



POTTERS
GUILD
of BRITISH
COLUMBIA

NEWSLETTER

bc potters

November/December 2005

Volume 41 No. 10

LATTICE STRUCTURES

An All Crystalline Event - Red Star Studios, Kansas City

In his book *Glazes for Special Effects*, Herbert Saunders describes the three-dimensional "lattice structure" of the molecules forming glass. He explains how this lattice structure breaks down with heat, causing glazes to flow, thus enabling crystals to form in just the right conditions. Since I am entranced with crystalline glazes, my interest was piqued when I saw an article in *Ceramics Monthly* last summer, about the *Lattice Structures* Exhibit and Symposium in Kansas City! My friend, Ginny Conrow told me that she was presenting — and was just as excited about hearing what all the other presenters were going to talk about. She said, "don't miss it!" I first met Ginny when she came up from Seattle to teach a workshop at MISSA. She gave me my start with crystals. I couldn't have asked for a better beginning. Her work is exquisite — her spirit an inspiration!

Ginny and I met in the Denver airport, flew into Kansas City together and headed to the opening night celebration. Never have I seen so many lovely forms and incredible glazes in one place! Red dots were everywhere in the first hour of opening night! (See www.latticestructures.com)

The weekend unfolded with back-to-back presentations by potters from around the world. Dianne Creber opened with a history of crystalline glazes; the inimitable Peter Ilsley followed with slides of matt glazes and stories of potting in England and Spain; the understated John Tilton waxed poetic on how he strives to put the universe on each pot - his slides took my breath away; Ginny Conrow generously shared her wisdom and described her painterly approach to glazing; Mr. Li Hyun Jo from Korea amazed us with how he had coaxed truly outstanding crystals onto pots in the third chamber of a wood kiln. Bill Schrahn spoke of growing crystals in a school environment at cone 6 and Fara Shimbo on fluorescent glazes and use of rare earth metals. We saw slides of the incredible Bill Campbell's pottery and listened as Kris Friedrich and Paul Geil, raved about Geil's new kiln that does it all - both temperature and oxidation/reduction atmosphere are computer controlled! Computer guy Dave Bartlett, explained little known features of computer controllers, as well as the benefits of s-type (platinum) thermocouples (I have one and swear by it for accuracy and dependability — especially at cone 10). Steve Lewicki of L&L Kilns spoke about zone-control (using three thermocouples to ensure exact even temperatures from top to bottom of your kiln - I was sitting beside Bill Campbell who commented that he had

zone control in all of his large electric kilns.) Jon Pacini of Laguna had great slides detailing how four porcelain bodies all interacted differently with the same crystal glaze - and why. My head was ready to explode with so much new information and ideas! Thank goodness for the many hours of unwinding over dinners and beers, where we laughed, made new friends and learned even more.

I re-read my many notes on the plane back, comparing them to my glazing records from before the symposium and making notes on notes. I couldn't wait to get back to my spray booth! I tweaked old recipes and firing schedules, incorporated new ideas and had a blast. Three firings later, I was thrilled to pull from the kiln some of my best crystals ever for this year's Christmas shows. Was it worthwhile going all the way to Kansas City for a weekend? Absolutely!

Holly McKeen

Chilliwick, B.C.



Celebrating 50 Years: 1955 - 2005

Table of Contents

Lattice Structures	Cover
President's Message	2
Gallery Manager's Report	2
Claylines	2
Board Changes	3
Studio Ceramics in Canada	3
Medalta International	4
Objects of the Heart	5
Seasonal Sales	6
Making China in China	9
Clay for Dummies - P2	10
NCECA Conference	11

Claylines

Suzy Birstein was thrilled to find her art on the front Cover of the Sept./Oct. issue of "Claytimes", an American ceramics publication. Her colourful portrait painting inspired by her figurative sculpture was representing the exhibit "Potsketch" in Missoula, Montana. This annual exhibit and auction is curated by the The Clay Studio of Missoula, inviting 200 ceramic artists from around the world to create sketches of their pots. Suzy's entry was featured in the Missoula newspaper, alongside the entries of Akio Takamori and Garth Clark

Joanne Copp has been invited to participate in a show of International Ceramics entitled "One Piece-One Artist" at the Marianne Heller Gallery in Heidelberg, Germany, opening November 20th until January 29, 2006. www.galerie-heller.de

Keith Rice-Jones has been awarded a 3 month Residency at Sturt Pottery in New South Wales, Australia. He will be Artist in Residence Feb, March and April, 2006. If you are planning a trip, the housing accomodation is quite generous. Besides sampling a good variety of Shiraz Keith is looking forward to a new impetus and direction with his work. Past Artists in Residence have included the likes of Svend Bayer and Artists in a variety of other crafts.

