

Guild at a Glance

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

March 10, 2014

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 15 Issue 7

February's Meeting – A Question and Answer Session With Kaye Smillie and Angela Pistrucci



At our last meeting we enjoyed the delightful rapport between two artists and friends. Angela usually took the role as interviewer asking the key questions. Kaye would soon draw her into the conversation - in the end we saw two artists engaged in a dialogue about art and the artist's life, interspersed with humour and genuine regard for each others accomplishments.

Drawing and sketching are the keystones of these artists' work. Always carry a sketchbook and

**The next Guild Meeting
will be**

April 14, 2014

We meet at:

**7:30 at St. Michael's
Anglican Church
4733 West Saanich Road**

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

as Kaye said "a pencil is my best friend". Kaye describes drawing as a way to deeply see how an object is-how it works.

Drawing requires close observation. Once observed, other art forms naturally flow. Both artists talk about the interrelationship between the arts. The line drawing is 2D while a sculpture transforms it to 3D. Forensic work, building from skeleton to skin makes the body internal and more easily visualized. Kaye used Bruno Lucchei's book, Modeling the Figure in Clay, worked through each illustration to make a clay model from the skeleton up. Kay says that when working with clay "the hands take over" and that "hands in mud are freeing".

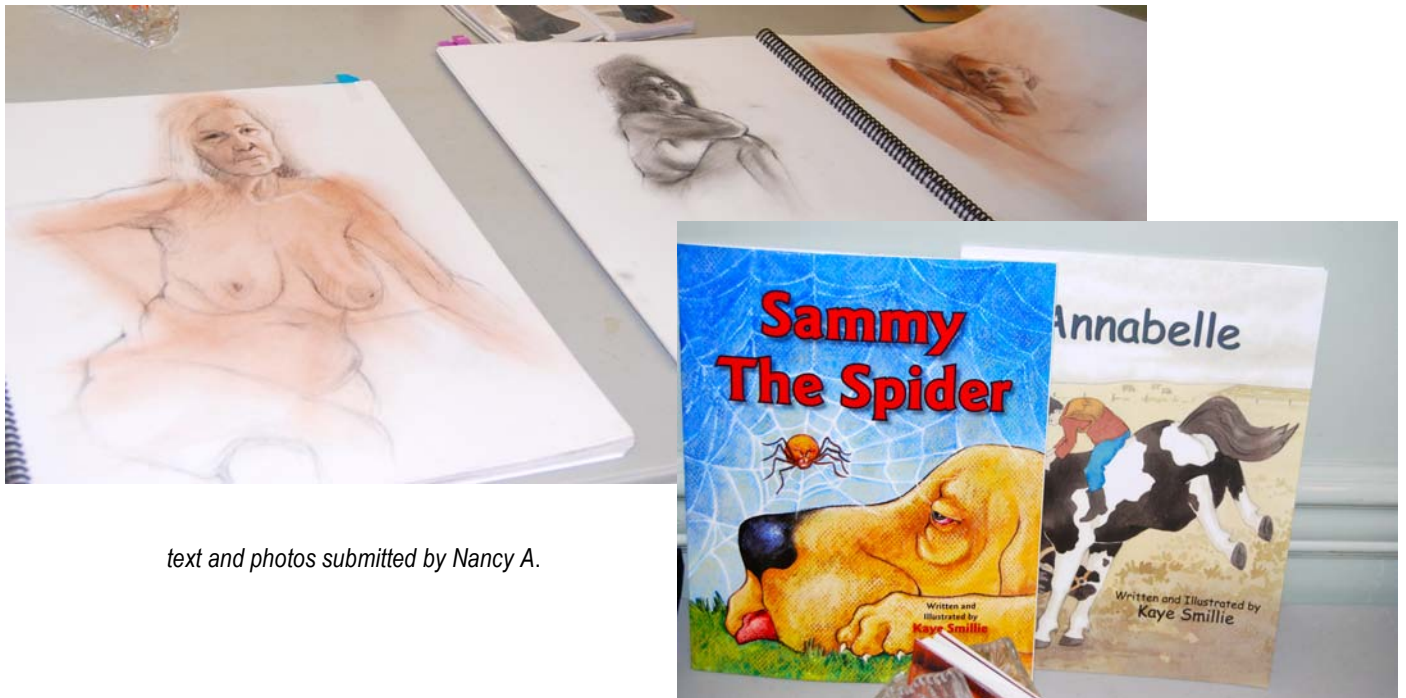
Continued on page 2

Kaye's greatest challenge is colour. Pastel work bring her closer to colour because of the texture and use of pure pigments. Currently she is working with oils focusing on portraits.

Her foray, into writing and illustrating children's books, was motivated by her own children – Sammy the Spider is afraid of little girls. Again there is the humour!

