

November 2011
Volume 47 No. 9



BC POTTERS

Newsletter of the Potters Guild of British Columbia

From Oven and Kiln **2**

Virtual Volunteers **6**

The Slab Man Cometh **7**

8 *RBC Emerging Artist*

9 *Home Roam*

10 *Visiting the Potters of Nicaragua*

Blasted Vase, by Larry Cohen.
Cone 10 salt glaze, 14" x 16" x 4".
See Page 4.





Gallery of BC Ceramics

www.galleryofbcceramics.com

Representing the best of BC Ceramics

Gallery Manager

Sharon Cohen

galleryofbcceramics@bcpotters.com

604.669.3606



Hours

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Gallery Assistants

Carita Ho, Karen Lew, Linda Lewis,

Kate Metten, Dave Carlin

Roxanne Gagnon, Sasha Krieger,

Gala Vlasic

staff@bcpotters.com



Gallery Volunteers

Maggi Kneer, Sheila Morissette,

Elizabeth Claridge, Jinny Whitehead,

Celia Rice-Jones



The Gallery of BC Ceramics is a gallery by potters for potters.

■ *The Gallery coordinates and curates several exhibitions a year.*

■ *Every month we showcase an artist, usually someone just starting his or her career.*

■ *We also sell the work of more than 100 artists in the retail shop.*

Artists must apply to be juried; there are three deadlines annually.

To download and print a Gallery

Jury Application, [click here](#).

For information on Gallery

Policy, [click here](#).



From Oven and Kiln 2012

By Debra Sloan

The 8th From Oven and Kiln dinner/auction will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. A delicious buffet dinner will be served to 150 guests. There will be a display and silent auction of the distinctive artworks donated by B.C.'s leading ceramic artists. The auction will be ongoing throughout the evening, promoted by our special host, TBA. The prestigious \$5000 NWCF Award of Excellence will be presented and the winning artist's slide show will follow. The evening will finish off with the traditional parade and exchange of dessert plates kindly made and donated by B.C. potters.

We hope you will consider attending because the NWCF mission is to support the level of discourse and quality of B.C. ceramics through the sponsorship of educational opportunities for potters in B.C. Our fundraising is what makes possible the Maureen Wright Scholarship fund, our successful NWCF Speaker Series, the keynote speaker in the Triennial Canadian Clay Symposium, and the

prestigious NWCF Award. Please go to our website www.nwcf.ca for more information on these activities.

After April 10, 2012, the online catalogue of the donated ceramic artworks for the auction will be available for viewing on our website www.nwcf.ca

Tickets:

Tickets for the From Oven and Kiln auction/dinner will go on sale Feb 1, 2012. Go to our website for PayPal tickets www.nwcf.ca. Tickets will also be available through the Gallery of BC Ceramics.

- \$110 for PGBC members
- \$125 for non-PGBC members

This event is designed to build community and support for the B.C. ceramic arts. We hope to see you there!

For further information on From Oven and Kiln, please go to www.nwcf.ca or email Debra Sloan debraesloan@gmail.com.

Thank you from the NWCF Board. 🙏

2012 Featured Artists

The Featured Artist slot affords a non-juried artist the opportunity to sell work in the gallery for a month-long period. All Guild members are eligible to apply, and may show work other than the mugs and tiles to which non-juried potters are usually restricted. Please apply (include images of your work) directly to the gallery manager at galleryofbcceramics@bcpotters.com. We will include the featured artists in this space, once the list has been finalized.

2011 Gallery Exhibitions

MAY: *Spottery*

A non-juried members' show featuring work with a dot or spot motif. On till May 29.

JUNE: *First Serve*

Emily Carr graduates, Kelly Austin, Darcy Greiner, Emma Walter and others begin their conversation with the ceramic community in Vancouver and the art world in general.

JULY: *Celebrate the Bowl*

A non-juried members' show featuring bowls in support of Project Empty Bowl.

SEPTEMBER:

Classic Forms Revisited

Works by Mary Fox. A new interpretation of classic vase and amphora forms that have inspired Mary's ceramics.

NOVEMBER: *Wide Open*

A juried show of small works by members of the Alberta Potters Association, this exhibition is one half of an exchange with the Potters Guild of BC.

President's Message

The days are short and dark, but studios are nice and toasty because kilns across the province barely have time to cool down between loads as we build up stock for the fast approaching Christmas season. This year has been financially rocky around the world and we have not been immune here in beautiful B.C. We have seen a notable drop in our own gallery revenues. Despite this, we continue to make

lots of sales and I'd like to remind all gallery artists how important it is to keep the gallery well stocked with their work—the bigger the selection the better the sales.

Let the kiln gods smile upon your work! 🏺

—Jinny Whitehead



Junichi Tanaka's unique Alpine teapot.



A magnificently crafted Judy Weeden teapot.

Gallery News *By Sharon Cohen*

Wow, how did this year manage to fly by so quickly? Clearly, here in the gallery we had a lot of fun, because time flies when you're having fun! It's hard not to have fun when you spend every day surrounded by art and beauty, and have the enviable task of pointing out the highlights of the art and beauty to our gallery visitors.

