Glance

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

Mar 1, 2009

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 10, Issue 7

Harumi Ota..Following an Ancient Tradition

Artist's Statement

The following is reprinted from statements made by Harumi Ota on his website. The full profile, along with images of a variety of Harumi's work can be seen by visiting the website www.artonvining.com

In the early 1980s, Japanese ceramics started to take on two major forms. Techniques for high-fired ceramics had reached a high level, as the craft had a history of nearly one thousand years. Then came the influence of American abstract art and with it a movement towards looking at the material of clay in search of artistic possibilities beyond its traditional use for tableware. At the beginning of the 1990s, this movement reached a point at which ceramic art had achieved the same level of success as ceramic tableware. In ceramics the process of firing imposes practical limitations: because the inside must be hollow, the piece to be fired must be some kind of vessel. However, there are ways of overcoming this limitation, and even of using it to advantage. It seems that ceramic art is still not recognized as an art form; in modern art, as a medium, clay seems to be considered somewhat outdated. However, I believe that by using clay as a material, and through the process of firing, one can achieve a more interesting expression than with other materials, and that is what I am striving to do.



Guild members were absorbed, attentive and curious as Harumi Ota walked us through the layered process that he uses to create his wonderful pieces. Even as we gathered around his table, he was preparing his underglazes and stains, and we could see that his methods sprang from old ways. He passed around several books and albums containing many examples of Japanese ceramic treasures, underlining the fact that this type of work reaches back to the 1600's.

Harumi uses two basic starting points in his work. The first one starts with a high fire basic white glaze on bisque. Using floral and bird motifs he pencils in his design and traces over these lines with a dark oxide stain. A very fine raccoon hair brush is used since, as he explained, it is durable enough to withstand the abrasive minerals. Over top of the design a carefully layered coating of coloured, transparent glaze is applied without disturbing the line below it...so the brush, fat with medium, strokes the surface, with no pressure. This is then fired at a lower temperature so as not to remelt the glaze layer. These pieces demonstrate a sharp, clear design.

Don't Forget The Raffle!

Next Guild Meeting is
Monday, Apr 20, 2009
7:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Hall

Harumi uses a seaweed tincture as a thickener in his glaze mixture and bone gelatin in his oxide mixture. The gelatin allows the oxide mixture to spread when he draws lines. The seaweed makes the glaze adhere strongly to the surface. Using a palette of four colours,(green, yellow, blue and purple) he mixes to achieve a broad range of tones for his overglazes.

The second method particularly demonstrates his multiple firings process, but results in a softer looking finish. He starts with a bisqued bowl and makes a sweeping swish around the sides with iron underglaze and then fires it. The next stage includes a glaze pencil design, as well as a low temperature clear glaze. After another firing a thin wash of iron oxide is applied all over the inside. After a final firing we see the soft swish and sharp pencil lines underneath a crackled clear glaze. The cracks are now dark.



We wish to express our gratitude to Harumi for this wonderful look into Japanese pottery, and for his willingness to share his process with such openness. Thanks also to Kyoko for help with this presentation.

Happy potting.

Recipes:

Stains Cobalt Oxide + Manganese Oxide + Iron Oxide
Frit + Iron Oxide

Transparent Glaze
Laguna clear glaze 50g
Frit 26g
Silica 5g
Feldspar 4g

Colourants
Green Copper Oxide 1%
Yellow Iron 3%
Blue Cobalt 0.6%
Purple Manganese 1%
Turkish Blue Copper
2.5%

And the following is the firing process:

- 1 bisque-----800c
- 2 regular firing-----1280-1300 c
- 3 first overglaze firing----950 c
- 4 second overglaze firing-950 c
- 5 gold-----760 c

Roger Champagne



South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild presents Clay As Canvas: Decoration Exploration by Cindy Gibson

Join us for a day of exploration as Cindy walks us through a range of techniques using slips, underglazes, ceramic pencils, pens, crayons & choxils, stencils & stamps. Create a variety of samples to take home; working under, over and without glaze (even if you think you can't paint).

