

# Guild at a Glance

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

February 9, 2015

[www.victoriapotters.ca](http://www.victoriapotters.ca)

Volume 16 Issue 6

## January's Meeting – Meira Matheson - *Influences*

We know Meira as one of our members and perhaps recognize that she must have something to do with the Metchosin Summer School of the Arts (MISSA). Ms. Matheson is actually an experienced arts administrator (the long time Director of MISSA and current Head of the MISSA Clay Department) and a teacher as well as a renown and well-connected potter.

January's presentation went beyond the usual 'how to' talk. Meira spoke about how one develops an identifiable, personal style – addressing a question we all encounter at some time in our clay journeys –

*"How can you make a pot that is your own?"*

She sees influences affecting how one works as being beyond the technique used; and a very important thing for guild members to consider as they progress. She focused on the challenge of not just copying a form or technique but taking a design and making a personal expressive statement. Meira considers influences to be subtle, often un-noticed. The smallest, most common things (such as one's pet) can influence how a potter works and become integrated into the personal statement they make.

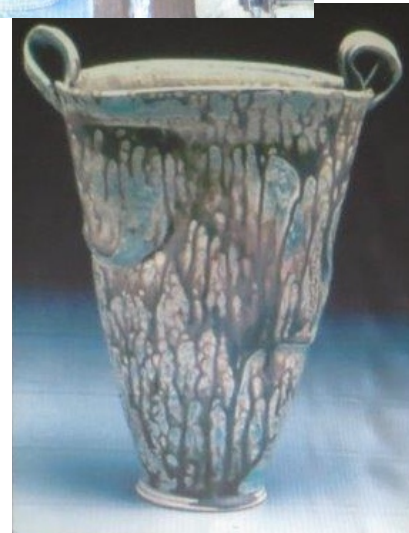
Meira traced the influences of her clay history for us.

From earliest times she found gardening, flowers and the colours of that environment affected what she made. Randy Brodnax brought to her attention the importance of glaze and decoration as it is integrated with the form of pots. Tom Coleman further focused her on glazes – particularly shinos and copper reds. The colours of desert rocks near the Valley of Fire and desert lichens added to her pallet.

A visit to David Leach and his pottery in southern England affected the forms Meira made.

The shape of ferns as they developed influenced the shape of nobs on the lids of her pots. Oilcans became teapots. Over time, Meira's pieces became increasingly 'altered'. Her attendance of Kathryn Finnerty's workshop in Red Deer (Alberta) encouraged this. Further texture was supplied by the addition of slips.

*continued on page 2*



Our next meeting will be

**MARCH 9, 2015**

We meet at 7:30 pm at St. Michael's  
Anglican Church  
4733 West Saanich Road

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

Meira's perspective changed as her life changed. The birth of a grandson and the increased importance of family in her life lead Meira to make pots that started to 'cuddle'. Her trip to China provided an abundance of influences – many not yet processed.



Most recently, Meira has been making large, heavy, double-walled vessels. She likes the increased volume that these allow, but is not happy with the concomitant increase in loss, i.e. breakage. Crows and bunnies continue to be ongoing themes in her work; balancing the fact that raku is no longer part of her regular repertoire.

Looking back, Meira credits many people with influencing how her work developed. Randy, Tom and the Banff Centre's Les Manning encouraged her to follow her own path. Teaching – strangers or her grandson – provided further clues as to where she might go.



We're really glad she decided to join us ... and to present her work and its influences to us.

Thank you.

text written by Louise,  
photos by Rosemary

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## A POTTER'S GARDEN: AN ARTIST'S APPROACH TO CREATIVE GARDEN MAKING by ROBIN HOPPER

Robing is an internationally recognized potter, teacher, author, consultant, arts activist and garden designer. In addition to being a clay worker he has also been an avid and passionate gardener for nearly sixty years. His new eBook takes a look at gardening through the eyes and mind of an artist. This book approaches garden development from a different viewpoint than traditional gardening books and will offer readers (both artists and non-artists) a fresh approach to creative garden making.

To order a copy, please go to:

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/502522>

For optimal image viewing, the book is best downloaded as a PDF.