Christmas will be here sooner than we think, so it's time to plan ahead. Last year at Christmas time, we filled the exhibition space with teapots, and it looked great and definitely worked in our favour sales-wise. December shoppers frequently ask for teapots (which makes sense as teapots truly are the perfect gift). In previous years, as most of our artists make teapots, we spent much time happily escorting customers round from plinth to plinth and shelf to shelf showing them each artist's work. Last year, to make shopping easier, we decided it made sense to put all the teapots together in one area, and show them with matching mugs, in the hopes of add-on selling. Apart from the fact that the "teapot shop" looked really eye-catching and generated a lot of sales, it was so interesting to compare the visual properties and the techniques used in all the teapots by all the different artists. It served to highlight the incredible range and diversity we're privileged to show in the gallery. From Jinny Whitehead's subtle wood-fired teapot to Junichi Tanaka's conversation-piece puffer fish teapot to Gillian McMillan's duck teapot (no kidding!), the selection boasted something for every taste.

I'd like to call upon our juried gallery artists to help us out yet again by providing us with teapots for Christmas, over and above healthy supplies of your regular lines. There's a good chance the teapots will sell just as well as they did last year, so please be sure to bring us an abundance of both teapots and mugs. As you know, any guild member can sell mugs in the gallery, and it would be wonderful to have some new mug artists, so this is a shout-out to all guild members to bring on the mugs!

To the artists participating in Christmas craft shows, I wish you all the best; I hope sales go well for you. I hope that everyone is in full production mode so that there's enough work for your private sales AND for our gallery. We're hoping for a bumper festive season! 🏺

Artistic affinity for life's surprises

Larry Cohen's return to ceramics combines tradition and whimsy

By Olga Livshin

This article was originally published in The Jewish Independent and is reprinted with permission. Larry Cohen is a Potters Guild of BC member.

These days the Sidney and Gertrude Zack Gallery looks like a sophisticated pottery shop. Even before Larry Cohen's solo ceramics show, Clay Shapes, opened on Oct. 6, red dots, each one indicating a sale, decorated more than a dozen plates and vases currently on display. "I get lots of red dots. It's like measles – unexpected," Cohen joked.

A Renaissance man at heart, Cohen could never select one vocation at the cost of everything else, he told the *Independent* at the gallery. His interests have always been varied and intertwined. "I made few deliberate choices in my life," he said. "I often fell into things or got pushed in a certain direction. If I liked the direction, I kept going. If I didn't like it, I stopped."

Indeed, the directions of Cohen's life have fluctuated widely. Before he dedicated himself to the art of ceramics, he had been a criminal lawyer and a commercial fisherman, a University of British Columbia law instructor and a building contractor. He had tried his hands at carpentry, been a sculptor and managed a Japanese restaurant. "Life is interesting when you try many different things," he said. "I've been lucky to be able to do what I wanted."

Whatever he did professionally, his art always existed in parallel to his other careers, although his involvement with ceramics started as a happenstance. He was 27 at the time and a practising lawyer. "I had a friend interested in ceramics," he recalled. "He had a wheel in his home. When he moved to a cheaper place, I rented that house and started playing with clay. I liked it. It was something to balance my life."

In the following years, Cohen worked predominantly at functional pottery: mugs, platters and the like. But the inner artist in him strived for more: more diversity, more artistry, more knowledge. About a decade later, while teaching in the UBC faculty of law, he went back to school, his own alma mater, for his master's in fine arts.

"I made sculpture through my school[ing]," he said, explaining that he stayed away from ceramics for many years. "I tried to move my interest in the more artistic direction." He created and exhibited sculptures made of metal and other materials.

But his first love, ceramics, wouldn't let him be. Clay beckoned and, eventually, Cohen returned to his artistic roots, although he fashioned his tale of return as a practical move. "I have a house full of sculptures, and I can't sell them. But like any artist, I want appreciation. I want people to see what I do."

Cohen's current exhibition consists of two kinds of pottery. One is wheel-thrown: vases, jars and platters. Another is slab work, where a potter builds his creations like a sculptor, from thin slabs of clay. Several of the more unusual vases in the gallery are constructed in this technique. "It's easier to work with a wheel," Cohen noted. "And the process is more fluid, meditative. You can relax and enjoy it. Making slabs is physically harder. But I like all of it, every stage of the process. The only part that I dislike is cleaning up the kilns – dirty job."

He has two kilns in his studio on Cortes Island and he spends a great deal of time there. Many customers who buy Cohen's pottery



Dimple Vase, by Larry Cohen. Cone 10 salt glaze, 12" x 5".

on Cortes or on Granville Island in Vancouver are attracted by his signature combination of tradition and whimsy. "I have quite a few vases with holes in them. Holes sometimes mean violence. Other times, they mean mystery," he said.

Despite working with ceramics for many years, Cohen is still intrigued by the medium and its capricious nature. "My pieces often surprise me," he said. "When I start, I have a vague idea of what I want, but clay dictates its own rules; you can't just do what you want, and the firing process is unpredictable. Of course, an artist develops his own esthetics but, sometimes, you use the same shape and the same glaze and the results are different after the firing. No two pieces are the same. I like it.... You can't control one hundred percent what comes out of the kiln, the same way you can't control your life one hundred percent. There are always surprises. I respect that." 🍂

Olga Livshin is a Vancouver freelance writer. She can be reached at olgagodim@gmail.com.

Wide Open and The Edge of Here *By Amy Gogarty*




Alberta Potters Association show *Wide Open* at the Comox Valley Art Gallery, Oct. 1 to Nov. 1.