Kaye's heroes include Alex Colville and Talous –Lautrec, artists whose work highlight both people and mystery.

Kaye's Advice: "Bring something new to art. Bring everything you ever learned to the task."



text and photos submitted by Nancy A.

... from the Editor

Nancy A. and Heidi R. have been submitting wonderful write-ups of each Guild program for nearly three years now. I'm sure they'd like a bit of a break. If you would be interested in writing up Guild programs and submitting photos, please let me know.

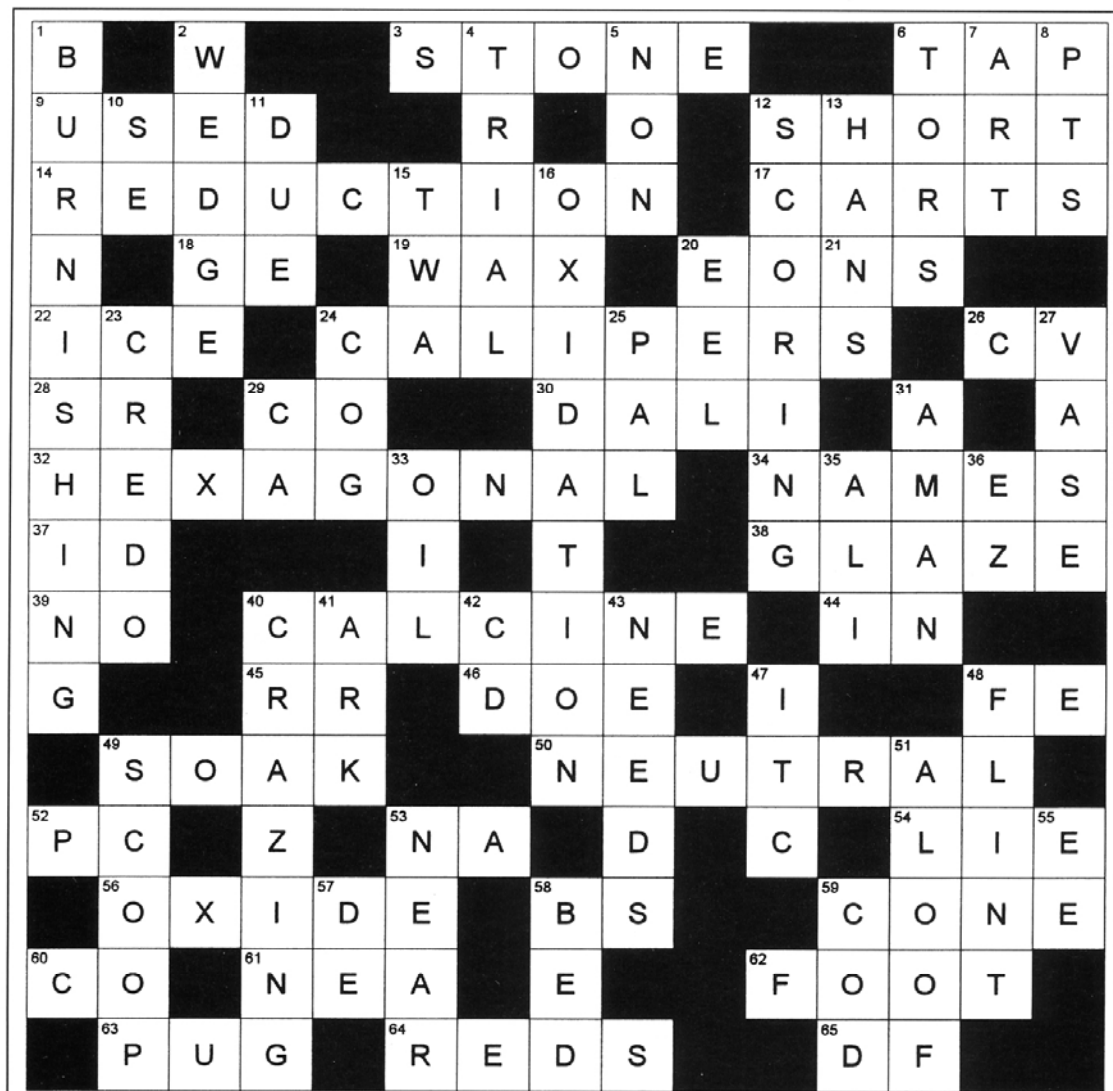
Louise Parsons eartharts@shaw.ca

Coming in April to the Guild : A THROW-OFF! STYLES & TIPS

In April Guild potters, lead by Cindy Gibson, will demonstrate their individual ways of throwing on the wheel.

Audience input and questions will be encouraged so come prepared with your questions, styles and tips.

submitted by Muriel



source: old Ceramics Monthly *submitted by Betty B*

QUESTION: How can one test a bag of "whiting" that was given to us, to be sure it is whiting?