President's Message

I expect, like me, most of you are up to your elbows in clay and glaze as the time races ahead into the holiday sales season! I hope you can take a few minutes to read through the newsletter as there are a few changes occurring in the Guild.

It seems that every year we have to organize one fundraising activity in order to achieve that extra project that will take us up a level. The Z-mugs helped us raise money for new lighting; the Too Good for the Shard Sales helped pull us out of our debts, and this year helped us celebrate our 50th anniversary. While the shard sale has been successful in raising funds, it works against one of our main goals - that of promoting excellence in our craft. Our project for 2006 is to replace the desk in the gallery, which is desperately in need of replacement. In order to raise the money need to achieve this, we have designated the February exhibition as a fundraiser. More details about this will be appear in the next newsletter and in e-mail broadcasts.

In January and February, 2006 BC in a Box will be displayed at the Comox Valley Art Gallery. In March it will return to Vancouver to be the feature exhibit in our own gallery. This has been a very successful show and I hope we can do another like it in a year or two. But I the time has come to retire this particular one and we would like to do that by making the work available for sale in our gallery. While some people indicated that their work could be for sale, not everyone did. So I am asking you to send me an e-mail (vwhitehead@shaw.ca) to confirm the price and saleability of your work. The standard 50 percent gallery commission will apply. Those works not for sale will be returned. To save time and energy, if you have friends or colleagues who participated, group your responses into one message.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

Jinny Whitehead

Gallery Manager's Report

The Gallery's feature wall showcasing BC Potters Guild 50th Teapots looks fantastic, remember this is an opportunity open to all Guild members.

Holiday shoppers are out and about! A special thank you to the artists who actively participate in keeping the gallery fully stocked with current and new inventory. It's always exciting for us at the gallery to receive and create new displays for ceramic promotion and sales.

Stay posted for new Gallery retail jury application submissions in the New Year. Currently our waiting lists are so long and only ten artists can submit per jury. We want to streamline the process in order to showcase new artists and ceramics at the gallery sooner. Stay tuned...

Guild Members Holiday Exhibition

We look forward to receiving and displaying ceramics with a Holiday Theme!

Brenda Beaudoin

Board Changes

I am pleased to announce two new members of the Board of Directors, both of whom bring new skills and energy to our organization.

Stephanie Craig is recently returned to Vancouver from graduate studies in Pennsylvania where she completed her MFA in Ceramics at Edinboro University. Currently Stephanie maintains an active studio practice, and she is teaching high-school art in the Richmond School District. To view Stephanie's portfolio visit www.stephaniecraig.net.

Amber Kennedy holds a BFA from Emily Carr in Visual Arts—Ceramics (2002) and a Diploma of Technology in Marketing Communications/Direct Response from BCIT. Amber was a participant in the 2005 Medalta International Artists in Residency program in Medicine Hat, Alberta. A love of all things clay and a desire to make ceramics better understood drives Amber's goal with the PGBC to help ceramic artists communicate their passion more effectively with the public.

Unfortunately, Dave Kruyt has had to resign from the Board because of other commitments. Dave has been a very supportive member of the Board and I am sorry to see him go. Luckily he will continue to work in the background to help us in our financial management for as long as necessary. If there is anyone out there with a financial background who would like to join the Board, please contact me.

There are many opportunities for members to participate in Guild activities without actually being on the Board. Contact any board member if you would like to volunteer or if you have an idea for a project for the Guild.

Jinny Whitehead

Studio Ceramics in Canada



After six years of travel and research Studio Ceramics in Canada, 1920-2005, is has been launched.

If you missed the book launch please visit your local bookseller to obtain a copy of the book. For those who have no direct access to bookstores or to online retailers, please note that Goose Lane Editions is prepared to ship copies to you for the suggested retail price of \$45 plus GST. From now until December 10, Goose Lane will even absorb the shipping and handling charges for Canadian orders. An order form is available on their Web site.

Just visit <http://www.gooselane.com/glc/order.htm> and fax it in.

Studio Ceramics in Canada is a must for studio practitioners, libraries and resource centres, educational institutions, museums, galleries, and collectors. And what a great Christmas gift! Enjoy!