Choices - Salt or Soya? (2010), by Glenys Marshall-Inman.
Porcelain, textured slabs, oxide washes, Cone 10 reduction.
Part of the *BC-in-a-Box 3* show, Medicine Hat Cultural Centre.

October has been a busy month for the exchange shows between Alberta and B.C. The Alberta Potters Association (APA) show *Wide Open* opened at the Comox Valley Art Gallery in Courtenay, B.C., where it was on display from Oct. 1 to Nov. 5. It will travel to Vancouver and be installed in our Gallery of BC Ceramics from Nov. 12 to Dec. 1. After all the excitement of organizing the exchange, the Board and members in the GVR are looking forward to seeing the work. We hope many of you had the opportunity to view it in Courtenay or will see it this month in Vancouver.

BC-in-a-Box 3: The Edge of Here opened at the Medicine Hat Cultural Centre in Medicine Hat, Alta. and was on display October 5 to 26. From pictures we received from organizers in Alberta, it seems that many attended the opening. The exhibition looked quite wonderful in the gallery. The APA and PGBC exhibitions will be shown together in the gallery at Medalta, also in Medicine Hat, in January 2012. From there, plans are well underway for exhibiting it in Seattle for NCECA. Please stay posted for more information on this front.

Remember to check the [blogsite](#) via the link on the guild website under "What's On/Events", where you will be able to read about the latest goings-on with both shows. The complete online catalogue with all B.C. participants is also available from that same site. We look forward to reading your comments and responses on the blog. 

adult programs winter 2012 at the Shadbolt Centre

new!

Creative Extruding

Instructor: Linda Doherty
\$161, 8 sessions, Barcode 255640
Tuesdays, 7-10pm, Starts January 17

Big, Bold, Beautiful Pots

Instructor: Jay MacLennan
\$161, 8 sessions, Barcode 255643
Wednesdays, 10am-1pm, Starts January 18

Continuing Pottery

Instructors: Rosemary Amon (T)
& Charmian Nimmo (W)
\$161, 8 sessions
Wednesdays, 7-10pm, Starts January 18
Barcode 248643
Tuesdays, 7-10pm, Starts January 24
Barcode 248644

new!

Setting the Table

Instructor: Linda Doherty
\$161, 8 sessions, Barcode 255642
Sundays, 10am-1pm, Starts January 22

Daytime Pottery

Instructor: Vin Arora
\$161, 8 sessions, Barcode 248646
Mondays, 10am-1pm, Starts January 23

new!

Off-Centre

Instructor: Fredi Rahn
\$161, 8 sessions, Barcode 248597
Thursdays, 7-10pm, Starts January 26

Sculpting the Figure in Clay

Instructor: Debra Sloan
\$109.25, 4 sessions, Barcode 255202
Mondays, 7-10pm, Starts January 30
Includes model

Registration for
Winter 2012
adult programs
is currently underway.

new!

Electric Kiln Workshop

Instructor: Jay MacLennan
\$21.25, 1 session, Barcode 255656
Tuesday, 7-9pm, February 7

new!

Slab Techniques with Jim Robison

\$125, 2 sessions, Barcode 261153
Saturday & Sunday, 10am-4pm, March 24 & 25

new!

Soda in the Fire with Gail Nichols

\$283.05, 4 sessions, Barcode 261152
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, times vary
Starts April 2



Square Dish by Jim Robison



shadboltcentre.com

Call Shadbolt Centre at 604-291-6864 or register online: burnaby.ca/webreg

Programs cover all ages and skill levels. Prices do not include tax.



shadbolt centre for the arts

Virtual Volunteers

By Linda Lewis



The past few months have seen some changes in the website "staff". Volunteers have been picking up the slack on pages that haven't been looked at since medieval times.

Becky McEachern is now doing the webpages for members. If you have seven square-shaped images, a bio and artist image and chop mark send along to Becky at becky.c.mceachern@gmail.com. Check out her own webpage at http://www.bcpotters.com/Guild/members/becky_mceachern/becky_mceachern.php

Viv Bodnar has been working diligently on the Member Websites links and has brought them up to date. If we have missed anyone or if you have added a new website please email her at vivbodnar@shaw.ca

Sharon Grove (http://www.bcpotters.com/Guild/members/sharon_grove/sharon_grove.php) has been learning the ins and outs of the membership database.

Bridget Fairbank (http://www.bcpotters.com/Guild/members/bridget_fairbank/bridget_fairbank.php) and Shannon Merritt are working to update the Events and Calls for Entry sections on the website. If you have an event that is NOT in the newsletter then contact them at bcpinfo@gmail.com.

With all of her new found spare time Linda Lewis is working on websites for various artists and art organizations. She is available for hire at lewis@telus.net. If you are doing your own and need advice she can do a consult and help you find resources for what you want to do. 📧



The Crawl

Nov. 18 to 20, 2011

The 15th Annual Eastside Culture Crawl is a FREE 3-day visual arts phenomenon. This event involves more than 10,000 people visiting artists in their studios in the area bounded by Main Street to Victoria Drive and from First Avenue north to the waterfront of Vancouver.

The Eastside Culture Crawl Society provides opportunities for the public to engage with member artists through the ongoing creation of events and programming that support the growth of east side artists.