Half day demonstration / Half day 'hands-on'

Cost includes all materials, excluding your clay pieces* (tiles) to be decorated

Date: Saturday March 28, 2009

Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm

Cost: \$60 (SVIPG members), \$75 (non-members)

Location: St. Michaels Church Hall, 4733 West Saanich Rd., Victoria, BC

Please bring a bag lunch

www.gobc.ca/CindyGibson

To Register: Mail cheque (made out to SVIPG) to:
3929 Raymond St. South

Victoria, B.C. V8Z 4K7

Enquiries : dnpk@shaw.ca

* Participants should prepare a minimum of:

- 5/6 bisqued test bowls/tiles;
- 4 leatherhard test pieces;
- 4 dry greenware pieces

for the afternoon hands-on component



POTTERY APPRENTICE NEEDED

Sandra Dolph on Galiano Island needs an apprentice this summer, starting either mid-May or beginning of June, your choice. A place to live will be provided, plus studio space and a beautiful island environment. In return, the apprentice will be in charge of sales in the gallery, yard and garden maintenance, and various odd jobs around the pottery. Wheel instruction will be provided, plus 50 pounds of clay, and firing. This is not a paid position, but some money might be made from the making of production pieces, depending upon the skill level of the apprentice. Money can also be made by doing extra gardening. Send a resume to: sldolph@telus.net

Sandra Dolph

www.sandradolph.com



Compressed

Hello

We are the The potters Place in Courtenay and I am hoping that we have a call for entry for a show this year called "Compressed". It is the same type of format as that done by the BC Potters Guild, but is only for Vancouver Island residents. Mavis Mooney was in contact with some of your membership about it and there was some interest.

We have extended the deadline for entry (which is just the entry form .. The piece is not due here til May) til 15 March.

Thanks so much.
Happy potting,

Shelley Combs
250-339-1102
shelleyis@shaw.ca
www.shelleycombs.ca

Call For Entry ³Compressed ³ 2009

The Potters Place, Courtenay, BC is pleased to announce their Call for Entry of ³Compressed², a juried exhibition of miniature clay creations open to all Vancouver Island residents.

We are hoping this exhibition will encourage potters to exhibit their work and help market the artistic creations of Vancouver Island potters to the public in BC and across Canada.

Entries must be no larger than 6² x 6² x 6² and must have been created no earlier than January 2008. All work must be available for sale and delivered to the Potters Place on or before May 1, 2009

Closing date for applications: extended to 15 March
2009 Entry fee: \$20.00

Exhibition dates: June 1 - August 1, 2009 at the Potters Place in Courtenay and August 09 in the Oceanside Community Art Center in Parksville Opening reception: June 5, 2009

Please go to our website and download the entry form:
www.thepottersplace.ca

Jane van Alderwegen

Good news about Jane Van Alderwegen! A member of our Guild, Jane had a stroke at the end of the year and is paralyzed on her left side. We hope she is making progress.

Hi Betty,

I wonder if you can pass on the message that my mum is up for visitors at VGH. She is still on the 6th floor in room 601. Visiting hours are from 3-8 pm daily.

hope you are well,
Anneke van Alderwegen

Upcoming Guild Programs

March: Muriel S. demonstrating her sculptural work
April: Ester G. - Triaxle Blend glaze testing
May:
June: Yearend Party

YOUR 2008-2009 EXECUTIVE

President	Nancy W.	(250) 479-3524
Vice-Pres	Roger C.	(250) 388-9642
Secretary	Rachel C	(250) 721-2976
Treasurer	Linda V	(250) 479-5966
Archivist	Fern W.	(250) 744-1096
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	Cherlynn L.	(250) 727-8388
	Helen P.	(250) 383-5808
	Priska S.	(250) 385-2303
	Joy F.	(250) 382-0317

Membership Betty B. (250) 382-0974

Newsletter Committee
Betty B. (250) 382-0974
Roger C. (250) 388-9642
Tony M. (250) 474-1532
Jocelyn S. (250) 920-0196

Program Coordinators: ?

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

GUILD WISDOM

By Roger Champagne and Betty Burroughs

Topic: "How do you keep your hands from getting chapped and sore when potting in cold weather?"