Join me and celebrate Studio Ceramics in Canada:

Gail Crawford

Discovery Art Travel

FEATURING **Denys James**



UPCOMING CERAMICS EXCURSIONS

THAILAND	December 15, 2005 - January 3, 2006
LAOS/ANGKOR WAT	January 27 - February 14, 2006
ITALY	May 13 - 29, 2006
TURKEY	September 14 - October 5, 2006

For details, please visit www.denysjames.com/excursions

For more information on Discovery Art Travel or Denys James, please contact us at: Phone/Fax: (250) 537-4906
182 Welbury Drive, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada V8K 2L8

Medalta International Artists in Residence



In June 2005 I had the good fortune to participate in MIAIR, Medalta International Artists in Residence, in Medicine Hat, Alberta. The MIAIR program, fondly referred to as Medalta, is currently a four-

week residency designed specifically for Canadian and international ceramists. I had a fantastic experience and I believe it is definitely worth investigating, if you are craving a full immersion in the ceramics studio. For me, the highlights were: working in the inspiring historical factories; meeting and sharing with so many interesting artists; and working for several uninterrupted weeks on a specific body of work. Plus, I made some good friends, helped fire the wood kiln three times, and went to my first chuck wagon races! I drove home with a car full of finished pieces and a sketchbook full of new ideas.

There are several wonderfully unique aspects about Medalta:

The location: the program is hosted in the Medicine Hat Clay Industries National Historic District's restored factories. Contemporary ceramists work amidst the historic artifacts of the century-old pottery factories: huge beehive kilns, giant old clay mixers, early industrial production lines, curious mechanisms and machinery, shelves of old molds, and an endless collection of original pots and crocks. A generous open-studio area has been dedicated to the residency program for ceramists to work on independent pursuits while sharing with peers and unavoidably absorbing the fascinating history of the site.

Beyond the studio, artists-in-residence are treated to a truly Western Canadian experience: giant train yards, the rolling semi-desert landscape of southern Alberta, the wildly popular local stampede and chuck wagon races, and the wide-open prairie skies with pillow clouds like you have never seen!

The people: the Medalta program strives to bring international artists together to share and exchange ideas and experiences. So far, the alumnus includes ceramists from Japan, China, Korea, Ireland, USA and Canada. Each year the residency group consists of three to four invited artists, and 12 to 14 participating artists. The artists are carefully selected to bring a combined and eclectic body of knowledge and experience to the studio. The participating artists are juried into the program based on submitted portfolios, so as to ensure a certain level of excellence. They range from recent grads, emerging artists, to established studio artists and educators. In addition to the residents, there is a full time studio technician, and the regular visits from a tremendously enthusiastic and friendly group of local potters and MIAIR volunteers. The creative force behind the MIAIR program is the Artist Director Les Manning.

Les is a consummate potter, a tireless educator, a remarkably knowledgeable ceramist, and a dedicated advocate for the growth of ceramics in Canada.

The residency: it is a four week, intense, independent work period for ceramists to explore new territory, review past work, enhance a portfolio, or just re-vitalize energy levels without the interruptions of daily life. Its enough time see growth in individual work; time to explore collaborative work; and time to build lasting friendships. Everyone works in an inspiring open-concept studio space, and each artist is supplied with his or her own large worktable, pottery wheel and ware cart. The studio is fully equipped: clay mixer, slab rollers, an extruder, a full glaze lab (and a legacy of recipes from alumni,) a spray booth, several electric kilns, a large gas car kiln, a bourry box wood kiln and raku kilns.

A big bonus is Plainsman Clay, a local clay manufacturing company and ceramics supply warehouse, which is ideally located directly across the road from the studio. Nearly every waking hour is spent at the studio or around the kilns, but there is still plenty of time for barbecues, bike rides and day trips to regional parks and attractions.

All the residents stay in surprisingly deluxe townhouse-style student housing on the campus of the local college. One highlight of the residency is the month-long exhibition "Clay Dynamics" which showcases the current work of all the MIAIR ceramists. Another highlight is the daily slide shows and noon hour discussions about portfolios, career ambitions, tricks of the trade, and international opportunities.

This spring was the seventh year of the program. MIAIR hosted its first residency in 1998, and the program has been evolving and growing ever since, as has the whole National Historic District (the factory restorations, the museum programs, and archival work.) As MIAIR has grown and matured into a successful program, it is now poised to move into a fully renovated building - the historical Sunburst Pottery Building. This new studio space will allow the program to expand further and eventually MIAIR will run year-long residencies and host annual symposiums and exhibitions.

MIAIR is a vital ceramics center in Canada. There is currently no other studio running a similar residency program, nor is there another institution with the potential to be a dedicated Canadian ceramics center.

Check it out at www.medalta.org

Stephanie Craig

Photos courtesy Stephanie Craig





Objects of the Heart

Debra Sloan

Opens at the Gallery of BC Ceramics

November 3, 2005

The Objects of the Heart involve using familiar icons. The heart is a complicated organ, and we experience many emotional events when we are drawn to something; loss, joy, ambivalence, attachment, and memory.