The price of the book is \$9.99 US



*...at our last meeting, Judi Dyelle (Robin's wife) came to tell us about his new book.*

*Here she shares a giggle with her long time friend, Meira Mathison.*

*RObin and Judi are both fabulous potters & lifetime members of SVIPG.*  
editor

## Upcoming Events –

Visit:  
**missa.ca**  
 For more information

# METCHOSIN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## MISSA 2015

### MISSA 2015 CLAY WORKSHOPS

#### Weekend Workshops – Sat & Sun JUNE 20 and 21

Clay FINE ART TILES: BAS RELIEF SCULPTURE

Angela Pistrucci

#### 7 Day Workshops – Sat to Fri JUNE 20 to 26

Clay RE-THINKING THE WHEEL

Reid Ozaki

Clay PLAYING WITH YOUR FOOD: SLAB-BUILDING WITH PAPER CLAY

Cory McCrory

#### 5 Day Workshops – Mon to Fri JUNE 22 to 26

Clay HANDBUILDING MASKS AND MORE

Bob Kingsmill

#### Weekend Workshops – Sat & Sun JUNE 27 and 28

Clay STORY ANIMAL SCULPTURES

Pat Webber

Clay PAPER-PLASTER MOLD-MAKING

Samantha Dickie

Clay SALT-FIRING

Cathi Jefferson

#### 7 Day Workshop – Sat to Fri JUNE 27 to JULY 3

Clay ALTERED FORMS / DESIGN DECISIONS

Ellen Shankin

#### 5 Day Workshops – Mon to Fri JUNE 29 to JULY 3

Clay SLABS, NATURALLY!

Sandra Dolph

Clay HANDBUILDING HOUSES: DWELLING ON POSSIBILITIES

Susan Delatour

Clay SHAKE & BAKE: HANDBUILDING MEETS SURFACE DESIGN

Mariko Paterson

Clay HANDBUILDING & MOLD DESIGN

Vincent Massey

Clay ALTERNATIVE FIRING TECHNIQUES: CHASING THE ELUSIVE FLAME

Don Ellis

## Red Deer College, Red Deer Alberta

July 20-24, 2015

### Functional Altered Vessels

Instructor: Meira Mathison

For more information contact Red Deer College, Summer Series

<http://rdc.ab.ca/continuing-education>





## DIG THIS: Exploring BC Clay | March 21, 2015

Four dynamic BC ceramic artists, each representing different styles and techniques, take part in this day of demonstrations and dialogue celebrating BC clay.

### Saturday, March 21

Shadbolt Centre for the Arts  
10am-5pm (includes lunch)  
\$95 until January 31, \$110 after January 31  
Barcode: 342124

For information on other courses, such as the pre-conference wood firing with Robin Dupont or the post-conference *Teapots With Attitude* workshop with Kathleen Raven, please refer to the Shadbolt Centre Arts Guide.

### Featured Presenters

Robin Dupont – Winlaw, BC  
Sarah Lawless – Kaslo, BC  
Kathleen Raven – Salt Spring Island, BC  
Brendan Tang – Vancouver, BC

Lunchtime guest speaker Bob Kingsmill talks about pioneer potter Axel Ebring and features a display of Axel's work from his private collection.

### Other Related Events

Friday, March 20, Granville Island | 5-7pm  
The Gallery of BC Ceramics hosts an artist reception for an exhibition of presenters' work, with artists in attendance.

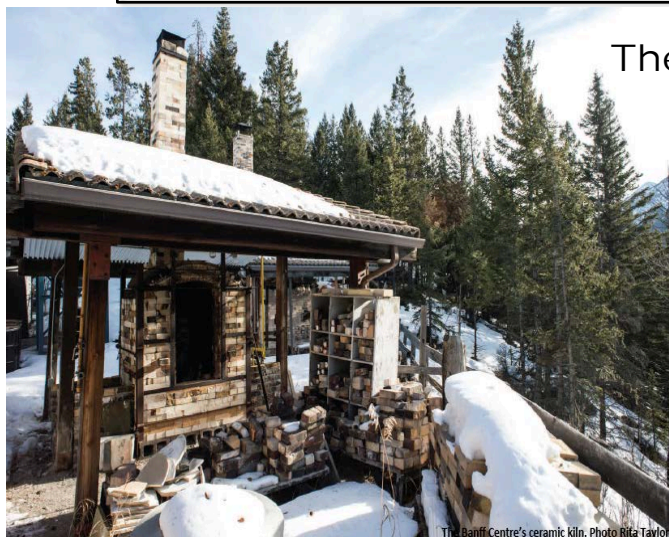
Friday, March 20, Emily Carr University | 7:30pm  
Following the reception, the North-West Ceramics Foundation sponsors an artists' talk with the four presenters.

Saturday, March 21, Shadbolt Centre | 5:30pm  
In celebration of their 60th Anniversary, the Potters Guild of BC hosts a dinner following the *Dig This* workshop. Contact the Potters Guild directly for further information and to purchase tickets.

Sunday, March 22, Shadbolt Centre | 1:30-5:30pm  
Watch the unloading of the Shadbolt Centre Train Kiln, and see the results of the firing workshop with Robin Dupont.

