

KILN' TIME



JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2016

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

KEVIN
SNIPES:
Master Potter
Workshop
SATURDAY
February 6
By Gregory Byard

Hey Clay Folks! Don't forget to sign-up for the **Kevin Snipes Workshop** on Feb. 6th from 10 am-4 pm. Remember, if you're a CAG member, it's only \$43... \$40 off the original price!!! *Hope to see you all there!* Gregory



In this one-day workshop, Snipes will hand-build, carve, and decorate several forms, ranging from a vase to more complex forms like a lidded jar.

He will also discuss his style of surface decoration that he presented at the 2015 NCECA "Layering Techniques" lecture: underglazing, glaze subtraction methods, and *Mishima*. Kevin will explain his aesthetic approach to relating the subconscious

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2016 CAG Ceramics Contest ~ ILLUMINATION ~

Welcome to the New Year, Potters! It's time to get started on your entry for the 2016 CAG Ceramics Contest!!

The theme this year is **illumination**. We are looking for all things lit! Any form goes – big and small, functional and sculptural, realistic and imaginary – as long as the piece is used to bring light! Examples to consider: candlesticks, tea light holder, candle holders, inside lanterns, outside lanterns, luminaries, lamps

illumination

[ih-loo-muh-ney-shuh n] noun

1. an act or instance of illuminating.
2. the fact or condition of being illuminated.
3. a decoration of lights, usually colored lights.
4. an entertainment, display, or celebration using lights as a major feature or decoration.
5. intellectual or spiritual enlightenment.
6. a supply of light: a source of illumination.

This annual event is sponsored by the Clay Arts Guild (CAG) and will be held at the studio on a Saturday afternoon in early March (exact date to be announced). We bring in an outside judge and there will be prizes and food! All students are encouraged to participate by entering their fabulous work and participating in awarding the crowd favorite prize. Anyone who is taking ceramic classes is eligible. Look for entry forms and instructions to be posted in the studio in the next few weeks.

In the meantime get started making your Illumination. As they say on the Great British Baking Show.... Get Ready, Get Set, Potttttttttttttttttttttt



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Please submit all articles to Ann at
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Visit our website:

www.clayartsguild.com

See the latest Kiln' Times in full color!

CAG OPEN STUDIO HOURS

Mon.....4 - 7 pm
 Tue4 - 7 pm
 Wed.....12 - 4 pm
 Thur.....No Open Studio
 Fri.....12 - 7 pm
 Sat12 - 7 pm
 Sun.....1 - 7 pm



Message from the Prez...

Where do you get your inspiration for your ceramic work? Utility? Social Commentary? Special Techniques? Art Elements? Therapy? Ceramic works can be a reflection of things in and around our lives. It can be just trying to create a functional form. Once you get the basic throwing skills down, find a passion in your life that you can bring to the clay.

I went to the opening of Mimi Wild's show at the Orinda Library Gallery earlier in the month, and enjoyed how Mimi involved her love of animals into her works. Her Vulture pitcher and Armadillo Tea Pot show her love of animals within her craft. I am sure she gets double the satisfaction seeing the melding of her two passions. Be sure to stop by and see her works through the end of this month.

I combine the functional form with silk-screen images. While I easily am bored with making bowls and plates, I can combine these art forms and create works that keep my interest. I may grow weary of this sometime later and will have to draw from my other passions, such as Astronomy, to weave into a ceramic form.

I see around the studio so many different interests and directions of the art that I am constantly amazed at the talent we have there. Our instructors are so diverse as well. Each brings his or her unique take on the ceramic art form and liberally spreads personal passions to every student. Many of the works coming out of the kilns show the passion for clay passed on. Studio Manager Gregory Byard is also a unique influence on the direction of the studio. Cultivation of the hand-built forms is supported more than ever. We are fortunate to have Master Potter Workshops such as the Kevin Snipes Workshop in February.

So after reading this, stop for a moment and look around the studio. So much talent! Such a great facility! We have much about which to be thankful and passionate.

Rob

CLAY FOR SALE

SOLDATE '60'	\$20.00
SANDSTONE BUFF	\$20.00
B.MIX(with grog)	\$20.00
B.MIX (plain)	\$20.00
SCULPTURE MIX	\$20.00
BLACK MOUNTAIN	\$20.00
6-TILE PORCELAIN	\$20.00
XX SAGGAR	\$20.00
PAPER CLAY	\$25.00
BABU PORCELAIN	\$25.00



SNIPES

continued from front page

additives of non-objective expression and how these concepts manifest in “word bubbles” and the figurative form’s environment.