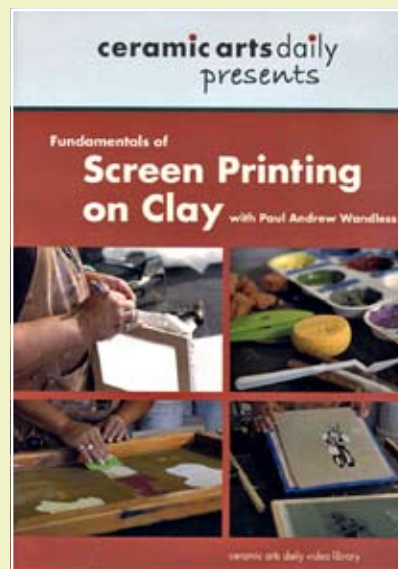
Schedule:

Nov. 18: 5 to 10 p.m.

Nov. 19 & 20: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

www.eastsideculturecrawl.com

DVD Review By Patty Osborne



Screen Printing on Clay
Paul Andrew Wandless
Ceramic Arts Daily Video Library
DVD / 1 hr 37 min / \$49.95 US

In *Screen Printing on Clay*, Paul Andrew Wandless starts at the beginning by showing us, step-by-step, how to make a small silkscreen out of a picture frame. He then goes on to show how to using drawing fluid and screen block (similar to wax resist technique) to create images on the screen. He also creates images using stencil material and using a product called PhotoEZ to transfer photographs to the screen material. The presentation is a little dry but that's partly because screen printing on clay seems to be 90% preparation and 10% screen printing, so having detailed demos will help those who are keen to try

out these techniques. For the most part Wandless's instructions are clear and easy to follow, although he does bring into play something called a halftone screen, the origin of which he does not divulge, but according to Google, you can buy this stuff at an art supply outlet. The interest level picks up once Wandless uses his screens (plus a squeegee, a stiff rib and a sponge) to apply thickened underglazes to clay slabs and thickened glazes to bisqueware, and when he layers two or three images we begin to see, at last, the possibilities that these techniques could offer. It would have been nice if some of Wandless's original ceramic work could have been shown at the end of the presentation (as has been done on other Ceramic Arts Daily DVDs) to further inspire us, but these can be seen at www.studio3artcompany.com. An excerpt from this DVD is available at <http://ceramicartsdaily.org/bookstore/screen-printing-on-clay>. 📺

NCECA Update *By Nora Vaillant*



NCECA is a dynamic organization that inspires passionate interest and cultivates thoughtful practice in ceramic arts and education through its annual conference, exhibitions, publications, resources and symposia.

Early Bird Registration is now open for:

NCECA 2012: ON THE EDGE
The 46th Annual Conference
March 28 – 31, 2012 ~ Seattle, Washington
At the Washington State convention Center

Go to <http://nceca.net/> and click on Conference to register online or phone NCECA*:

Non-member conference pass:	\$225.00
Member conference pass:	\$185.00
Student non-member pass:	\$175.00
Student member pass:	\$140.00
Individual membership:	\$55.00
Student membership:	\$25.00

**Prices are in US dollars.*

The Slab Man cometh!

By Keith Rice-Jones

Jim Robison, who lives and works in England, has two books out: *Large Scale Ceramics* and *Slab Techniques*, in the A&C Black series. Jim is a regular demonstrator for Northstar and will be in Seattle for NCECA. He and his wife, Liz aka "The Potter's Moll" will be staying with us for a holiday but Jim has been arm-twisted to do a workshop at Shadbolt the weekend before NCECA (March 24 & 25). He will also be part of the NWCF Speaker Series on the Friday evening at Emily Carr.

Both of these events are not to be missed. Jim gives a great workshop; he will push your ideas of scale and working with slabs. He was a presenter at the Kelowna Symposium some years ago and has a long history teaching ceramics for Leeds University through Bretton Hall, which is now the seat of The Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Jim is an elected Fellow of the Craft Potters Association and was involved in York Art Gallery's acquisition of the Ismay Collection which is a remarkable collection of British Studio Ceramics.

More details next month but mark it on your calendar! 📅

Greenbarn's catalogue is now available online.

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, by reducing our use of paper, we are phasing out our printed catalogue, in favour of a downloadable version available on our website.

Now you can check prices and item descriptions just by logging onto
www.greenbarn.com

9548 192 Street,
Surrey, B.C. V4N 3R9
Phone: 604.888.3411
Fax: 604.888.4247

greenbarn
POTTERS SUPPLY LTD.

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



Call for Entry

Gallery of BC Ceramics
Featured artists for 2012

Every year, your gallery features the work of non-juried guild members as part of the "Featured Artist" program. This entitles you to sell your work in the gallery for a one month period without having to go through any jury process. Featured Artists for 2012 will be selected in December of this year, so please apply now. Details and forms appear on http://www.bcpotters.com/forms/2009_gallery_featured_artist_submission_form.pdf. We look forward to receiving your applications. 📅

Pottery Discussion Group

Hello all you pot freaks...oh, I mean Pottery Freaks :)....At our last meeting it was decided that it would be better to have our next meeting in December rather than January as then our Christmas craft fairs and studio sales would be fresh in our minds...all the better for the annual post mortem of what worked and what didn't. So we will be meeting on Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. As it's pre-Christmas we thought we might celebrate with one another and so bringing food treats would be most welcome.

If you've been thinking about joining us but haven't yet, don't be bashful, we're a welcoming group.