Register | [burnaby.ca/webreg](http://burnaby.ca/webreg) | 604-291-6864

**shadbolt centre** 6450 Deer Lake Avenue  
Follow us [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/shadboltcentre) [twitter](https://twitter.com/shadboltcentre) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/shadboltcentre)



## The Banff Centre – Banff Alberta

### WOOD/FIRE/SODA/BANFF

Ceramic Thematic Residency

Faculty: Robin DuPont, Dan Murphy

Program Dates: April 27 - May 22, 2015

Application Deadline: January 28, 2015

### Thematic Residencies

- Offer a structured program where artists are brought together to investigate a specific theme

### WOOD/FIRE/SODA/BANFF

- We will fire The Banff Centre's venerable *Noborigama* kiln - designed and built three decades ago - around which a host of memorable conversations, art work, challenges and celebrations have emerged and occurred

### OTHER RESIDENCIES

#### Banff Artist in Residence (BAiR) 2D

Dates: April 27 – May 22, 2015  
Apply by January 28, 2015

#### Critical Art Writing Ensemble

Banff International Curatorial Institute  
Dates: April 27 – May 15, 2015  
Apply by January 28, 2015

#### Banff Artist in Residence (BAiR) Spring

Dates: June 1 - June 26, 2015  
Apply by February 18, 2015

## KILN FOR SALE

Electric Kiln for SALE, inside measurements of the kiln are 28" x28 ". It is hexagonal and comes with 6 half shelves and shelf supports. It has a kiln sitter and timer. The outside height of the kiln is 45" and breaks down to 3 sections and a base for easier transportation. For \$1000.00 you can take it ALL home.

Please call Patty at 250-381-7663 in Victoria.

# Guild at a Glance

... is the newsletter for the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild.

It is published monthly, September through June, and is available at meetings and online at [www.victoriapotters.ca](http://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, at [eartharts@shaw.ca](mailto:eartharts@shaw.ca)

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS NOON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

The earlier submissions are received, the more likely there will be room to include them. Be kind to the editor, please send items for inclusion *before* the deadline.

## ADVERTIZING RATES

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

Quarter page ad (3 1/2" x 4 3/4")  
\$20 per issue  
or  
\$150 for 10 issues

Sales announcements, events, classified ads:

**FREE**

contact the *At a Glance* editor at:  
[eartharts@shaw.ca](mailto:eartharts@shaw.ca)



## Victoria Clay Art

654 Burnside Road W.  
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8  
250 384-3831  
[vcart@shaw.ca](mailto:vcart@shaw.ca)

*Here is a list of my favorite pottery tools, glazes and things. Dan*

### All available at Victoria Clay Art

Mud Tool Ribs  
Amaco PC-20 Blue Rutile [cone 6 ]  
Alphabet Stamp Set  
2" Goat Hair Fan Brush  
Magic Water  
Stroke & Coat SC-74 Hot Tomale [cone 08-10]  
MKM Finger Rollers  
Xiem Teliscoping Sponge on a Stick  
Mud Tool Blue Sponge  
Amaco Velvet Underglaze V-361 Jet Black  
Aardvark Cone 5 BEE-Mix  
Mud Tool Clay Cutting Wire [green handle]  
MKM Wood Stamps  
Paper Clay cone 06, 6, or 10

**Come in and look around, we're open  
10:00am to 5:00pm Mon-Sat**

## Your 2014-2015 Executive

President:	Muriel S.	250.652.5434
Vice-Pres:	Pam T-W	1.250.474.5434
Secretary:	Derek K.	250.995.2905
Treasurer:	Linda V.	250.479.5966
Archivist:	Dawn K.	250.896.4373

### Coffee:

Monika B.	778.351.3988
Katia C.	250.472.8225
Hillary G.	778.425.4228

### Library:

Nancy W.	250.479.3524
Kris J.	250.384.5344
Belle Leon	250.382.1326

Membership:	Betty B.	250.382.0974
Newsletter	Louise P.	250.655.3811

### Program Coordinators:

Rosemary N.	250.477.7032
Angela P.	250.580.8884
Muriel S.	250.652.5434

### Raffle:

Ester G.	250.658.4523
Tobias T.	250.383.3893

Webmaster:	Deb.C	250.664.6805
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mention to our advertisers that  
you learned about them in the  
Guild Newsletter.***

## Vancouver Island *Potters Supply*

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Parksville, BC, V9P 2N1

**Open Monday to Friday  
9 am – 4 pm**

**REMEMBER** – among others, 2 great benefits to being in the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild are:

- 1) the library
- 2) access to the BC Potter's Guild newsletter online. Betty B. sends us the username and password each month.

So ... check them out! They're worth using!

## Pottery @ Greenglade Community Centre



Winter Courses &  
Workshops for all ages  
from tots to 60 years+.

Drop-in times  
also available.



250.656.7271

[www.panoramarecreation.ca](http://www.panoramarecreation.ca)

## Discovery Art Travel

2015  
GERAMICS EXCURSIONS

Myanmar  
(Burma)

Sicily

Morocco

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

TEL: 1-250-537-4906

Burma, January 28 - February 13

Sicily, September 26 - October 14

Morocco, October 26 - November 16