Again, our members came through with some great suggestions that work for them. Check these out:

Guild Wisdom

Here are my solutions: 1) Wearing well fitted rubber gloves, like the dental hygienists do. Talcum powder can assist in easy on and off. I wear them for hand building, throwing, and glazing too. 2) Some years ago I discovered the **skin crème, made with bees wax by B. Kieper Aperies in Russell, Manitoba, R0T 1W0**. A similar product is available from Greenbarn for a higher cost. The Russell product can be ordered directly and shipped, or from me if I have extra on hand (from relatives who bring my supply when they come to Victoria). It's a great surface protector. I wouldn't be without it, unless I'm wearing rubber gloves. Put it on before getting hands muddy; and if needed, reapply on top of slightly clay soiled hands, and certainly after wards on clean hands so that natural moisture is retained and restored. It is not so much a moisturizer, as it is a barrier to moisture loss that causes chapped hands.

Joy Finlay

I find that the **"hoofmaker"** is a cream, that helps reduces dryness of the skin. I apply it before I start working with clay. It is normally used for the horses' hoofs, but it is quite fine. I have had mine for a while and cannot remember where I got it from. I am sure a tack shop would have it.

Farida Mawji

I find that **Vaseline**, the body lotion with aloe and cucumber is helping me. I rub my hands with it every night before I go to bed.

Alice McLean

I use **Glysomed**, it comes with or without scent. I prefer the unscented, but it's harder to find. Most drug stores carry it. It was recommended by Deb Taylor, Bev Severen, and a couple of other potters I met at one of Gordon's wood firings. I find if I use it quickly after throwing it does reduce the cracking a lot.

Tobias Tomlinson

I haven't tried this myself yet but apparently using **Dubbin**.....the waxy cream/unguent used on leather, particularly saddles, to keep it pliable.....is very good for protecting one's hands from roughness and dryness. It is highly recommended for nursing mothers to help nipples from getting chapped and raw. I guess rubbing it onto one's hands before starting to use wet clay would be the way to use it. Another suggestion I have heard to help when one's hands are chapped (but again have not tried) is to slather one's hands in any reasonably oily hand cream, then put on plastic gloves (those yellow kitchen ones would work) and go to sleep with them on. You may have to do this a few times to really help.

The best hand cream I have found is an **Aloe Vera** based cream. (I have a South African one so I don't know brand names here).

Belle Leon

Vaseline! Petroleum Jelly. My father was a dermatologist and saved me from being scarred for life after a head-on collision by slathering Vaseline all over my face until the scars healed. It is inexpensive, a good barrier and makes your skin silky soft. May the Muse be with you!

Marlena Perez

I have been using a lotion by **St. Ives** called **Oatmeal and Shea Butter**. I really like it. I have dry skin and especially in the winter my hands get even drier so this cream seems to do the trick without feeling greasy. **Shea Butter** is very good for dryness. My elderly mom has real problems with her lips cracking and where she lives in an assisted living facility it is very hot. She had tried many different lip balms but none of them seemed to help. When I last visited her in Ontario I bought a lip balm that was just Shea Butter and she is thrilled with it.

Judi Dyelle

Here is my bit about healing rough skin: I use **bag balm** (what is good for the udder, must be good for the potter). You can buy the regular kind at Borden Mercantile at Borden Street. I bought a scented kind, which contains Arnica, "overseas".

Heidi Roemer**April's Topic will be:****>>> Problems and solutions to glaze application...brushing, spraying or dipping. <<<**Send your suggestions to Betty Burroughs: betbur@shaw.caIf you have a problem or question you would like answered, let us know!

Vasefinder

Hi everyone,

You might enjoy looking at this website. Vasefinder Nationals 2009 is a juried competition in its 4th year and the first year that it has been open to Canadian potters. Tobias Tomlinson (below) and Judy Weeden from Saltspring Island (right) have pieces featured. Have a look and enjoy!

<http://vasefinder.com/vasefinder.nats.2009.home.html>

Betty

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary is holding a week-long fundraising festival involving many artists called "Bring on the Birds". We plan to use the proceeds to create and maintain bird habitat at the sanctuary.