During Snipes’ slide talk a discussion on his current work as well as accolades and honors will be presented: i.e. artist residency programs at the Clay Studio, Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, and receiving a Taunt Fellowship from the Archie Bray Foundation. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally.



Mimi Wild at the Orinda Library

By Joan Ibarolle

If you missed the reception, it is not too late. Mimi Wild’s expressive pottery is showing at the Orinda Library until January 31st. Mimi’s pieces from her private collection are varied, very imaginative, creative and so well done. Her love of animals is expressed in very interesting and surprising ways; it is well worth the trip to the library to see this exhibit.

Not to be missed is her people soup piece and the little girl holding her cat (a little too tightly). My favorites are the beautifully sculptured birds, the owl vase, woodpecker, killdeer pitcher, and the finch pitcher. Each piece is finely sculpted and painted, with amazing attention to detail.

You will enjoy seeing the wonderful variety of art that Mimi has created during her more than 20 years as a devoted CAG member.



A LETTER from MICHAEL BERKLEY with photos from his last class ...

To my friends at Civic Arts,
A couple months have passed now and I feel I have enough in place to be comfortable. Three weeks on the floor in a tent on arrival has now morphed into a comfortable place to live. My three cats are not adjusted yet and look at me as if to say..."what are we doing here?" The living space and now the studio are just about in place, certainly enough to get through an Oregon winter. Sure miss the California weather at times!



I wanted to take this time to thank all of you for your support over the years. I enjoy hands-on one-on-one instruction, and I hope I have helped some of you to become better in your endeavors to move forward in clay. I hope to see some of you in the near future as I plan on visiting

and staying for two to three months at a time. Being retired, I can do that...I'll follow in Chip and Connie's footsteps.

In my last Friday night class we took various amounts of clay and each spent a few minutes with a piece and moved on. From three pounds to twenty-five pounds, all got a chance to feel what it was like to pull that much clay and also walk through the path of the person before them. Each had three minutes on the piece and moved on to the next. I am enclosing some pictures of that last Friday class.

I like to give a special thanks to Bette Sindzinski and Heidi Peeler who helped me through the Wednesday classes that turned out to be all beginning students sprinkled with a few advanced. Thank you Bette for volunteering your time to help me reach all those beginners when sometimes you were not even in the class and had monitored all day! And a shout out to Heidi for showing great patience working with the

beginners. And a thank you to Gary Guglielmino and Daisy Guerrero for seeing I needed some help and freely giving of their time. The people who take classes and work at Civic Arts are very giving to their fellow potters. Thank you! That's a lot of centering!



It's difficult at best to put into words some kind of summation after teaching at Civic Arts for 18 years. It's hard to believe because the time went quickly. I originally left teaching at the University of Oregon, started a record label, promoted a band; charted three top twenty singles; co-coordinated a 77 band evening on 11 stages in one night at the Portland Coliseum which Billboard called the, "largest collection of unsigned talent under one roof in one night anywhere in the world."

I burned out and moved in 1995 to pursue a spiritual quest that led me to California. My therapist told me to get back into clay. I took a Saturday morning class at Civic Arts with the intention of hiding out, being invisible with the goal of getting my fingers back in shape. When I noticed people watching, I would get up and take a walk in the park. For much of that time I sat in the corner and just threw pots - lots of them - and big.



I remember taking a bag of Soldate, leaving it square, pounded it into shape while it was spinning and then centered and threw a big pot, and then cut it in half to see if I had the walls at 1/8 of an inch. When I did that, I

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MICHAEL Continued from page 4

heard people go “nooooooo”. I looked up. There was a table of people watching me. I’m not sure why, but I became uncomfortable and took a walk in the park.

I have many great memories. One in particular was our first dinnerware class. Everything on the table was made during the class. In that class, I learned who the best cooks were and tried to recruit them into all my classes. I was easily bribed with good milk chocolate and good coffee. I also have some not so great memories. But ...I can’t remember them... But I can’t forget Daisy’s treats! Thank you! So many great interactions with so many wonderful people at Civic Arts! Please allow me to say thank you to all of you for putting up with my grey humor and know-it-all attitude. I know that I know nothing! noth...ing! (big smile)

Lastly, thank you for the wonderful gift that was presented by Bette to me. Thank you for signing the book with your thoughts. I also appreciate the generous gift that was contributed. Thank you.



