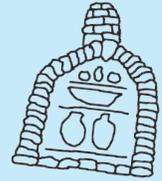


KILN' TIME



NOVEMBER, 2013

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

2014 CAG
Ceramics Contest
Flora and Fauna
By Beryl Snyder

Time to get started on your entry for the 2014 annual CAG ceramics contest! This event has occurred consecutively for eleven years, and it gets better each year. The judging is held on a Saturday afternoon by a guest judge, and categories are generally very broad. *Check the January newsletter for the specifics.*

The theme is **Flora and Fauna**. Any form goes — big and small, functional and sculptural, realistic and imaginary — as long as the piece includes plants and/or animals in the design or decoration. The contest will be early in 2014, likely March. Artists are allowed two entries. All who have taken a class in the last year are eligible. We are looking forward to seeing what all you creative folks make for this fun event.



Prior contest awards included a variety of categories: construction difficulty, most lifelike, best design, surface treatment, most whimsical, best counterfeit, a

continued on page 3

Wonderland of Pottery
Co-chairs Tim Carter and Bette Sindzinski



A shopper captured at last year's December Sale calling on her cell phone to describe the wonderful pottery she's seeing!

Greetings Fellow Artists! It is that time of year again; the *Artists Market Holiday Sale*, affectionately called our *Wonderland of Pottery*, is in the planning stages. This is your chance to make a difference by helping CAG. As always, we are calling upon all our talented ceramic artists to make this sale the best one ever! Start going through your collection of clay treasures and sign up to participate!

As many of you know, the CAG sales, winter and spring, are the two big fundraisers that help keep our studio running, so it is important everyone participate. The basic criteria of the sales are as follows. You must be a CAG member to sell in the sale, and when you sign up to be a participating artist, you must decide how many pieces you wish to sell. That determines how many volunteer shifts you need to work: 1-15 pieces, one shift, 16-30 pieces, two shifts, over 30 pieces, three shifts. Also, 25% of an artist's individual sales total goes to the CAG treasury, and finally, the CAG requires each artist to donate work where the money goes 100% to CAG. This year we are asking that three pieces be donated for the children's sale.

Again this year, NO CAG donated work will be for sale in the main studio for adults to purchase. Like last year, the CAG pottery will be in the **KIDS ONLY ROOM**, which allows children to buy gifts for their parents for the holiday. Since we have the skating rink, which attracts children, right outside during the sale, we have a ready children's population coming right to our door. Last year was our first year for the **KIDS ONLY ROOM**, and through signs and flyers, we attracted over 100 children to come in and buy gifts under \$10 for their families.

continued on page 3

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Scholarships: OPEN
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Kiln' Time Newsletter

Published 5 or 6 times a year
Editor ~ Ann Henderson
Layout Editor ~ Mary Leigh Miller
**Please submit all articles to Ann at
<annadele@comcast.net>**

Visit our website:

www.clayartsguild.com

See the latest *Kiln' Times* in full color!

CAG OPEN STUDIO

Mon.....4 - 7 pm
Tue4 - 7 pm
Wed.....12 - 4 pm
Thur.....No Workshop
Fri.....12 - 7 pm
Sat12 - 7 p
Sun.....1 - 7 pm



Message from the Prez...

The weather is changing and fall is here. The Ice Rink is being built (already). All indications are that the *Wonderland of Pottery Sale* is right around the corner, December 6, 7 and 8 to be exact. As a CAG member who has taken at least one class this year, you may sell your fantastic creations at the sale, provided you volunteer for a duty during the sale. Check the signup board as you enter the studio and put your name down for a shift, cleanup or setup. Selling at a CAG sale is fun and rewarding. If you have never participated, I suggest that you do. You will be hooked.

Speaking of volunteering, we are in the process of detailing the many possible job duties for you to help with the varied aspects of keeping the Guild running. If you have an ability for writing grant proposals, gathering information for off site sale venues, contacting and managing outside exhibits or love social media and want to help promote CAG, we want your help. If you can help head a committee and delegate a group of assistants (cat herders welcome) we want you. If you can think of a specialized position that you would be good at, let us know. We are listening.