Potterly yours,

—Mary Fox, maryfox@shaw.ca



Work by Annie Yung of Montreal, Que., winner of the inaugural RBC Emerging Artist Peoples Choice Award for ceramic art.

Royal Bank of Canada Emerging Artist Award

The Gardiner Museum announced that Annie Yung has won the inaugural RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award for ceramic art, including a \$10,000 prize. All participating artists attended the public reception at the Gardiner Museum where the winner was announced by RBC Foundation Oct. 4.

A panel of experts nominated five outstanding young Canadian artists as contenders; Eliza Au of Richmond; Jeremy Hatch of Bozeman, MT (originally from Vancouver, B.C.); Xanthe Isbister of Medicine Hat, Alta.; Alwyn O'Brien of Salt Spring Island; and this year's winner, Annie Yung of Montreal, Que.

As a part of the award process, each artist was able to showcase their new works of ceramic art specifically created for the competition. This year, the exhibition of the nominated artists' work was on display at the Gardiner Museum and on the Museum's website from Sept. 2 to Oct. 3, 2011. During this period, visitors to both the exhibit at the Gardiner and the museum's website were invited to vote for the artist of their choice and to explain their decision at www.gardinermuseum.com/rbcemergingartist. The Gardiner posted comments made by participating members of the public on its website to stimulate a national dialogue about ceramic art. In all, over 4000 votes were cast, many from overseas.

"This award has raised the profile of several up-and-coming artists by attracting thousands of votes and hundreds of comments which stimulated a meaningful discussion about contemporary ceramic art across the country," says Alexandra Montgomery, Executive Director of the Gardiner Museum. "We are incredibly grateful to the RBC Foundation for their leadership support and are excited to have been able to provide this opportunity for the nominated artists and the public".

**Discovery
Art Travel**

2011 CERAMICS EXCURSIONS

Crete Sept. 19-Oct. 4 **Morocco** Oct. 13-Nov. 3

www.denysjames.com TEL: 1-250-537-4906

Home Roam *By Sharon Cohen, Gallery Manager*



Like us on Facebook!

The Gallery of BC Ceramics is enjoying an increasing following on Facebook. We update our page weekly, as there's always something interesting and exciting to share. Our latest venture on Facebook is a feature called "Home Roam". When we sell work in the gallery we often wonder where it will end up, what kind of home it will go to. Especially with pieces we love—which is just about all of them, if the truth be told! We like to think of the pieces going to a home where they'll be given pride of place and valued, used frequently and enjoyed often. Sometimes, we're sent images by customers, usually recipients of goods we've shipped far afield. There was a giant Connie Glover vase that was shipped to Texas (in a box the size of a fridge!) and a Keith Rice-Jones Annubis bowl that went to the U.K. by ocean freight, and we were delighted to be sent photos by the proud and delighted new owners. (Actually, the first thing I did when I saw the image of the Annubis bowl safely ensconced in its new London home was to do a quick ear count. The jackal heads of the Annubis figures have tiny, protuberant, fragile ears that had been wrapped and then protected beneath paper cups during shipping, and I was anxious they may not have survived the journey or the unwrapping. Like a parent counting fingers and toes on a newborn infant, I did a quick Annubis ear count – all present and correct!).

Having seen some of these images, we thought it would be fun to post similar ones on our Facebook page, and we'd like to encourage guild members to send us images for that purpose. It can be your own work in your own home (or someone else's home), or the work of other potters who are artists represented at the Gallery of BC Ceramics. It's always fun to check out, so please email your images (with details of the artists) to galleryofbcceramics@bcpotters.com.

I guess we all have a tiny bit of the voyeur in us, so please send us those images so we can peep into your homes! 📷



TOP: A wood-fired bottle vase by Jinny Whitehead and a baby by Debra Sloan share pride of place with a Gailan Ngan bowl.

LEFT: Yunomis by Lynne Johnson are surrounded by treasures from around the world.

Visiting the Potters of Nicaragua

By Patty Osborne

By the time I arrived at the Managua, Nicaragua airport in January of 2009, I had surrendered my fate to the gods, not because the flight had been scary, but because I was about to embark on a two-week “brigade” in a country that I had never visited with a group that I had only contacted by email. Potters for Peace has been around since 1998 but I had never heard of them so just in case everything fell through, I had contact information for a couple of hotels in my back pocket.

I needn't have worried, as I soon spotted, among the crowd outside the glass doors, a tall thin man waving a hand-lettered “Potters for Peace” sign. This was Robert, an American who, with his wife Bev, runs the organization from their home in Managua. I met a few of the other *brigadistas* (as we were called) who had arrived earlier and we all piled into a van that took us to our first night's lodging at a Kairos Centro, a hostel for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), where we crept into our dorm rooms so as not to wake earlier arrivals who were already sleeping.

The next morning we met our fellow sleepers and had an orientation meeting before setting out on an unforgettable journey through the Nicaraguan countryside, visiting subsistence potters who work with clay that they dig out of the ground and fire in simple wood-fired kilns. The potters of Nicaragua don't glaze their work as they can't afford the electricity to fire a kiln to a high enough temperature to flux a glaze, or the chemicals for glazes. Instead they burnish their work and decorate it with coloured slip.



