

Guild at a Glance

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

May 11, 2015

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 16 Issue 9

April's Meeting – Narikomi – Led by Nancy Wall

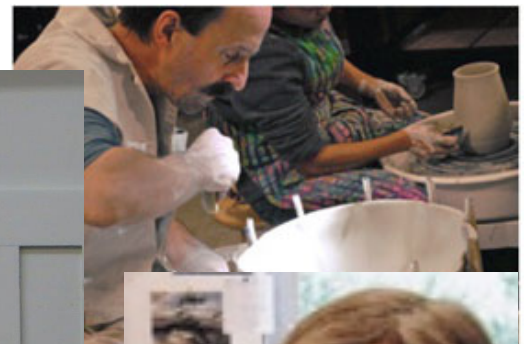
Nancy Wall presented on the process she learned at MISSA with Vincent. She showed samples of her work completed at the workshop. Parquet, small parquet and basket weave designs, cobalt design. "Marriage" is the combination of coloured clay by wedging them together. Nancy was joined – at her request – by a number of members who brought examples of the use of coloured clay.

Linda V. showed a sample of her work. Centring on the wheel can be difficult, although initially a smudgy looking pot, you use metal tools to clean up the surface to reveal the colour patterns. She makes her coloured (Agate) by creating pancakes that she pats together, she showed samples of her work which included two coloured clay bodies (white and terra cotta).

Derek brought a piece that he purchased in Kauai and it showed how the potter used coloured blocks on wheel thrown pieces. The pattern can be seen to swirls as it is thrown on the wheel.

Susan brought beads she used to hand roll and use oxides to colour, she would use Nerikomi to make jewelry pieces.

Joy brought her first and only piece of coloured clay pieces where she took thinly sliced coloured pieces and rolled them into the slab pieces. She found that high fired pieces had more distinct colours. She used different coloured clay veneers on slab built pieces to create design.



continued on page 2

**Our next meeting will be
JUNE 8TH 2015
We meet at 7:30 pm at St.
Michael's
Anglican Church
4733 West Saanich Road
*Don't forget the Raffle !***

The clay is coloured by creating blocks colour and then slices are taken off the coloured block. She took a pound of clay and sliced it, she punched an indent and filled it with a slurry of mason stain to get the coloured clay. She added 10% mason stain (yellow). Label your clay colours as they will not appear as you expect. By making all your blocks the same size it will make it easier to work with. Nancy has a variety of coloured clays, all the same consistency, this is important to prevent them from separating. Wetter is better to work with. Use a 4:1 water to vinegar so you do not need to slip and score. For curved pieces, saran wrap will help separation of the coloured slices.

Nancy showed a board created to make her veneer slices. 1/8 of an inch or thinner slices are important to use.

Feather combed pattern explained. Starting with black Nancy created 1/16 slabs of clay, bottom and top. Then white she does thicker to make it defining 1/4 inch x 3. 2 slabs using stick and wire tool to cut. (Outside edges black and white) Next is blue which due to cost she uses for special patterns. For green use a lot of stain. Use stains or oxides but do not combine due to shrinkage differences which will cause separation. 1/16 in green slices x 4. Yellow sliced to 1/16 inch x 2 Brown sliced 1/16 inch slices x 2. If you do not like messy this is not the technique for you Nancy says.



Layering, start with thick white, green either side. Spray with vinegar water between each layer. Onto each green side, spray and add brown on each side. Next is thin white slices on each side. Black is the next the yellow followed finally by green. Work quickly so that the slices do not dry, this is not the time for a coffee break. Nancy added 1/4 in slices of white on the outside pieces. A tip from Nancy when hoping for symmetrical layers is to lay out colours from the middle, copying one side to the other.



To create the design Nancy uses a technique similar to creating a feather pattern on slips.

She uses a 1/4 inch dowel – pressing the dowel through the clay, stopping at the final white layer, spray into the groove and push back together, She then moves to the 1/4 measure of the piece. Use something to push into the clay that will not stick as it is being removed. She then flips the block and presses between the piece going about 3/4 of the way through to prevent it from splitting. Tip, when working close to the edge, put a piece of clay against the side and remove when you are finished pushing it in. The handout sent by email has lots of great resources for trying this technique.

The next step is to bang the clay on the table, this will get rid of air bubbles and help shape the final block. Do not worry about what the outside of the block will look like. Allow to firm up a couple of days and then continue to shape the block. Wrap in saran wrap and keep in a sealed container. If they become hard, wrap in a damp cloth and check periodically until they reach the consistency you want.