On Sunday, May 17 we are inviting 3 dimensional artists to demonstrate and sell their work. We will also have areas where the public can try various media. Roger Champagne has been asked to work with children doing hand building with air-dry clay. The theme is birds and their habitats. The event would involve activities all week long at the sanctuary including adult classes, bird walks, and a movie night.

We are also making bird boxes and asking artists to make bird houses (or painting ones already made) and donating them for our Silent Auction. The public will also be doing this during the event. We are also hoping that artists will consider donating works of art in any medium to our Live Auction that will precede the event at a May 1 launch hopefully at a local art gallery -- or for the silent auction at the Nature House.

Thank you very much for your support.
Margaret Lidkea

programs@swanlake.bc.ca



SVIPG 10th Anniversary Exhibition

Start working on that extra special piece! Plans are coming together for the guild's 10th Anniversary Exhibition which will be held at the Martin Batchelor Gallery, from May 8th to June 3rd, 2010. Set up day will be Friday May 7th and our opening reception is planned for Saturday the 8th.

The next thing that needs to be done is come up with a theme and title for the show. We would like this exhibition to be as inclusive as possible and encourage everyone to take part. Theme and title ideas can be sent to me at cgpottery@shaw.ca.

Also at this early time we would like everyone to think about who we might get as sponsors, to help offset the costs of putting on the event. We will be printing rack card style exhibition notice/ invitations and sponsors would have their names displayed there as well as included in any of our other promotions. Work on this should start soon and I am looking for anyone with enthusiasm and/or experience to help. Volunteers?

As the time gets closer, we will need an increasing number of volunteers to help with things like organizing the jurying, the reception, designing the invitations and their distribution, set-up, take-down and documentation of the show. I will be putting out calls as jobs come up. We also need to source our own plinths. If any one has contacts with where we might borrow or rent, or have some to lend, please let me know.

And last but certainly not least, we need some great clay pieces! There is more than a year to make that piece you've always dreamed of making, and a reason to make it. **Get started now J**

The Martin Batchelor Gallery is located at 712 Cormorant St in Victoria.

Watch future newsletters for details of application procedure, fees and time-lines.
Cindy Gibson

Making Lively Pots **Luxuriating in Form and Surface**

Instructor: Gay Smith

Type: Throwing and hand building. Non beginners

Date: May 17-23 &/or May 24-30, 2009

Please choose to attend for either week or the full two weeks

In this Soda Firing workshop, we gather in a spectacular setting to explore form and surface, slips and glazes responsive to the enhancing effects of firing in a soda kiln. Particular emphasis will be on the development of each individual's personal aesthetic by paying enjoyable attention to our responses to the luscious surroundings. And we will work with the exciting and easily utilized possibilities offered by altering the forms and surfaces of freshly thrown pots. Discussions will

cover whatever is of interest, and will include aesthetics, firing a soda kiln, raw glazing, and single firing. This workshop includes field trips and evening outings to discover Tuscany's treasures.

Cost 1.600 € for two weeks of attendance

Cost 900 € for one week of attendance

(Includes tuition, lodging, lunches, materials, firings and field trips)



Gay Smith is a studio potter single firing porcelain ware in a soda kiln near Penland, NC. She held artist-in-residencies at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana and at Penland School in Penland, NC. Her teaching credits include workshops at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Penland School, the Harvard Ceramics Studio, and the Findhorn Foundation in Northern Scotland. Her work is represented internationally, was featured on the cover of Ceramics Monthly magazine April 2007, and can be viewed in publications including Making Marks and Functional Pottery by Robin Hopper, and Working with Clay by Susan Peterson. In 2006-7, she received a North Carolina Arts Council Visual Artist Fellowship award. www.gertrudegrahamsmith.com



Brand New Electric Kiln For Sale

Brand new Euclid R200-B2 7 cu. ft. electric kiln with Bartlett V6-CF wall mount electronic controller, Orton kiln vent, kiln shelf set and platinum thermocouples. Unit fires to cone 10. This kiln has never been fired!

It costs over \$3800 as configured (see <http://www.euclids.com/crt1electrickilns.htm> for pricing)! Asking \$2500 firm. I've priced it for a quick sale as I'm moving and can't take it with me.

Please call Dov Katz at 250-514-8234 or email coneten@gmail.com for more info and pictures.