Slip decorated, burnished and carved work from San Juan de Oriente

During the two-week brigade we learned about Nicaragua's tumultuous history which has been hugely affected by natural disasters (hurricanes and earthquakes) and U.S. foreign policy, we learned to make tortillas and cook them on a clay *comal*, and we met potters who work with almost no tools and make mostly piggy banks as well as potters who create sophisticated work that is so finely burnished it looks like it's been glazed.

We met Maria who makes the cutest piggy banks in Nicaragua and, until Potters for Peace built her a small outside kiln, fired her work in her smoky kitchen stove. We walked up a mountainside (the road was washed out) to get to one of the most isolated potteries where four sisters and their niece create some of the wackiest pots and sculptures that I've ever seen, and we slept outside on the terrace of a decaying villa in San Juan de Limay, a town with more horses and bicycles than cars, where we had a go at carving sandstone with the help of the apprentices of Oscar Casco, a

well-know carver who maintains his studio in the village.

All the *brigadistas* soon fell in love with the simple shapes and warm, soft finish of the low-fire, burnished pottery and with the people who welcomed us into their homes and studios (often these are one and the same). Partway through the trip I realized that I couldn't possibly take in everything I was seeing and feeling (or get all the pottery that I wanted to buy into my suitcase for the trip home), so I resolved to come back for more. The next January I again landed at the Managua airport and this time I was confident that things would work out and I was eager to meet more potters and revisit some of the people and places I had loved the first time around.

On this brigade we spent two days helping Olga Reyes and her family replace a traditional kiln that had been kicked over by their horse.

Continued on Page 11,
Clay & horse manure

Innovative designs from Loma Panda.

Clay & horse manure, *Continued from Page 10.*

The new kiln was built out of the bricks from the original kiln which were held together by a mixture of clay and horse manure. The work was hot and sweaty but very rewarding, and Olga and her family were most patient with their crew of less-than-in-shape volunteers.

On this trip I also got to participate in the Potters for Peace equivalent of a ceramic painting party: using pots that had been made by the potters of Ducuale Grande, we tried out their slip-resist method of decorating. At Ducuale Grande the potters paint slip designs onto already-fired pots, smoke the pots in a traditional dome-shaped kiln, and then scrape off the slip to reveal the unsmoked clay beneath. On the previous brigade I had spent the time at Ducuale lying in the shade in the van, suffering from a mild stomach upset.

Potters for Peace not only supports Nicaraguan potters, they also facilitate the building of small water filter factories all over the world. The filter that is made in these factories is an inexpensive, 99% effective clay filter that is made from local clay mixed with sawdust. The filters are press-moulded and then fired in a wood-fired kiln. The proportion of clay to sawdust is carefully measured so that after the sawdust burns out during firing the capillaries left in the filter allow the correct amount of flowage. After they have been fired, the filters are tested and then coated with colloidal silver. On the brigade we visited a couple of these factories and had a go at pressing a filter using a press that was powered by a car jack.

The next brigade is set for Jan. 14 to 28, 2012 and the cost is \$1400US which covers everything but airfare to Managua (and the pottery that you will want to buy). In keeping with the philosophy of Potters for Peace, accommodation is mostly dormitory-style and meals are simple but tasty. For more information visit www.pottersforpeace.org and if you want to find out more about their brigades, click on the "trips" link. 📷

Patty Osborne is a PGBC member who lives and works in Vancouver. She reviews clay-related books and DVDs for our newsletter every month (see her latest review on Page 6—thank you Patty!)



Brigadistas and Nicaraguan potters gather around the reconstructed kiln



Mould is raised out of the pressed clay filter.



Fired filters ready to be unloaded from the kiln.

Submissions for the December 2011 PGBC newsletter

Please get your articles and ads in to Melany by Nov. 20 at the latest for the Dec. 1 newsletter. If you submit your material after that date, it may have to wait till next month's newsletter. Submissions can be sent to editor@bcpotters.com.

**Remember, there is no newsletter in January.
The first newsletter in 2012 will be published Feb. 1.**

Holiday Sales

Nov. 4 to 6, Nanaimo

Nanaimo Pottery Co-op Winter Show and Sale

Fri., Noon to 8 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The location is Beban Park, 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo. Free admission to all and no tax on pottery! All purchasers will be entered in a free draw for a pottery item. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Nov. 4 & 5, Vernon

The Okanagan Potters Association Annual Winter Show + Sale

Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is Vernon's premier pottery sale. Collectors and new buyers will enjoy a wide variety of quality pieces in this two day show featuring some of the best potters and artisans in the Okanagan.

You will have a chance to meet the artists in the relaxed atmosphere of the conference room at the Best Western Vernon Lodge. Free admission and parking.

Nov. 5, Surrey

Fraser Valley Potters Guild CHRISTMAS POTTERY SALE

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Featuring the work of more than 20 potters at the Newton Cultural Centre, 13530 72nd Ave, Surrey. Contact Pat Schendel, Ph: 604-594-0470, fraservalleypg@hotmail.com

Nov. 5, Campbell River

COMOX VALLEY POTTERS CLUB HOLIDAY POTTERY SALE

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Potters from Campbell River to Quadra Island to the Comox Valley gather together at the Sportsplex in Campbell River for a ONE day sale of exceptional pottery. We have a rich heritage of potters along mid / north Vancouver Island and this is an opportunity to see a wide selection of pottery. Campbell River Sportsplex, 1800 S Alder St.