I had started with the notion of tin toys and the method of their construction. What remained of that original idea is a simplified construction of the figurative work and a migration to doll-like figures. My practice is to jump into an idea without planning. As things evolve, I have to adjust and react and find a resolution. It is about transformation and reaction. Transforming a material, twisting an idea, throws the viewer's notion of reality into question.

Being attracted to various other objects, or substances, I have sought ways to include them in the work. These additional materials have introduced something of their own significance. The challenge was to find the balance between the different materials and still point the work in a synchronous direction.

Debra Sloan

Clay Courses at the Surrey Art Gallery

Winter 2006

Built By Hand

Explore handbuilding methods using the slabroller and extruder, and learn decorating and glazing techniques.

Instructor: Cheryl Stapleton

4 Sessions \$82.50

Sun, Jan 29, 1-4pm #413508

Pottery - Level 1

Instructor: Murray Sanders

8 Sessions \$113.50

Mon, Jan 16, 9:30am-12noon #413407

Mon, Jan 16, 7-9:30pm #413408

Wed, Jan 18, 7-9:30pm #413410

Thu, Jan 19, 9:30am-12noon #413411

Thu, Jan 19, 7-9:30pm #413412

Pottery - Level 2

Instructor: Jodi Beazley

8 Sessions \$113.50

Tue, Jan 17, 7-9:30pm #413458

Kiln Operations Workshop

Learn all about electric kiln operations from an experienced pottery instructor and kiln manager. Topics include: kiln loading and stacking, firing schedules, cones and temperatures, trigger adjustments, troubleshooting, maintenance and safety.

Instructor: Murray Sanders

1 Session \$20.50

Sun, Jan 22, 1-3:30pm #417706

Recycle Your Own Clay

Make your own 18"x24" plaster bat for recycling clay. All supplies included.

Instructor: Murray Sanders

1 Session \$23

Sun, Mar 12, 1-4pm #419085

All Fired Up (13-17yrs)

Create artworks using the potter's wheel and handbuilding techniques, and learn about decorating and glazing.

Instructor: Murray Sanders

6 Sessions \$68.50

Sat, Jan 21, 10:30am-12:30pm #417723

Clay courses for elementary and preschool age children are also offered.

Registration: 604-501-5100 or www.prc.surrey.ca



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



BRITISH
COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
Supported by the Province of British Columbia



88 Avenue
& King George Hwy.
Ph: 604-501-5566
www.arts.surrey.ca

SEASONAL SALES

Potters and Artisans of the Okanagan Valley Fifteenth Annual Seasonal Show and Sale

At the Rotary Centre for the Arts
Featuring a variety of Pottery, Paintings,
Glass work, Sculpture, Jewellery and more.

Sat. Nov. 12th from 10:00am to 9:00pm
and

Sun. Nov. 13th from 11:00am to 5:00pm

Sponsored by:

Potters Addict Ceramic Art Centre
and

The Rotary Centre for the Arts

421 Cawston Ave Kelowna

Call 763-1875 for More Information

Suzy Birstein's Studio Open House and Sale



“Celebrate the Everyday - Every Day” at *Suzy Birstein's* Kitsilano Studio Open House and Sale.

Colourful ceramic Tableware and Sculpture,
accompanied by *Hartley's* wonderful cookies,
cider and wine.

Dates: Fri. Dec. 9 - 5:00pm til 10pm

Sat. Dec. 10 - Noon til 6:00

Sun. Dec. 11 - Noon til 6:00

(otherwise by appt.)

Address: 3436 W. 2nd Ave

www.suzybirstein.com

Holly McKeen's Greendale Pottery



Bowl Set by Holly McKeen

Holly McKeen's Greendale Pottery, in Chilliwack will be open for a Christmas Show November 10 & 11 from 11am to 8pm and November 12th from 11 am to 5:30pm. Drop by for wine & cheese either evening! See www.greendalepottery.com for directions and a gallery preview.

Enter the Christmas Doorprize draw to win a stunning Crystalline plate.

(The showroom at Greendale Pottery is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11am til 5:30pm.)