Since we are all ears, the survey that you took last year is published (a summary of the results is on page 9). We thank the 147 students who participated. The information was fantastic and it gives the board and me a direction for the next term. Please read over the survey summary, and again, give us your thoughts. We have used this information to assist the City of Walnut Creek in their qualifications for the new Studio Manager, as well as many other ideas that will help you become a better artist and sell more of your wares.

The City has posted Pete's position and one requirement was a size 17 1/2 shoe! Pete Coussoulis has been the inspiration, shepherd and chief cook and bottle washer at the studio since 1976. An Internationally recognized artist, we certainly owe a huge thanks of gratitude to Pete for creating, managing and maintaining our studio. It is a gem of the arts department for Walnut Creek and by far and away, the value of this studio to each one of us cannot be overstated. We can only hope that Pete's replacement can follow in his footsteps of excellence.

On that note, continue to keep safety in mind when using the equipment — for everyone's safety, as well as the longevity of the equipment.

Keep Yourself Centered,

ROB

Wonderland, continued from front page

Once you have signed up to participate and signed for volunteer shifts indicating the number of pieces you will be selling, you will receive price tags with your personal sale code. The price tags will be available for pickup at the studio the final week of classes. Directions for filling out and submitting your inventory sheets are located at: http://www.clayartsguild.com/studio_sales/studio_sale_instructions.php.

Please read the instructions on how to do the inventory sheets carefully. Inaccurate inventory sheets will be returned for corrections. Submit them as soon as possible, but no later than December 2nd. **Turn to page 8 for instructions on how to fill out your inventory sheet.**

When signing up for volunteer jobs, if you need more information regarding what is required, please do not hesitate to ask. Any questions regarding the sale, please contact **Bette Sindzinski** at bettesindzinski@hotmail.com. If you have any holiday decorations you wish to donate to help give our studio that *Wonderland* affect, please drop them by the studio. Thanks again for helping make this sale a success as well as keeping CAG and our studio a great place to play in the mud! 🖐️

Contest, continued from front page

different array for every contest, but the most coveted award, and the one that was in every contest, was the most popular; everyone who comes to the event gets to vote. There will be prizes – and food of course! 🖐️



The KID'S ONLY Sale

Last year during the Holiday sale, the sales committee turned the damp and drying rooms into a Christmas shop for children only. In the room, all items were priced at \$10 and below. Kids, 12 and under, were allowed to enter the room without their parents and shop for gifts to give their moms, dads, grandparents, brothers, sisters and/or pets. Their parents gave the children a budget and expected them to pick items that stayed within that budget. The damp and drying rooms became a full service shop-and-wrap designed just for the kids.

We are planning to repeat this very successful part of our upcoming holiday sale and are asking all potters, whether participating in the sale or not, to donate items that would appeal to young shoppers buying for family members, such as cups, bowls, small sculptures, vases, tiles, silly items, etc. *This is a fundraiser for the studio and all items for this special area depend on your donations.* As before, everything should be priced at \$10 and under.

Last year many of our wonderful potters donated some really nice pieces for this sale. They knew the kids would love having wonderful items to choose from even though these same items might sell for much more in the actual sale. We hope you will consider doing the same thing this year, recognizing that the parents will never see prices in the KIDS ONLY SALE room and compare them with similar work displayed outside.

THINGS NEEDED TO MAKE OUR KIDS ONLY SALE A SUCCESS:

- 🖐️ Wonderful items donated to sell in the Kids Only Room
- 🖐️ Your help in finding volunteers (maybe teens who need volunteer hours) to assist the kids in choosing gifts and wrapping them
- 🖐️ Any ideas for this area that **June Bowen**, who's the coordinator of the KIDS ONLY ROOM Sale, would like to know about.
- 🖐️ People to help set up and decorate this area
- 🖐️ Volunteers to sign up for working in the Childrens Only area as their required shifts.

Looking forward to seeing all your donated work that will help CAG and possible inspire future CAG members! 🖐️



HOT TIP!

By Mimi Wild

What's in a name?

A chamois is a chamois by any other name...even a paper towel! Though not as elegant in sound, a paper towel makes a very efficient and disposable "chamois" to soften the rims of your pots with just a few folds.