Nov. 6 through Dec. 2, Lower Mainland

Maria Palotas: Christmas Craft Fairs 2011

maripottery@gmail.com

www.maripottery.com

Norwegian Christmas Fair

Nov. 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby (off Kensington)

Christmas Craft Show at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

Nov. 10, 12 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Nov. 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shadbolt Centre, 6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby

Swedish Christmas Market

Nov. 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Nov. 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby (off Kensington)

The 19th Annual Happening Arts & Crafts Fair

Nov. 26 & 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

23000 116th Avenue, Maple Ridge

Gifts Galore Craft Fair Shrine Centre

Dec. 2 & 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

3550 Wayburne Way, Burnaby

Nov. 11 to 13, West Vancouver

CRACKERJACK 2011

Fri., 3 to 9 p.m. (artists' reception at 7 p.m.); Sat., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sun., Noon to 4 p.m.

CRACKERJACK 2011 is a fine arts and craft show which showcases and sells only the BEST of B.C.'s arts and crafts. PGBC members participating: Jinny Whitehead, Jackie Frioud, Gillian McMillan, Sheila Morissette and Maggi Kneer. Refreshments will be served. The Music Box, 1564 Argyle Ave.

Holiday Sales

Nov. 12, Parksville

ARROWSMITH CHRISTMAS SALE

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Arrowsmith Potters Guild Annual Christmas Sale takes place Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Parksville Community Centre, 132 E. Jensen Avenue. www.arrowsmithpottersguild.bc.ca

Nov. 12 to 14, Tsawwassen

Delta Potters Annual Christmas Sale

Fri., Noon to 5 p.m.

Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Choose from an extraordinary selection of functional and decorative pieces and save the HST.

South Delta Rec Centre

1720 56th St.

Nov. 19 & 20, Burnaby

WILDRICE STUDIO CHRISTMAS SALE

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Keith and Celia Rice-Jones look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones over coffee or a glass of wine and nibbles. Great deals on end of lines, one offs and good seconds; reductions on regular stock; garden pieces and some sculptures at cost. 8072 11th Ave., 604.522.8803; www.wildricestudio.com

Nov. 18 to 20, Vancouver

Studio 3 Annual Sale

Friday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Artists include Joan Barnet, Hsiao-Chen Peng, Cheryl Stapleton and Jinny Whitehead. This studio sale is part of the East Side Culture Crawl: www.eastsideculturecrawl.com.

Suite 265 – The Mergatroid Building

975 Vernon Drive, Vancouver

Nov. 19 & 20, Roberts Creek

CREEK CLAYWORKS CHRISTMAS POTTERY SALE & STUDIO OPEN HOUSE

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Featuring pots from the new Salt Kiln. Elaine Futterman & Mike Allegretti invite you to join them on the Sunshine Coast for lots of pots and goodies. 1738 Lockyer Rd., 604-885-2395
See more at www.creekclayworks.ca

Nov. 26, Courtenay

LIGHT THE FIRE HOLIDAY POTTERY SALE

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Collective of over 30 potters under one roof, at Filberg Centre Courtenay, B.C., presented by the Comox Valley Potters Club. It's like going to over 30 studio sales, but saving on the gasoline! The Comox Valley is rich with potters and for ONE DAY ONLY, this group of Comox Valley Potters turn the Filberg Centre into a wonderland of some of the finest pottery on this island. The Filberg Centre is located at 411 Anderton Avenue or just near the 5th Street bridge in Courtenay.

Nov. 26 & 27, Kelowna

The Okanagan Potters Association Annual Kelowna Winter Show + Sale

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Find incredible gifts at this juried show from some of the Okanagan's best potters and artisans. The Okanagan Potters Association has been serving the Okanagan with quality shows for over 42 years. Mission Community Hall, 4409 Lakeshore Road, Kelowna. Free admission and parking.

Holiday Sales

Nov. 26 & 27, Victoria

'CHOSIN POTTERY 28th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wonderful selection of work by Robin Hopper & Judi Dyelle. Sterling silver jewellery by Morgan Ann Designs. 4283 Metchosin Rd., Victoria. Weekdays please call for times. 250-474-2676 Visa, MC, Interac

Nov. 27 & Dec. 9, West Vancouver

All Wrapped Up

Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Fri., 4 to 8 p.m.



Pottery by Jackie Frioud and paintings by Nicola Morgan and Mary Jean Butler. Our annual show and sale is at 6525 Madrona Crescent, Phone - 604 921 6417 Please come and see our latest work and enjoy a visit and refreshments!

Dec 3 to 5, Duncan

A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY AND COLOUR! Clay, Glass and Paint

Fri., 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.;

Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

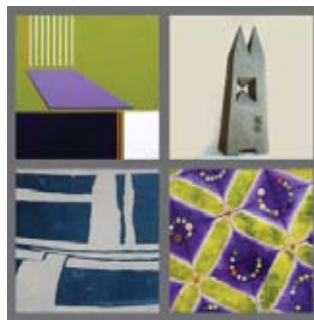


Including PGBC member Susan Whitham. Her travelling experiences are reflected in her work. Colourful, glazed designs and patterns adorn the hand-formed dinnerware, boxes and lamps. When the clay is embossed and carved or drawn and painted on, the surfaces

come alive with color! HUMMINGBIRD STUDIO, 801 Wharnclyffe Road - www.mirasolstudio.com

ClayLines

Celebrating Success in our community



Patterns: Hard and Soft

Oct. 28 to Nov. 19

Opening reception:

Thursday, Oct. 27, 7 to 9 p.m.