Okanagan Potters Association Annual Christmas Shows

November 4 & 5 at Best Western Vernon Lodge, Vernon

November 26 & 27 at Mission Community Hall, Kelowna

for more information 250.762.5837

SEASONAL SALES

Jane Wolters' Annual Christmas Show and Sale

Friday and Saturday
November 25th and 26th
10 AM to 4 PM both days
9002 Chemainus Road, Chemainus
(between Duncan and Nanaimo on
Vancouver Island)
Phone: 1 250 246 3853
email: wolterspots@shaw.ca
Website: <http://members.shaw.ca/wolterspots>
{photo is bowl set2.jpg}



Annual Studio Sale Joan Barnet, Hsiao Chen Peng, Pia Sillem, Cheryl Stapleton, Jinny Whitehead

Sat. November 12th
10am - 5pm
Eastside Culture Crawl
Fri. Nov. 18, 5pm-10pm
Sat. Nov. 19, 11am-6pm
Sun. Nov. 20, 11am-6pm
265 - 975 Vernon Drive
Vancouver, BC V6A 3P3
(at Clarke & Venables)
604.708.339

Creek Clayworks Christmas Pottery Sale and Studio Open House!



Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 26 and 27, 10
a.m. to 5 p.m.
1738 Lockyer Rd. in Roberts Creek on the
Sunshine Coast
Elaine Futterman & Mike Allegretti invite
you to join us for
Lots of pottery and tasty goodies!
Phone 885-2395 for more information.

Connie Glover Pottery



Connie Glover Cruet

CHRISTMAS STUDIO SALE

Saturday and Sunday, November 26 & 27,
2005 11 am to 4 pm
1872 - 136th Street, South Surrey, B.C.
Drop Drop by to view recent work including
cups, bowls, teapots, and sculptural pieces.

SEASONAL SALES

Keith and Celia Rice-Jones

Wildrice Studio

Saturday & Sunday November 19th - 20th
10.00am - 6.00pm

20% off regular stock; big reductions on
good seconds and end of lines.

Keith & Celia look forward to seeing old
friends and making new ones over coffee or a
glass of wine.

8072 11th Avenue, Burnaby

www.wildricestudio.com

(<http://www.wildricestudio.com>)

604 522 8803

Jackie Frioud's Christmas Pottery Sale



Sunday, November 27th at 6525 Madrona
Crescent in West Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay)
from 11am - 6pm. Joining her will be the
painter *Nicola Morgan* and the printmakers
Butler and *Lowe*. Please drop in for a visit
and refreshments. Phone 604 921 6417 for
more information.

Keith Lehman

Your Local Farmers Market Societies Winter Market

Keith Lehman will be doing Your Local
Farmers Market Societies Winter Market at
Heritage Hall, Main St and East 15th in
Vancouver, on Dec. 11th from 10 till 5 pm.
<http://www.eatlocal.org> Keith's work can now
be found at Kingsmill Studio Pottery, 1620
Johnston St. Granville Island where he is in
residence the first seven days of each month..

Kaddatz Artz @ Home, Christmas Edition



Kaddatz Zucchini Leaf Plate

Find the perfect hand-made Christmas gift.
Choose from functional and decorative pot-
tery, including rhubarb leaf plates, dragon
teapots, mugs, bowls, goblets and vases....

Saturday, December 3, 2005 from 10am to
5pm

10975 McAdam Road, North Delta, BC (one
block east of Brooke Road and one block
north of Nordel Way).

For more information, visit [www.kad-
datzartz.com](http://www.kaddatzartz.com), e-mail kaddatzartz@dccnet.com
or call 604-584-CLAY.

Delta Potters Christmas Pottery Sale

Friday, November 11, 12:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday, November 12 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday November 13, 10:00am - 4:00pm

South Delta Recreation Centre at 1720 56th
Street, Tsawwassen, B.C. (Across the street
from McDonalds).

Jim Stamper

Muddycat Studios

53 west 12th Ave

Dec 9-10



see www.muddycatstudios.ca for details

SEASONAL SALES

Claytek Studios Inc.

Will be having our annual Christmas Pottery Sale on December 3 - all day!
620 Millbank Rd.
False Creek (@ Stamps Landing)
<http://www.claytekstudios.com>
604-872-8830

YarOn Stern Ceramic Design

Open Studio Winter Sale
Saturday, 26 November 2005
between 10 am to 6 pm.
Not your ordinary pottery
and some out of the ordinary.
5249 Slocan st. Vancouver
604-221-7588
www.yaronstern.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Slide Lecture

Paul Mathieu

“Making China in China”

A visual presentation on his recent work experience in Jingdezhen, China, these last two years.

Emily Carr Institute , Room 328

Friday November 18, 7pm

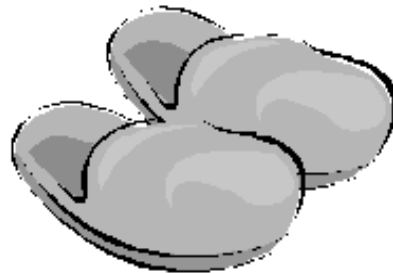
\$10 at the door(\$5 for students)

This is a fundraiser for the Ceramics Program at Emily Carr

Tired of



OR



For Christmas?