Take a paper towel from the dispenser. Keeping it doubled, tear it in half vertically; fold one of the halves so that both sides meet in the middle. Then fold in half again so that you have an inch to an inch and a half wide strip. Dip in water and voila, a paper "chamois" as effective, more thrifty, and kind to goats!



Now it's your turn. Mimi earned a bag of clay for her tip this month. You, too, can earn a bag of clay. Just write a description and email annadele@comcast.net or put a copy in Locker #9 with your clever idea. We don't care where you saw it as long as you're the first one to submit it to HOT TIP. If you get the idea from a friend, teacher, book or magazine, however, it would be nice to acknowledge the source.

A Tax Deductable Donation to CAG Have you considered it?

By Bette Sindzinski from info provided by Janice Holve

To all who love the arts and want to see the Walnut Creek Clay Arts continue and thrive:

As many of the Arts look for financial sustainability, the Clay Arts has been exploring various ways of adding monetary stableness to our studio. It occurs to me that we provide *much more* than instruction, wheels, kilns, glazes, etc. *CAG provides a community of people who care for each other and support each other in a friendly nurturing way.*

I have spent much of my life in the mental health field nurturing brokenness in body and spirit. What I notice about this studio is the graciousness and nurturing of many of the guild members. As an example, in a class this summer there was a young student who seemed very shy and uncomfortable, standing apart and alone. By the end of the first class this student was smiling and more relaxed. By the end of the quarter the student was engaging with other students and said she felt very welcome and comfortable here and mentioned that the studio was such a healing place. ***This is what we are all about!*** Because other students helped and tended to her psychological needs as well as providing information about beginning pottery, she felt very welcome.

To continue this unusual and wonderful facility, CAG members need to look at ways to generate money without burdening students with increased fees. So, **How about making a tax deductible donation to CAG this year or as a regular yearly contribution?** Many people give regularly to other organizations, so *why not CAG?*

CAG is a 501 (c) 3 corporation. If you make a donation, CAG will mail you a thank you note for your records, including the amount that you donated and the tax ID number of the CAG for filing purposes.

Please consider writing a check made out to **CAG with 'Donation' on the memo line.** Put your check in locker #2 or give it to a CAG board member. *Thank you.* Your generosity will make the studio thrive for years to come. 🙌

CAG SHOWCASE FEATURES HIGH TEA

Our thanks goes out **Fery Yashar** who set up the showcase recently with some great teapot examples from some of our members. *Check it out!*



Akio Takamori Workshop Coil Building The Sleeping Figure

By Virginia Rigney



The October 12th workshop with Akio Takamori began with the unusual sight of Pete out in the parking lot directing traffic — the cars kept coming and the lot was full. The large crowd stayed the entire day, totally engrossed in the work of this unassuming Japanese-American ceramic sculptor who describes himself as a *maker*. Akio says he HAS

to make... “It is something in you inside, and by using the material (clay) the inside is visualized.” The cultural differences of East and West have been a focus for his work, which is about, “capturing a moment of truth”.

Akio works quickly with rough 35% grog clay, which he dries fast under sheets. He begins with a solid flat base in the shape of a figure to which he adds fat coils. He smooths the clay with a rib and then uses the rib from the inside to stretch out the surface. “Energy is from inside out, like being human.” He attaches the coils lightly but firmly and does not pinch them as that widens the clay.

Instead he pushes down and then up. He uses clay wet from the bag so does not score. His favorite tool is a paddle, which he uses to finish the form. He says that form is right when the body senses it so; visual information is just one part of “knowing.”

Since his goal is to draw and paint on a form, “a three dimensional canvas,” he first makes the surface smooth, paints with underglaze, fires to bisque and then sands. He puts on more underglaze, fires a second time and sands, and paints again. He likes his painting to reveal his process. He fires the high fire clay to cone 3, as he likes the loose look of the clay before it is vitrified. He does not use glaze.