Artist Talk with Enda Bardell:

Saturday, Nov. 5, 1 to 2 p.m.

This exhibition explores patterns created on hard and soft surfaces by four artists using diverse media

such as fabric, canvas, clay and stoneware. PGBC members Keith and Celia Rice-Jones are participating in the show.

North Vancouver Community Arts Council

CityScape Community Art Space

335 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7M 2G3

www.nvartscouncil.ca

604.988.6844

EXHIBITIONS, Courtenay

At Potters Place, our **November** featured artist is Laura Gosnell with special guest artist Meg Burgess. In **December**, the featured artist is Emily Dunsmore with our special guest Gordon Hutchens. Opening event dates for November and December are TBA.

Come on over and see us at the Potters Place on the corner of 5th and Cliffe in downtown Courtenay. For info:

250.334.4613, www.thepottersplace.ca or visit us on Facebook.

CALL FOR ENTRY: 2012 Wearable Art Awards

Deadline: Dec. 2

The Port Moody Arts Centre Wearable Art Awards is not a fashion show it is a multi-media performance where the human body becomes a living, breathing, moving canvas. We are looking for more than a "pretty dress." We are asking you to go deep into your imagination to create a wearable piece of art that challenges what most consider wearable or everyday fashion. More info: <http://www.pomoarts.ca/events/wearable-art-awards>

CALL FOR ARTISTS, Coquitlam

DEADLINE: Feb. 3, 2012

Place des Arts is currently accepting proposals for its 2013 gallery exhibitions. Deadline for submissions is Friday, February 3, 2012. Place des Arts welcomes submissions in 2D and 3D media and techniques including fibre arts, pottery, sculpture, painting, photography, prints and drawings. For details see: www.placedesarts.ca or call exhibitions programmer Michelle Chan at 604.664.1636 ext. 32 or mchan@placedesarts.ca.

Submissions & Advertising

Published 10 times yearly, the PGBC Newsletter is an information link for members.

Submissions:

Send articles, reviews, images, member news, letters and information to: editor@bcpotters.com by the 20th of each month for publication the following month. Submissions may be edited for space.

Advertising Rates*:

All ads are payable upon receipt of invoice

- Full page, \$189+ HST
- 2/3 page, \$129 + HST
- 1/2 page, \$99 + HST
- 1/3 page, \$69 + HST (horizontal, vertical, or column)
- 1/4 page, \$55 + HST
- 1/6 page, \$39 + HST

Please submit ads as PDF, TIF, JPG or EPS files. For ad sizes see: <http://www.bcpotters.com/Guild/newsletter.php>. Ad rates are for files requiring no further work by our staff. Ads that are not the correct size, or that need formatting or basic design work will cost \$22 extra.

Unclassified Rates:


Members FREE! Non-members: \$22 + HST

**Advertising rates subject to change*

Potters Guild of British Columbia
1359 Cartwright St · Granville Island
Vancouver, BC · V6H 3R7
tel: 604.669.3606 · fax: 604.669.5627
<http://www.bcpotters.com/Guild>

Chop Marks & Signatures

Send in your chops and have them available through the guild. For the form, click on the link here: www.bcpotters.com/Guild/chops.php

You can email it back to Debra Sloan at debraesloan@gmail.com as an attachment. Or print and mail your sheet[s] to Potters Guild of BC, 1359 Cartwright Street, Granville Island, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7 attention: chops. 

Potters Guild of BC Board

Jinny Whitehead, President

604.687.3590 · vwhitehead@shaw.ca

Jackie Frioud, Secretary

604.921.6417 · jfrioud@shaw.ca

Patrick Geach, Treasurer

604.921.7707 · patrick_geach@scotiamcleod.com

Denise Jeffrey

604.298.4980 · terranme@telus.net

Sheila Morissette

604.484.5090 · sheilamorissette@mac.com

Amy Gogarty, Communications

604.873.2589 · gogarty@telusplanet.net

Judy Osburn, Retail Committee

604.734.7829 · osburnjudy@hotmail.com

Nora Vaillant

604.730.5840 · auroranora1@gmail.com

Membership

Membership Fees

For 12 months, **not including HST**: Individual, \$55;
Full-time Student, \$35; Senior (over 65), \$35; Institution/Group/
Corporation, \$200.

Annual membership is from September. New members joining at other times of the year pay a pro-rated fee the first year. If you are rejoining after a break, please use the new membership pro-rated link. All subsequent renewals will take place in September, regardless of your initial joining date. For detailed information see:

<http://www.bcpotters.com/Guild/membership.php>

Membership Renewals & New Memberships

Carole Henshall, Membership database

604.215.7766 · membership@bcpotters.com

- In person: pay by Visa, cheque or cash at the Gallery of BC Ceramics OR
- By mail: pay by Visa or cheque and mail to the Guild; mark the envelope and cheque with either 'Membership Renewal' or 'New Membership'
- Online at our secure site with a credit card by [clicking here](#).

Communications Committee

Amy Gogarty, Chair · gogarty@telusplanet.net

Linda Lewis, Webmaster · webmaster@bcpotters.com

Melany Hallam, **Maywood Design**, Newsletter Editor

604.487.1597 · editor@bcpotters.com

Andrea Maitland, Proofreader

Jan Lovewell, Mailings