**Try THE MAD POTTER's Gift Registry
and see the difference.**

**# 6 - 3071 - No. 5 Road, Richmond, BC Tel: 604-244-3734
Store Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10 to 6**

Clay for Dummies - Part Two

Working with clay is a bit like working with food, especially pastry, so let's continue the cooking analogy and put the completely air-dried work (it might take several days) in the oven because that's all the kiln is - an oven. It has switches and gets hot. In our case a bit hotter than your kitchen oven - about 1840 degrees F (1005 degrees C) or Cone 06 as kiln heat is measured. Most kilns will have a little device called a kiln-sitter on the side of the kiln into which a little clay cone fits and this becomes a shut-off switch when the kiln reaches the right temperature. More recent kilns may have an electronic controller, which is a lot easier to use than the timer on your oven! The clay suppliers will give you information on what you need for your particular kiln.

In your oven you have racks. In a kiln you have shelves, which you separate with three props, keeping these vertically lined up with successive stacks. (See fig. 1)

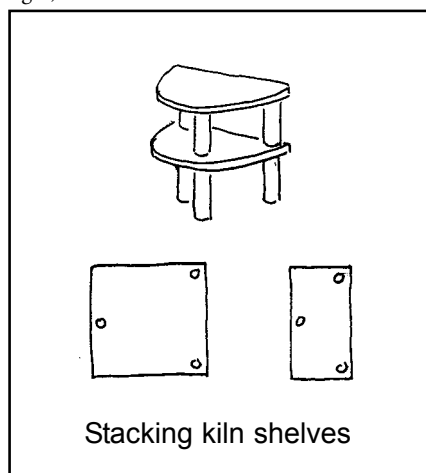


Fig. 1

For the first firing (bisque) it does not matter if things touch. In a glaze firing, pieces not only must not touch but also there should be no glaze on the bottoms of pieces and additional protection can be given by coating the kiln shelves with kiln wash. (A bit like putting a tray under a casserole that might bubble over!)

The usual plan for firing is to give it three hours on 'low', three hours on 'medium' and on 'high' for as long as it takes. For most smaller kilns this should not take more than five hours. Check in with your supplier and monitor your 1st firing so you have an idea how long things take. A kiln sitter has a built-in timer, so note how long it is on high. After this first firing, don't set the timer too far beyond the time you expect it to take as the timer is an extra safety switch to avoid possible over-firing.

Glazes are glassy protective and/or decorative finishes. The glass comes from silica, which is a major part of clay. To stop the glass from running all over the place, alumina is used. This is the other main part of clay. So we have clay on clay. In order to melt the top coating it also has a Flux (flux is Latin for melt.) If we

want colour, this can also be added in the form of a metal oxide. (Eg. Copper Oxide would give you turquoise).

What you have is a recipe - just like cooking!

Just like bought, prepared food, commercial glazes, especially if purchased in small pots, can be prohibitively expensive. You pay heavily for convenience.

An excellent compromise is to buy ready prepared dry glaze and mix it with water as needed with a little hand mixer to a 'heavy cream' consistency. The glaze comes in clear and white. You can mix the two for a milky glaze.

As a price comparison, if you bought a gallon of glaze in four ounce pots it would cost \$122.00. For slightly less you can buy a fifty pound sack of dry glaze - enough to make up two thirds of a garbage can of glaze. If several people get together you can get enough basic clear and white glazes relatively cheaply in quantities to last for years.

The easiest way to use this is to coat the pieces with the glaze by brushing on a couple of coats. Remember that it is the solids that make the glaze, not the water! Then you simply paint the colours on top using oxides and glaze stains. Here is the recipe - keep it stirred in use. I keep it in little yoghurt pots.

- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon dry clear glaze powder
- 1 teaspoon glaze stain (or more depending on how strong you want the colour)

This decorating technique is called Majolica and is the basis of Mediterranean and Mexican pottery.

You can also just use oxides as stains on their own by mixing with water, brushing on and then wiping off with a clean, damp sponge. This will emphasise form and texture, as hollows will be left darker. It's a good way of dealing with sculpture. The oxides become permanent finishes but do not melt so you can do them all over. If you want to oxide some areas and glaze others, always oxide first.

The cheap oxides for this are:

Red Iron Oxide (rust) for reddish browns

Copper Carbonate for black. Don't be fooled by the green colour, in firing it changes to copper oxide which is black.

Manganese Dioxide on its own is also black but it is very strong. A mixture of it with Iron oxide is one I use a lot.

You can use glaze stains like this too, especially on white clay and you can be quite painterly but the stains are much more expensive.