His way of working developed when he changed from firing to cone 6 salt. He thinks ceramics is broad and no one can master the range of possibilities, so he thought about what he most liked in ceramic works, then chose three or four elements to emphasize: simple firing, underglazes that he builds by layering of color, and multiple firings. He simplifies his sculpture as his work is not about a lot of information or narrative, but is about the form and volume and aesthetics. He does not use a live model, but does use photography and books for images to inspire him. He says it is not important to be anatomically correct, but it is important to be believable.



Aikio is a believable ceramic artist. 🖐️



Book Review

The Potter's Encyclopedia

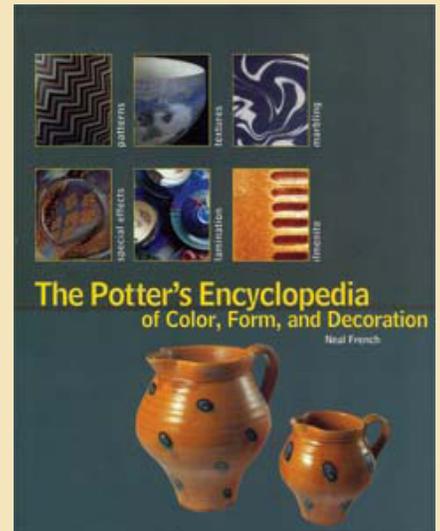
By Neal French (2003)
Reviewed by Kate Chenok

This book could be useful for all levels of potters, and would likely inspire all.

It is divided into three sections: **Form, Color, and Decoration**. The organization of each section makes it easy to use. For example, the **form** section has photos and drawings of the main pieces. It breaks down body shapes, handles and spouts separately. Each spread has both photos of actual pots and elevation sections. This makes it easy to think about ways to combine ideas into your own pots, rather than simply copy someone else's pot.

The **color** section details the use of nine oxides, four glaze stains and three opacifiers used in conjunctions with three base glazes and vari-

ous temperatures. The photos clearly illustrate what colors can be obtained by using various colorants. This would be useful to anyone in the studio who is curious about experimenting with the stains up on top of the glaze table.



Finally, the **decoration** section gives examples of impression, resist, print and underglaze. As with the other sections, the photos are beautiful and provide lots of inspiration and ideas of what you might consider incorporating into your own work.

I'd recommend this book to anyone who is seeking inspiration or reminders, and as a great overview for the beginning potter who is looking for ideas and techniques.



The title shows the generic group to which each section belongs, followed by the particular type of pottery covered in each chapter.

The pots are grouped into specific shape types that highlight the variations possible with each form.

The outline and sectional drawings, together with the captions, clearly illustrate how the pots and details are created, and also draw attention to their respective advantages and disadvantages.

With each example is a color-coded key to give an at-a-glance explanation of the techniques and materials used.

... SSSHH!
Notes from
the Library
By Gary Guglielmino



Morning so much darker — dusk coming so much earlier — getting out a sweater and wondering how all these changes will affect drying times in the damp room. So goes the start of the fall season every year. We are all well into the fall ceramics classes with lots of work appearing on the shelves in the studio.

At this point in the term, people are concentrating a lot—working on perfecting their plates, mugs, vases, or tiles, or handbuilding technique. Maybe the time is right for a little positive distraction! I would like to suggest a brief browse through the Library shelves to broaden your thinking and creativity. There is much available there, certainly something of interest to just about anyone in clay arts.

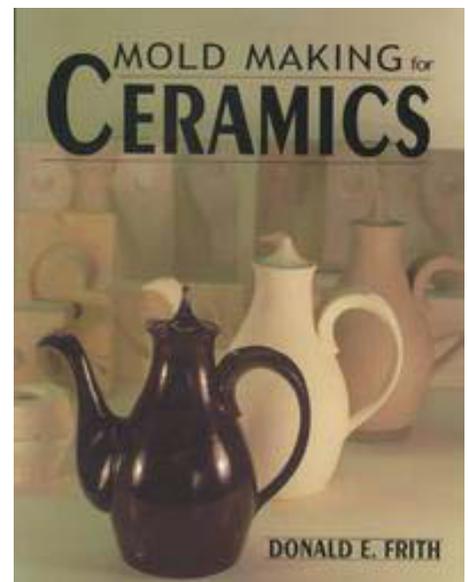
If you are a reader, there are written works on just about every topic in ceramics. If you're a visual person, we have a number of books consisting solely of hundreds of beautiful photos of ceramic works—ideas galore. If you're more "hands-on" in nature, there are great videos of both handbuilding and thrown works constructed right in front of you, with great tips and techniques shared by celebrated artists. And all this variety and wealth of material is yours, courtesy of your CAG membership. Try it out!