I know the holiday season is over. Now as the New Year begins, we shape our pots with more experienced choices to create beautiful shapes. Let’s remember it’s the inside that makes the shape valuable. There is nothing more important than family and good friends. The inside of the space defines the outside. The choices now are simple, service to self or service to others. Let’s keep the service to others and weed out the others. While the world changes, I hope we all continue to find our center. And as Ann Henderson always says before she leaves the studio, (while we rolled our eyes; lovingly) “may all your pots be centered” (big smile). I look forward from time to time to dropping in when I visit friends and family there. Will the monitors kick me out?

With warmest regards, Michael Berkley

Case Study

By Marianne Sullivan

Betty Wang and I are welcoming in the New Year with a different approach to the offerings in the student display case in the studio and the front window. The front window will feature instructors’ work initially. We are hoping to highlight their art and encourage park visitors to come in and see what we are about.



Inside, something different will be happening. Monthly, we plan to feature a different member of CAG in the inside case unless there is an intervening event like the upcoming illumination contest. The member on display will share information about his or her pieces, including the type of clay, glaze, and method of firing. It is our hope that the information presented will not only let you see a body of work, but aid in your own future clay explorations.

Betty was very humble about my asking her to be the first! I admire her work and I also knew she would have enough different types of pieces to create an interesting display. She has taken many classes over the years and has a wealth of knowledge about glazes, clays, and forms. Her appreciation of this art form was learned from her father, who had a collection of Japanese ceramics. I would have written a more in-depth article about her, but she had just left for her native Taiwan when the editor asked me to write about our plans.

If you would like to display your work, please contact me and we will get you on the calendar. We also welcome any suggestions!



New Disk
Added to CAG's
Extensive DVD
Library
Reviewed by Linda
Shubin

Our library has a wonderful new addition, a two-disc DVD set, *Throwing, Altering & Glazing for Function and Beauty* with Sarah Jaeger.

Sarah creates beautiful pots that are meant to be used in their owners' everyday lives. She explains the design of her pieces from throwing through glazing. Her attention to detail is wonderful to watch. For example, she explains her bowl designed with an extra ridge; the ridge is incorporated into her glaze design and it functions as a handle of sorts, making it easier to hold the bowl. She shows how to use a Decorating Disc to flute a bowl and in glazing to mark the spaces that will create the design she has chosen. Sarah uses wax resist and underglazes to create her vibrant glazing patterns.

If you missed Sarah's workshop or you want a review of all she does, check out this DVD. It has a three-hour running time.



To grow as a person,
surround yourself
with people smarter
than you are.



Andy Rooney

HOT TIP!

By Marianne
Sullivan



Now it's your turn. Marianne earned a bag of clay for her tip in this issue. *You, too, can earn a bag of clay.* Try out whatever you are planning to submit, write a short description of your clever idea and send it to annadele@comcast.net. We don't care where you saw or heard about it, as long as you're the first one to submit it to Hot Tip. If you get the idea from a friend, teacher, the internet, a book or magazine, however, it would be nice to acknowledge the source. A photo to accompany your article is also appreciated.

HANDY HINT ...

If you line the work table under your potters wheel with newspaper, you'll have much less to clean up when you finish throwing!

When you're a hand-builder, you see textures everywhere! Here's a tip that can be used on wheel thrown pieces as well.

I have had my Mother's button tin for years and finally found a use for the buttons by attaching them to used corks and making stamps. Super glue works best. If the button has a metal shank attached a little carving into the cork will help. If the button is smaller than the cork, I carved around the edges to lose the cork imprint.

When stamping, a bit of cornstarch always helps to prevent the stamp from sticking. Wine cork stamps are the perfect size for adding a texture to handles and adding textures to slabs and wheel-thrown forms. I always have a bag of them when I'm in the studio, so come on over and borrow them. Cheers!



Annual Cup Sale at NCECA

Want to get involved with NCECA (National Council on the Education for Ceramic Arts) but aren't able to attend the conference in Kansas City this coming March? You can participate in a special fundraiser without having to be there.

NCECA's **Fund for Artistic Development** was established in part to benefit NCECA's future and most promising young talents. This fund receives ongoing support, in part, through an annual Cup Sale.