There are non-ceramic ways to finish clay but please, let's keep these to sculptural work. There is something

very aesthetically uncomfortable for me about painting functional pieces. But that's another article. ...

India Ink and black shoe polish is a great, simple and effective sculptural finish and you can do remarkable things with pencil crayons.

You might want to try Pit Firing, which will give you random flashings and carbon colouration. (See fig. 2) I used this with students at Burnaby North on a huge group mural and I do a great little project called 'Little Figures of the Earth' in which the students imagine themselves as archaeologists finding ritual figurines from some ancient, long-lost culture (which they invent). After bisquing, the figures are pit-fired and later discovered in the ashes.

Finally, lets look at organizing the kitchen.

You can use cardboard for work boards and desk covers. You can get large sheets free from appliance stores. Recycled, thick-walled card tubes make adequate, free rollers. For the Cadillac version you can get dowel rod from Rona. Strips of wood for rolling guides (about 5/16 is about the right thickness for most things you will do) can be cut easily from the edge of scrap two by four by your friendly wood-shop teacher. I tell my SFU students that one of their best investments is a six-pack for this teacher!

Don't waste money on tools, get old kitchen knives and some forks from Value Village and don't forget to pick up one of those little hand mixers while you are there. clay-cutting wires can be made from fishing line and a couple of washers. Modelling tools can be made from cheap chopsticks - a pointed and a chisel end will cover most needs. A discarded foam cushion will give you free sponges and old credit cards make great scrapers!

You will need a couple of ice-cream buckets for recycling dried clay and a little plaster batt for reconstituting the slaked clay. This can be cast from *plaster of Paris* in a lightly oiled baking tray. Sprinkle the plaster into water in a plastic bucket (estimate about three quarters the volume that you will need) until it peaks out and will not absorb any more. Let it sit for 3 minutes then stir and tease out any lumps. Pour into the mould. When the plaster has set, remove it from the mould and let it dry (several days.) Clay that gets too dried out can be slaked down with water in the ice-cream pails and then tipped out onto the plaster batt. The plaster will suck out the excess water and the clay can be wedged up and re-used. The trick is not to get a lot of clay to recycle. Do an ice cream pail as soon it's full and you are starting the next one.

Good cooking!

Keith Rice-Jones

Suppliers:

Greenbam Potters Supply Ltd
9548 192nd Street
Surrey, BC V4N 3R9
604 888 3411

The Mad Potter
#6 3071 No.5 Road
Richmond, BC
604 244 3734

Vancouver Island Potters Supply
#5 - 2071 South Wellington Road
Nanaimo, BC
205 716 9960

National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts

2006 Conference Portland, Oregon, March 8-11, 2006

NCECA (National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts) 2006 Conference is in Portland, Oregon, March 8-11, 2006. This is the major annual clay gathering in the USA and it doesn't get up to the Pacific Northwest too often. I hear it's well worth the trip and it's amazing to see thousands of clay enthusiasts at one place.

Find out more at:

<http://www.nceca.net/conference/2006>

To enhance your trip experience and also to help defer the cost of the conference/trip, the Oregon Potters Association has invited members of our Guild to stay in the homes of members of the OPA. March 2006 will be here before you know it, so begin your planning and start making arrangements if you wish to attend the conference and/or stay with fellow potters in Oregon.

We are thinking that it would be nice to have all requests for lodging in before the end of January so that the coordinator can make all the arrangements with the hosts. I think it will be a great opportunity to widen contacts in our northwest clay community. E-mail is the simplest, although some paper and post will do nicely as well.

I have the initial contact as Ginger Steele, but there will likely be a coordinator designated to handle this. We'll also pass this along when available.

OPA contact info: Ginger Steel Insomnia Pottery
3285 N.W. Susbauer Road Cornelius, Oregon
97113

gingersteele@insomniapottery.com Telephone 503-844-6400 Fax 503-693-8334

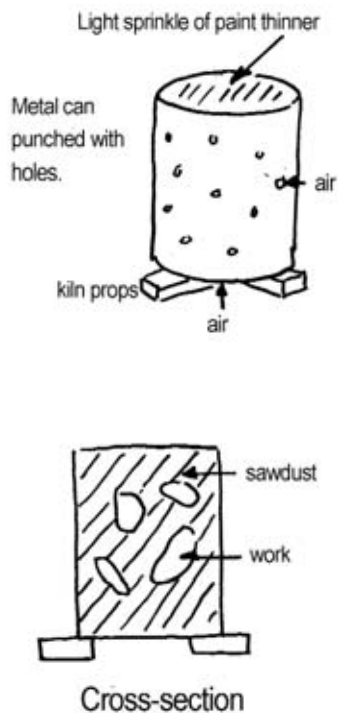


Fig. 2

Check out our falling prices this Autumn on Mason Stains

*We are now buying bulk quantities of Mason Stains
and can pass the savings onto our customers*

Prices reduced by 30% to 40%

Buy a pound or more for a further 25% off

Call or visit Greenbarn for further details

9548 192 Street,
Surrey, B.C. V4N 3R9
Phone: 604-888.3411
Fax: 604-888-4247

greenbarn
POTTERS SUPPLY LTD.