'Nerikomi' is defined (in Wikipedia) as:

"an artistic technique for creating ceramic pottery. The name derives from a traditional Japanese technique of creating patterns with colored clay." Ed.

Text: Daniel C. Photos: SVIPG website, Nancy W., Rosemary N.

... and we LIKED it!

(submitted by Kris J.)

I would like to thank Nancy Wall for sharing with us her knowledge on how to create interesting patterns on clay bodies using colored clay layering techniques. She gave very clear instruction on how to put it all together and I came away ready to get to work on something new! Thank you Nancy for the wonderful inspiration!

Coming in June – It's a PARTY!

Show and Tell: bring your triumphs and disasters, your questions and comments, to a sharing of what Guild members have been doing over the spring. And it's spring munchie time: bring along finger food, sweet or savory, to share.

Submitted by Rosemary N.

From the LIBRARY:

The Library has ordered two new DVD's, which will hopefully arrive in time for the May meeting:



HAND-BUILDING
WITH COLOR &
TEXTURE,
by Lana Wilson



a compilation by Ceramic Arts Daily showing the techniques of Lisa Naples, Sandi Pierantozzi, Amy Sanders and Jeremy Randall
HANDBUILDING: TEXTURE & SURFACE

Submitted by Nancy W.

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Contact: vaschmon@telus.net

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Member on the Move

I would like to let everyone know that I've recently been hired as the new Ceramics Studio Technician at Cedar Hill Rec Centre. Come take a class, sign up for our popular drop in program (waitlist being taken) or just say "Hi." We have floor to ceiling windows, 12 electric wheels, 4 kilns including a gas reduction kiln, a slab roller and 2 clay extruders, lots work space and we are firing about 6 kiln loads/week so the turnaround time for work is minimal. The place is kept immaculately clean by our very generous volunteers. It's a really beautiful space and I think every Victoria potter should see it.

Sue McLeod

www.cedarhillarts.ca

www.saanich.ca

sue.mcleod@saanich.ca

Dear Editor

Just read "something to think about" – and reflected on Nancy's presentation about making and producing our own coloured clay and fancy pots.

We have a lot of collective wisdom within the Guild membership!

Change is the one thing constant! And I firmly believe potters adapt: "We are more than just consumers. We are producers of objects and meanings" (see quote on last page, P. 10, of April Guild Newsletter.)

Many of us still make our own jam too!

Joy

You *WERE* Thinking ☺

Hope many of you dropped out to Sidney to see the show, and may consider putting in work for next year.

We get a giant crowd and lots of sales and exposure, anyone can email me for details,

Betty Fulton! at fultonfarm@hotmail.com...



My Favorite (Port Renfrew) Tool



Sometimes the simplest of ceramic tools can mean the difference between professional appearance and labored work.

Years ago members from the potters group belonging to Esquimalt Arts and Craft Association had one of their many workshops days exploring the beaches of Port Renfrew. The main object of this closely-knit group was helping each other progress with their chosen craft to professional status. This particular day meant a spectacular outing at the beach, AND the search for appropriate handles or weathered tools for finishing clay.

Ever since that day we have made cups, teapots, etc. with occasional beachwood handles.

I was delighted to find a very hard piece of curved and polished wood that could help me where attachments of spouts and handles were needed.

Since then this very small pottery tool has been used constantly (despite trying countless other tools) for teapots, cups, casseroles, etc.

After more than 20 years it is getting a little weak so it used gingerly. We beachcomb often looking for a replacement and hope that we will be successful soon. Otherwise ... that I don't want to think about.



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Map available at: www.firedup.ca

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

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

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



Victoria Clay Art

654 Burnside Road W.
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8
250 384-3831
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:

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Library:

Nancy W.	250.479.3524
Kris J.	250.384.5344
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Membership:	Betty B.	250.382.0974
Newsletter	Louise P.	250.655.3811

Program Coordinators:

Rosemary N.	250.477.7032
Muriel S.	250.652.5434

Raffle:

Ester G.	250.658.4523
Tobias T.	250.383.3893

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Burma, January 28 - February 13
Sicily, September 26 - October 14
Morocco, October 26 - November 16

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!

**Our Library welcomes your suggestions –
Contact Nancy W.
nwall2009@gmail.com**