Kiln For Sale

It is a Paragon kiln 16 inches inside, 14 inches high with additional collar adding 7 inches. Included are 2 1/2 shelves, brand new boxed replacement element, several shelf stilts and holders and cones for firing. It is in very good condition. Was asking \$700 but have reduced it to \$500.

I used the kiln to fire china painting and ceramics (cone 022-04). However, the manual says it would fire to about 2300 degrees...from cone 022 to cone 8.

To view please call Lin at 250 479-8391 or e-mail linpowell@hotmail.com



SVIPG Webmaster

Our pottery guild webmaster, Dov Katz is moving to Florida in April, so we are SEARCHING FOR A NEW WEBMASTER. Also, Dov currently 'hosts' our website on his personal server, so we need to arrange for a separate hosting account (which he's willing to help with). www.victoriapottery.ca and www.victoriapottery.com (redirects to .ca).

As our website is not a lot of work (updating twice a year for Shows and exhibits) it could be that someone in the guild would be able to take over this position. IF you know ANYTHING about websites or someone that you could recommend for just updating, please email Nancy at dnpc@shaw.ca as soon as possible. We are able to offer a small stipend for the services.

If you are contacting him personally, his new email address is: coneten@gmail.com.

Thanks, Nancy Wall SVIPG, Pres.

PS - Dov will be selling all his pottery equipment - look for a notice via email soon.

Stock/Studio Sale

Anyone interested call: Lucille @ 1-250-743-1791 (Cobble Hill)
She has for sale: gas Olympic kiln, cone 10 clay, chemicals, tools, Estrin motorized wheel, etc.

Recall of Safety Control Gas Valves

Good Day Everybody; While replacing thermal safety control gas valves on my own gas kiln it has come to my attention that the gas valves I was using had been recalled by the manufacturer. The name of the product is: ROBERTSHAW TS-11 Thermal Safety Control Gas Valve produced between Feb 2003 and Aug 2004. There is a HAZARD of fire/gas explosion. You can see the recall on the Robertshaw Company website - <http://www.icca.invensys.com/robertshaw/>

Robertshaw will replace the valve(s) free of charge.

Could you please advise your Members.
Thanks, Anne Byrne
250-537-9988

Gorge on Art

See attached annual "Gorge on Art" Sale application. This outdoor sale is held the first Saturday after Canada Day - this year July 4th, and includes all kinds of arts (some more 'crafty'). Note that it takes place during MISSA classes.

It's sponsored by the Dist. of Saanich for emerging artists. Cost about \$45, includes an 8 ft. x 24" table and hard chair (you can bring extra tables or stands but note the grass isn't quite level everywhere). Guild members Cindy G, Tobias T, Nancy W, and Penny J., have taken part in past years - ask them their opinion. It takes place along the Gorge waterway 'walkway' between Admirals and Tillicum roads.

Nancy W.

Plate Firer

Looking for an experienced ceramics person with kiln to fire dinnerware. Experience with underglaze, glaze and decal firing. Piece work. Willing to pay up to \$3.50 per plate. Minimum quantities to fire right now (4 - 12 plates/month) but potential is there for larger quantities in the future.

Contact Brenda Scott ,
bl_scott@hotmail.com

Website

Here is an interesting website a N.S. friend told me about. Jocelyn

<http://www.luckyrabbitpottery.ca/contact.htm>



*"Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub.....
it is the hole that makes it useful.*

*Shape clay into a vessel..... it is the
space inside that makes it useful.*

*Cut doors and windows for a room.....
it is the holes which make it useful.*

*Therefore profit comes from what is
there.....*

Usefulness from what is not there."

-- Tao Te Ching, Lao Tsu

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South Vancouver Island Potters Guild's newsletter

Guild at a Glance

is ONLINE!

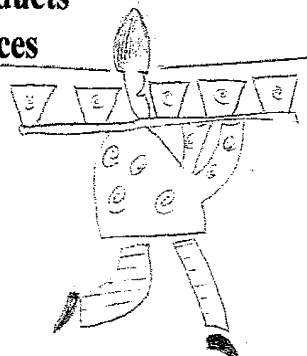
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**Come in to see the new Shimpo VL Lite
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