Ship your cup to arrive by Wednesday March 2016 addressed to:

**Paul Donnelly,
Attn: NCECA Cup Sale,
2011 Tracy Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64108**

Please indicate a suggested selling price and include your business card in the cup(s). Further information available on the NCECA website: <http://nceca.net/2016-kansas-city/>



Winter Sale at Shadelands By Bette Sindzinski

At this writing I cannot give you the overall data; the financials and the survey results have yet to be released. Eventually, the sale committee will meet and make recommendations for future winter sales. For now there are a few things that can be said. The sale was in two rooms, the auditorium and the dance studio as well as the lobby. Winter 2014 sales in the dance studio were dismal compared to the auditorium, thus the sales committee made a special effort to transform the dance studio into a focus room. Decorations focused on bringing people into the space via brighter lights and a decorated tree (thank you **Beryl Snyder** for donating your 7 foot tree for us to use). Also all refreshments were located in the dance studio to lure shoppers, and each entrance door had a greeter who told shoppers about the two rooms and the artists in the lobby area. Many of the sales participants who were based in the dance studio did very well at this sale due to the increased traffic.

One of the other comments that I heard often was that the postcards were not mailed and this impacted the total participation in the sale. The decision not to mail the postcards was an economic one, and I think it is a decision that will be reviewed as to its impact on numbers of people participating. I have no hard data on numbers, but from being there all weekend I can attest to the fact that total numbers were significantly lower than previous years.

The new cashier system, the Shopkeep system, seemed to work very well. It made checking out a breeze as cashiers only had to swipe the bar code and it rang up. It eliminated many of the long lines that were problematic at previous sales. However, participants struggled at first with how to track their pieces and how to inventory their wares. There were several ideas that emerged to make it simpler for Ceramic Artists and those ideas will be added to suggestions for future sales with Shopkeep.

When we meet as a Sales Team, I will communicate the final results and either put them in a future newsletter, or send them out via email. I will make sure that all who are interested have access to the results.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who came to help decorate. We had two teams of CAG members who set to work transforming the space into an upbeat holiday affair. And thank you to the wonderful ceramic artists who participated, many of whom stayed the entire weekend to talk to shoppers.



Viva Arts FUNDRAISER

You've probably already noticed this poster hung in several places around the studio. The annual Viva Arts fundraising gala is sponsored by the **Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation** whose primary mission is to provide scholarships for students from underserved communities in the Diablo Area wishing to enroll in Civic Arts classes. Since 2006, the Foundation has granted over 800 scholarships to children and adults.

To learn more about the Friends Foundation, visit its website: www.FriendsArtsEd.org.

If you're interested in attending the *Hats Off to the Arts* event, go directly to: <http://www.friendsartsed.org/events.html> to purchase your tickets. The event, which includes a four-course dinner, hosted wine bar, live entertainment and silent and live auctions, has been sold out for the past few years.

Interested in more information? Ask **Mary Leigh Miller** or **David VanderJagt**, both of whom serve on the Friends Foundation Board.

THE FRIENDS of CIVIC ARTS EDUCATION FOUNDATION
invites you to the

Viva Arts 10th Anniversary Celebration

THE COSMO ALLEYCATS
DANCING TO
LIVE AUCTION
GOURMET DINNER
CHAMPAGNE & SILENT AUCTION

HATS
OFF
TO THE
Arts



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TO LEARN MORE & BUY TICKETS: www.FriendsArtsEd.org
or CALL: 925 939-2787

Coming Soon...

A new order of CAG "Seize the Clay" T-shirts is coming sometime in February. If you have a particular color you want in a specific size, this time you can pre-order. Keep in mind that all the printing is in white ink to look like clay on a T-shirt, so very light colors do not work well.

Plain colored T-shirts are \$20, and tie-dyed ones are \$25. Send your pre-order requests to annadele@comcast.net by February 10.



Important Dates

- **Feb. 6: Kevin Snipes Workshop: (No class or Open Studio)**
- **March 19: Winter Quarter ends: (class and Open Studio)**
- **Feb. 15: Presidents Day: (no class or Open Studio)**
- **March 20: Winter Studio Clean-up 10 am-noon**
- **April 23: CAE Family Art Day**
- **Feb.16: Spring Registration starts**
- **March 28: Spring Quarter starts**
- **April 25-May 1: Studio closed for Spring Art Sale**
- **May 14: Chris Gustin: Master Potter Workshop. His work and activities can be seen at <http://www.gustinceramics.com/sculpture/index.html>.**
- **April 29-May 1: Spring Art Sale**
- **June 11: Spring quarter ends**

Ice Rink gone by Feb. 1

CAG OPEN STUDIO HOURS

Mon	4 - 7 pm
Tue	4 - 7 pm
Wed	12 - 4 pm
Thur	No Open Studio
Fri	12 - 7 pm
Sat	12 - 7 pm
Sun	1 - 7 pm

Message from the Yard



Master Potter Collection: We are presently looking into new display cases for our wonderful and priceless CAG/Master Potters' pottery collection; the new display will house the larger pottery as well. The cases will be mounted to the masonry walls and the interior shelving will be earthquake proof. More to come...