Again this month, I went through the shelves looking for something of interest to bring to your attention. Last month I talked about the many books by Robin Hopper, a creative and very productive ceramic artist and author of several books. This month I looked for something more offbeat and maybe less universal in appeal. I found it, in ***Mold Making for Ceramics***, by Donald Firth. Wait! Before you turn the page in dismay, let me tell you this is a good book with some really helpful ideas and techniques for any ceramicist, whether a handbuilder, sculptor, or potter. Really!

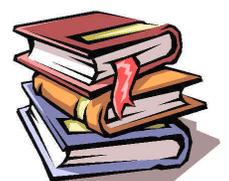
Firth's book was written in 1985, is a thick soft-cover larger book with lots of photographs. It's

easy to read and filled with pictures and diagrams. He explains and shows in pictures and diagrams many different kinds of molds, and how they can be used. I have always wanted to make a little stamp to put my name on the bottom, or perhaps sides, of my pieces. This book shows many ways to do that. Using forms to make handles, to add decoration, to make slabs and other constructed pieces... it's a great resource. He shows many ways to use hump molds, jacks, Styrofoam and plaster to make pieces of every sort. If you already use molds or forms to make bowls or trays, this book will interest you—he has many simple methods that I haven't seen used in our studio. One chapter is on the use of plaster to make press molds for decorations and stamping. In another chapter he carefully shows in multiple photos how to make a teapot...with press molds! It doesn't look too bad! He has a chapter on using Styrofoam and wood to make molds with a number of uses.

I found this book to be really interesting and thought provoking. I am primarily (okay, totally) a wheel person, but I am really tempted to try to make a mold out of plaster for some press-on handles, or to make a name stamp for my pieces. It's a fun book...and the price is right--that is, 'free' (with CAG membership)!



Library committee members are available during most class and Open Studio hours to open the shelves for users. Like you, they'll be working on their pieces, so if you would like to use the Library, there is almost always a Library Committee member in the studio who can unlock the shelves, help you out, and check stuff out for you. 🖐️



A New Gallery Showcases Ceramic Art by David VanderJagt

Recently Lafayette Art Gallery moved from Lafayette Circle to a new location at 3420 Mt. Diablo in Lafayette. The larger gallery floor space was viewed as a unique opportunity to showcase additional ceramic art from the Bay area and to become a destination gallery for ceramic art.

Most of the clay artists showcased in the new Lafayette Art Gallery space have ties to the Walnut Creek Clay Arts Studio. Member clay artists of the gallery co-op include **Judy Miller, David VanderJagt, Olga Jusidman, Kurt and Lauri Fehlberg** and **Virginia Rigney**- all current clay arts studio members. In addition to member artists, the gallery is showcasing ceramics by associate artists, **Michael Berkley, Leslie Jensen, Steven Allen** and **Coreen Abbott**, who have all taught or currently teach at our clay studio. **Cheryl Wolff**, a former CAG member is also featured at the gallery, and James Aarons rounds out the current group of eleven ceramic artists currently exhibiting.

The body of work is diverse and exciting. The gallery plans to showcase many more talented local ceramic artists in future exhibitions. Our clay studio proves time and again that some of the best ceramic art in the region is nurtured right here at one of the best community clay studios anywhere. 🖐️



Sale Inventory Instructions

1. On a Word program*, type your three-letter code, and then tab once — no commas, no spaces, nothing except ONE tab
2. Type the number of your item and tab again.
3. Type a short description of your piece** and tab again.
4. Type the price in whole dollars with NO DOLLAR SIGNS, no decimal points.
5. Type return once and do the same thing for your next item until all items entered.