ANSWERS:

A TIP on 'FREE' or 'CHEAP' Chemicals
 – from Clayart (January 25, 2014)

(1) from Robert Harris:

"Put it in some acid. It will fizz. Vinegar should work, something slightly stronger such as muriatic acid will give more obvious fizz. The only other common (whitish), glaze chemical that will fizz (evolving CO₂) is dolomite (CaCO₃ vs CaCO₃.MgCO₃ (mixed)). If it's dolomite it's practically exchangeable with whiting anyway, and you can start testing your normal recipes with it."

(2) from Mel Jacobson:

"...throw it out.....what is your time worth?? you screw around testing, and you still won't know. it is white powder. it might be white lead, it might be something else. i seem to go to potters garage sales now and then...and there are always bags...unmarked. i never take them. throw them away. or, you will use them, and ruin an entire firing. what is it worth??? ten bucks. for years, i have used a great big marker. all across the bag...WHITING. but, in most cases i never leave it in the bag. 50 gallon garbage cans full of silica, feldspar, china clay and ball clay...tall metal cans with whiting etc. plastic tubs of less used. all with tight fitting covers. and still, after all these years...i only open one can at a time. measure, add to the bucket, put the stuff away. now, the next ingredient. check it off your list."

submitted by Betty B

Things Electronic *(aside from wheels & kiln controllers)*

SVIPG's new website is up and live (thank you Deb). Visit it at www.victoriapotterers.ca

Members can have their own page to showcase their work, link to their website etc. If you haven't already done so, please send a bio, artist statement, head shot and 5 or so images (jpg) of your work.

Also, the web is a fabulous place to advertise. If you have a posting for an event, show, sale etc. please send information (text, poster, images) to Deb Clay at design@earthwordcreative.com

Finally, many members have their own web sites (see the list below).

SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND POTTERS' GUILD Members' Websites

Marlene Bowman.....	marlene-bowman.blogspot.ca
Monika Burrell.....	emburr.etsy.com
Dan Casey.....	dancase0.wix.com/daniel-casey-pottery
Deb Clay.....	earthwordcreative.com
Paige Coull.....	blackbirdstudios.me
Rachel Coward.....	gobc.ca/earthsong
Judi Dyelle.....	chosinpottery.ca
Cindy Gibson.....	gobc.ca/cindygibson
Michael Giles.....	michaelgilespottery.com
Robin Hopper.....	chosinpottery.ca
Cathi Jefferson.....	cathijefferson.com
Joan Kagan.....	joankaganpottery.com
Derek Kasper.....	notwoalike.ca
Meira Mathison.....	meiramathison.com
Cher McKittrick.....	groovydoovyartstudio.com
Sue McLeod.....	mycloudcreations.com
Louise Parsons.....	eartharts.ca
Angela Pistrucci.....	pistrucciartworks.com or pistrucciartworks.wordpress.com
Heidi Roemer.....	gobc.ca/heidiroemer
Muriel Sibley.....	gobc.ca/murielsibley
Priska Stabel.....	gobc.ca/priskastabel
Faro Sullivan.....	gobc.ca/dirtygirlclayworks
Tobias Tomlinson.....	islandartisans.ca/tobiastomlinson
Pam Truscott-White.....	gobc.ca/pamelatruscott-white
Nancy Wall.....	gobc.ca/nancywall
Susan Whitham.....	mirasolstudio.com
Libby Wray.....	gobc.ca/libby-wray

If there are any missed out or any changes to these,
please let Betty B know (betbur@shaw.ca)

Upcoming Activities

Saanich West Studio Tour May 31-June 1

You are invited to join the tour. We have a variety of artists showing their work, lovely locations where you can setup with a group or if you live in the area open your studio. Fee to participate is \$50 (for advertising and signs). For more information contact Nancy Alexander. alexanderpotterv@gmail.com.

submitted by Nancy A

SVIPG Member Is Teaching

Relief Sculpting Sampler

Instructor: Angela Pistrucci **Date:** March 21 - April 11, 2014 **Time:** 4 Fridays, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. **Class Cost:** \$140.00 plus GST **Supplies:** \$10.00 plus GST/PST **Registration Deadline:** March 21

Registration and more information at: <http://coastcollective.ca/art-class.php?id=68>

submitted by Angela

SVIPG Workshop with Bob Kingsmill May 31st

We have booked Bob Kingsmill to give a one day demonstration workshop on **Saturday, May 31st.**

It will be held in St. Michael's hall from **10 to 4** with a pot luck lunch.

More details to follow or contact Linda V. for more information (vigliotti@shaw.ca)

Bob will be giving a general overview of the type of work he is currently putting out. This will be mainly handbuilding of masks, wall hangings and functional ware. He requested a wheel be on site so we may get to see some throwing as well.

submitted by Linda V.

The Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts – MISSA

June 28 through July 11, 2014

For information please email MISSA missa@pearsoncollege.ca
phone: 250 391-2420 or check out www.missa.ca on the web.

submitted by Meira

Residencies at MEDALTA

We're closing in on the two-month mark before [Artists in Residence](#) applications are due so we thought we'd take this opportunity to illustrate just what you're applying for (it's definitely more than just the space), in case any of you are on the fence. There's a list of opportunities below or you can check it out on our [website](#).

Medalta's residency programs are about bringing artists together in an environment that promotes creativity through community. The residency concept creates an opportunity for ceramists - who, for the most part, work individually - to re-enter a community atmosphere and take part in a rejuvenating dialogue, while working with like-minded artists. Our program seeks to benefit artists at all stages of their career, from students, to established artists. Each resident brings a wide variety of technical and aesthetic skills to the experience.

Long-term residents (usually one year) share spaces with artists here for short-term stays. These short-term groups infuse even more energy into the studios as their focus is intense.

continued on next page

2014 Long-Term Residency @Medalta

Here's a chance to really engage in your studio practice. Un-interrupted time, access to amazing resources, a creative atmosphere, fully appointed studio, a museum, a decommissioned brick yard and a decommissioned china factory. All located in the 150 acre Historic Clay District in Medicine Hat.

Seriously, a whole part of town dedicated to both, ceramics (the materials) and ceramics (the practice).

\$345/month (CAD) Click [here](#) to see what's included in the fee. [Apply](#) now

2014 FLEX @ Medalta

No, this isn't some kind of Atlas Gym-sponsored weightlifting competition ...

If you aren't able to take a year for a residency and our summer residencies don't fit your schedule or you have a special project you want to focus on, our Flex Residencies are probably what you're looking for.

The idea is pretty simple - if you have an idea and simply need the space to create (whether it's for two months or eleven), apply for a Flex Residency and come create at Medalta.

\$475/month (CAD) Click [here](#) to see what's included in the fee. [Apply](#) now

Summer 2014 @ Medalta

What are you doing this July and August? Another great short-term opportunity for someone who has the drive to create amongst the rattlesnakes, tumble weeds and amazing industrial heritage in Medicine Hat.

Whether you're a student, professional or anyone who wants to further explore your ceramic art practice, this two-month residency is a great opportunity to fully immerse yourself in ideas and process.

As always, you will be joining our full-year resident artists so the creative buzz is in the studio and you can actualize your ideas the minute you arrive.

\$975 for two months (CAD) Click [here](#) to see what's included in the fee [Apply](#) now

**DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT? or
A TIP YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS?**

**SEND INFORMATION TO: eartharts@shaw.ca for
inclusion in a future 'Guild at a Glace' editions**

Even Electric Kilns Can Make Carbon Monoxide

From Mel Jacobson of Clayart:

"If you are working around any fuel kiln and you even have a slight head ache, get out of there, get outside and breath in fresh air. It is the first clue....often ignored. I realize people die in their sleep from carbon monoxide...and it is a silent killer. But, if you are around a kiln, the head ache will be your first clue. You cannot have a carbon detector around a kiln. It will go off all the time.....no use for it in a kiln room."

Betty suggests: When firing a bisque or glaze firing the air around the kiln is toxic. If at all possible, it is best to have your kiln in a separate area from your work space.

The editor didn't have space for a separate kiln room – so uses firing time as a 'vacation', making it a point to not be in the pottery when the kiln is firing (Goddess bless controllers).

EXHIBITION, How Nice to Have a Hobby

.... March 2014

.... Guild member Suzy Birstein is a guest artist in this exhibition at Leigh Square Community Arts Village in Port Coquitlam. *How Nice to Have a Hobby* addresses the question of gender bias in the art world. Inspired by a statement many female artists are quite familiar with, How Nice it is to Have a Hobby, features art by women referencing traditional women's pastimes such as crafts, hobbies and women's work. The artwork in the show provides a critique of the human, social, political, economic or environmental conditions that we all experience in our lives. It explores the barriers to being taken seriously as a female artist, real or imagined, systemic or illusory, with the hope of generating conversations about high/ low art, art/craft, dilettante/artist, gender bias and the notion of hobby vs profession.

NOTE: SVIPG is a member of the Potter's Guild of BC, Betty B electronically circulates the complete newsletter each month – check it out! - *the editor*

Your 2013-2014 Executive

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\$10 per issue
or
\$75 for 10 issues

Quarter page ad (3 1/2" x 4 3/4") :
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or
\$150 for 10 issues

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

FREE

contact editor at:
eartharts@me.com



Victoria Clay Art

654 Burnside Road W.
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8
250 384-3831
vcart@shaw.ca

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

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

editor: Louise P. 250-655-3811

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