Workshop: On February 6th, 2016 **Kevin Snipes**, a ceramicist from Athens, Georgia, will be here for our Master Potter's Workshop (he's from the same region as Ron Meyers). He will demonstrate his narrative forms using porcelain, as well as an underglazing technique called Mishima. This workshop will be right after the de-installation of the Ice Rink; so, parking should be *plenty*. It's only \$43 for CAG members and lunch will be catered. Kevin will have an opening at Trax following the workshop. Check out his website at <http://www.kevinsnipes.com/>

Air Conditioning: We are working very hard, at the City level, to get AC in the studio by the end of Summer 2016. More to come and keep your fingers-crossed.

Clay Body Tiles: We just finished clay body tiles for all our clays; there will be an example of each clay type fired to cone 10 in reduction (gas-fired), coupled with its oxidation (electric-fired) counterpart. This will give you a feel and look of what is lighter in body... and darker. We will have them posted on the clay room door, with shrinkage info within the quarter's end.

Community Build - Ceramic Mural: In late August, we will be housing the making of two large ceramic murals for the Ruth Bancroft Garden. The precursor to this community build will be on April 9th with a Maker Series class; members will go to Davis, CA to learn how to make individual tiles and prepare to lead volunteering assistance for the larger mural project. Ed Blackburn will be teaching the class alongside professional muralist, Donna Billick (studio in Davis, CA). This is a great opportunity for Guild members to take the lead on this large-scale project, featured in the Spring Quarter catalog. We are expecting hundreds to show up from the greater Walnut Creek area to participate. This is an awesome opportunity to showcase our studio and CAG's presence. More specifics will come in a mass email. .

Shelving: New shelving next to the CAG pottery sale shelf has been freed for more storage; also, the bisqueware carts are going to have upgraded labels for each cart, directing you to what week the work has been fired and unloaded. This might help with the confusion on where new and older work is stored. We have many students and much work is being made; thanks for your patience!

Friendly Reminder: Always keep the studio cleaner than you found it, PLEASE no outside studio projects (work must be made in the studio), you must be enrolled in the present quarter to have work fired, no outside clay, and keep making beautiful work!

Namaste,

Gregory

What's Happening in the Clay World

GALLERIES

TRAX Ceramics Gallery, 1812 5th St. Berkeley, CA 94710
February 3rd-March 6th, 2016: **"Imagine"** Illustrating the Figure. Kevin Snipes, Beth Lo, Robert Brady.
Reception on Saturday, February 6th from 5-7pm,

Lafayette Art Gallery, 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite A, Lafayette, Ca 94549, Ph: 925 284 2788.

12 x12, a Small Works show, opened January 12th, 2016

Bubbles, Baubles and Bling, Reception Saturday, February 6th, 12-6pm

CONFERENCES

NCECA Annual Conference, Makers, Mentors and Milestones, March 16-19 2016 Kansas City, Missouri. Read about donating to the annual Cup Sale on page 7.

CCACA 2016: 28th Annual California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Art, April 29- May 1 2016. John Natsoulas Center For the Arts, 521 1st St., Davis, CA 95616

CALL for ARTISTS

America's Clayfest IV Open Division.

Online entry deadline: February 27. Exhibition opens April 15
Blue Line Arts 405 Vernon Street, Suite 100, Roseville, CA 95678

The Artery, Davis, CA will host the **Twenty-seventh Annual CALIFORNIA CLAY COMPETITION EXHIBIT** in conjunction with the California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Art (sponsored by the John Natsoulas Gallery in Davis).

Exhibition Dates: April 29 - May 27, 2016, **Entries Due:** February 13, 2016; <http://theartery.net/cc.html>

CLAYARTSGUILD

City of Walnut Creek

111 N. Wiget Lane

Walnut Creek, CA 94598



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