Monday-Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-1
Closed Long Weekends
greenbarn@telus.net

Potters Guild of B.C. Board

Jinny Whitehead, President
604.687.3590 <vwhitehead@shaw.ca>

Sheila Morissette, Secretary
604.484.5090
<sheilamorissette@mac.com>

Don Jung, Chair Communications
604.873.1836 <don.jung@shaw.ca>

Matthew Freed, Chair Membership
604.899.3383

Jay MacLennan
604.709.3263 <lumacpottery@aol.com>

Leon Popik 604.255.3580 lpopik@eciad.ca
Amber Kennedy 604.781.1940 celte_nouveau@shaw.ca

Stephanie Craig 604-224 5043
stephanie@stephaniecraig.net

General Enquiries

General: **Leon Popik** 604.255.3580
and leave a message or send email to
<generalinfo@bcpotters.com>

50th Anniversary Committee

Keith Rice-Jones, Chair 604.522.8803

Debra Sloan	Karen Opas
Suzy Birstein	Al Sather
Heather Cairns	Maggi Kneer

Membership

Matthew Freed, Chair 604.899.3383
<membership@bcpotters.com>

Ronna Ander 604.921.7550 or
<database@bcpotters.com>

Renewals

- by Visa, cheque or cash in person at the Gallery of BC Ceramics or
- by Visa, cheque and mail to the Guild office; mark the envelope and cheque with 'Membership Renewal'.

New Membership

Use the two methods above. If you submit by mail, mark the envelope 'New Membership.'

Communications Committee

Don Jung, Chair 604.873.1836
<communications@bcpotters.com>

Gillian McMillan, 604.937.7696
<newsletter@bcpotters.com>

Martin Hunt, Editor, <editor@bcpotters.com> or <webmaster@bcpotters.com>

Andrea Maitland, Proofreader
Special thanks to Rona Hatherall, Marie Smith, Lewis and Hazel Kennett, Linda LeBrun and Billy Wittman who make certain the newsletter is mailed.

Made of Clay

Dale Delansen, Co-ordinator,
604.255.0760
<madeofclay@bcpotters.com>

Gallery of BC Ceramics

Hours: 10:00 am-6:00 pm
www.bcpotters.com

Brenda Beaudoin

Interim Gallery Manager
604.669.3606 or
<galleryofbcceramics@bcpotters.com>

Gallery Assistants: Sarah Belley,
Roxanne Gagnon, Katharine Ducker
and Samantha MacDonald
(staff@bcpotters.com)

Volunteers

Shari Nelson, exhibition catering
Penny Birnam, exhibition re-painting

Gallery Committee

Maggi Kneer
Sheila Morissette
Pia Sillem
Jinny Whitehead
Celia Rice-Jones



POTTERS GUILD OF B.C. NEWSLETTER

ISSN #: 6319 812X

The Newsletter is published 10 times yearly as an information link for members.

Submissions: send articles, reviews, images, members news, letters and information by the 8th of each month. Unclassified and articles may be edited for space.

Membership Fees for 12 months (incl GST)

Individual \$50 Student (full time) \$25 Senior (over 65) \$30

Family Studio (2 max.) \$70 Institution or Group \$100 Corporation \$100

Advertising Rates (not including GST) Please submit ads as .tiff, pdf, or eps files.

Full Page \$170, 2/3 page \$115, 1/2 page \$85, 1/3 page \$55, 1/6 page \$30.

Ad rates are for files that need no further work by our staff. Ads that are not the correct size, or that need formatting or basic design work will cost \$10 extra.

Unclassified Rates: Members Free!

Insert Rates (not including GST)

Members: \$75. If overweight, pay additional postage costs. First-come basis.

Outside groups: \$200 corporate/\$100 community

Guild committees: free if within postage; pay for overweight.

Advertising and insert rates subject to change.

Website: www.bcpotters.com Email: <generalinfo@bcpotters.com>



**POTTERS
GUILD
of BRITISH
COLUMBIA**
NEWSLETTER

1359 Cartwright Street
Granville Island
Vancouver, BC
V6H 3R7
tel: 604.669.5645
fax: 604.669.5627