When completed, attach the Word document (titled with your name) to an email and send to: CAGinventories@gmail.com.

A copy of your inventory will await you when you come to the studio for check-in.

*You can also write the inventory on Excel using the fields ordered the same as above: three-letter code, number of piece, description of piece, price. If you cannot use Microsoft Word, follow same directions and type into body of the email.

**In your descriptions, it would be helpful for statistical purposes to use common terms like sculpture, plate, platter, cup or mug, bowl, vase, pitcher, jar, casserole, tile, planter. If it's a special firing, then list what type (salt, Raku, etc.) This helps us give you more accurate feedback after the sale. You can also use spaces between your words — the tabs take you to the next field.

Direct any questions to Ann Henderson at annadele@comcast.net or phone 925-828-3742.



Artists Market
CIVIC PARK

Survey Summary

Last January members of the CAG conducted a survey of the 178 students attending winter clay classes with an 88% response. The survey team's aim was to learn more about the students and to determine ways to sustain and enhance the clay program.

Respondents ranged from first-time students to 31% of the total having taken more than 20 classes each. The variety of students based on employment status was all over the map, including job seekers and the self-employed, construction workers, physicians, hair stylists, a master violinist, teachers and architects. Many from outside of Walnut Creek described, in addition to spending money for their classes, regularly shopped for meals, gas, groceries and dry cleaning in Walnut Creek. The ages of students also showed a very broad range from teenagers to a few people in their 90s.

The survey asked students what they liked about the program and what they wanted to see changed. With increasing expenses for materials, energy and support staff, sustaining the program was another focus of the survey, asking them what they would be willing to do if public support was reduced. Some of the results were not at all a surprise; they confirmed that the clay arts program is widely popular, drawing students from all over the Bay Area. The results of the entire survey can be viewed on the studio bulletin board. 🖐️

DATES TO REMEMBER



MON 11/11	STUDIO CLOSED VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY
SAT 11/16	LAST CLASS MEETING
MON – FRI 11/18 – 11/22	EXTENDED OPEN STUDIO for FINISHING of WORK *HOURS to be POSTED in STUDIO
SAT 11/23	STUDIO CLEAN-UP PARTY 10 AM – NOON
SAT – SUN 11/23 – 12/1	STUDIO CLOSED
MON – THUR 12/2 – 12/5	STUDIO SALE SET-UP
FRI – SUN 12/6 – 12/8	STUDIO SALE <i>Artists Market</i> CIVIC PARK
MON – FRI 12/9 – 1/10	STUDIO CLOSED
SAT 1/11	FIRST CLASS of WINTER SESSION 2014
MON 1/20	STUDIO CLOSED HOLIDAY
SAT 3/8	MASTER POTTER WORKSHOP with FORREST LESCH- MIDDELTON



Reminders:

Students may obtain free parking permits at the Senior Center across the lawn from the studio or at the Shadelands campus office. Parking in lot without a permit is limited to three hours (Mon – Fri).

The Arts Education office at City Hall is no longer open for student business transactions.

What's Happening in the Clay World

EXHIBITS

Studio Seven Arts —
Ceramics trunk show with
Sue Morford (former CAG
member), November 9, 10AM
to 2PM, 400 Main Street,
Pleasanton

Leslie Ceramics —
Advanced Slab Building
with Elaine Pinkernell,
November 16, 9:30AM – 4PM.
Registration required, 1212
San Pablo Ave., Berkeley

**Lafayette Gallery — Grand
Opening, The Heart of Art,**
November 9th from 5-8PM,
3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd.,
Lafayette.

Richmond Art Center —
Formed and Fired: Clay &
Glass, until November 15th,
2540 Barrett Ave. Richmond.

INTERESTING WEBSITES & APPS

**Hsin-Chuen Lin — Story of
how he began:** <http://www.sfgate.com/art/article/Hsin-Chuen-Lin-s-online-ceramics-lessons-4439639.php>

Hsin-Chuen Lin — YouTube
156 video lessons on
learning to throw pottery:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/hsinchuen/>

CLAYARTSGUILD
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111 N. Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94598



To view the CAG Newsletter in full color, go to: www.clayartsguild.com