

# KILN' TIME



FEBRUARY 2026

THE OFFICIAL CLAY ARTS GUILD NEWSLETTER

## Important Dates

January 11 – March 21  
Winter Session

February 7– Last day for  
Fall ware pick up

February 18 – Spring  
Session Registration at  
noon

February 28 – Saturday  
Night Special featuring  
Kat Zhao (painting)

March 6 – Teen Art Night

March 7 – Saturday Night  
Special featuring Ed  
Blackburn Teacher Talk  
(color and mediums)

March 14 – Family Art  
Day Saturday Night  
Special featuring  
Mihran, Rebecca  
(test tiles) and Gilda  
(Nerakami)

March 22 – May 30 Spring  
Session

April 3 – Submission  
Deadline to Brandon for  
CCACA

April 24 – 25 – CCAC  
at Davis

## Be Part of CCACA

By Brandon Lipe

From April 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, the John Natsoulas Gallery will be hosting the California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Arts (CCACA) in downtown Davis, CA.

Our studio has a long history of exhibiting our ceramic artworks alongside 50+ other art centers, universities and colleges. There will be five artists demoing over the two days. We'll have a designated space and it's a great opportunity to showcase what we do here in our studio. It's also a great opportunity to see what other studios are making and to bridge the gap with our California neighbors.

I am inviting all student artists to submit up to three pieces to be considered and juried in this year's exhibition; the work doesn't have to be made this quarter but within the last two years. The jury process will happen online via email.



The Natsoulas Gallery

You can submit three images (jpg or pdf format) to my email address [lpe@communityarts.org](mailto:lpe@communityarts.org) subject: CCACA.

Each image must have your name, title of piece, year made, price or NFS (not for sale), and any other info that helps explain the work. I would like a majority of the work to be for sale. The jpegs/images of the work don't have to be professionally documented; they just need to be clear enough so we can see some details and over-all form of the work.

*Submissions of images are due  
to Brandon by April 3rd*

*Read more on page 3*

## MEMBERS of the BOARD

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Erika Goldstein**

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and Robin Moore**

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**Meals On Wheels:  
Barbara Moreland**

**Why have we removed  
committee members'  
emails?**

**Recently many CAG  
members received  
spam emails. We  
believe that they were  
possibly culled from  
this newsletter listing  
as well as articles that  
contained an email.**

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## Message from Our Prez ...

It's so great to see all of you in the studio after the long winter break. A few weeks ago or so I enjoyed smiling every time I walked into the studio and watched the ice rink being taken down!

I hope everybody has had some time to peruse the new presentation of our collection. Thanks to Brad and Robin for all your work on this. And thanks to all who worked on the Gala to celebrate the work.

I'm really enjoying seeing the pictures of demos from various classes on social media, aren't you? They make me think about techniques I have yet to explore. So many possibilities. I appreciate the work of the social media team.

We have lots of events planned for this session. I hope you have seen all of them in the emails I have been sending out. Please use the signup sheets posted on the door. **Ed Blackburn** will be doing a Teacher Talk about his work and color and underutilized mediums in the studio on March 7th. Students were invited to do presentations of techniques, areas of inquiry that they feel passionate about. I received many suggestions and will keep them for future reference if we have the opportunity of an open evening slot again. We have several student presentations scheduled. **Kat Zhao** will do a presentation about painting on ceramics on February 28th.

Mihran and Rebecca will present their large collection of test tiles, and Gilda will present on the Nerakami [wheel thrown] technique [March 14th] There will also be time that evening for students to bring glazed pieces that they feel are great examples, or were surprised by or got unusual results. These can include studio and commercial glazes. Note: Always check with Brandon before using a new commercial glaze.

*Mona Moxley*

**The Bedford Gallery has offered CAG a private tour of their new installation by the legendary Bay Area artist Viola Frey. Her work includes ceramics, paintings, drawings, and photographs. The show runs from January 10 to April 5, 2026**

**This event will take place in the second half of March. More information, including the sign-up sheet, will be posted in the studio soon.**

Teamwork is  
Dream Work  
Oh, the places  
we will go!

by Erika Goldstein

**HELLO CAG MEMBERS!**

Once again, we are partnering with one of the preschool classes at community arts for a very fun creative adventure. This year's theme is **TRANSPORTATION!**

The preschool students have created artwork out of construction paper and stickers, and have given some back story about their work. There are boats, cars and trains, and balloons and rockets!

You – our volunteers – will again get the chance to create a wonderful ceramic interpretation of the preschooler's art. It will be displayed at the Spring Art Show and then again at City Hall. A wonderful collaboration!

Feel free to talk to our artists about their process as you see them creating these works of joy.

Thank you to all the people who stepped up to join this fun and create. And remember to take pictures along the way!

Stay tuned for everyone's progress.



# Be Part of CCACA

Continued from page 1

Once the pieces are selected, the student artists will be notified via email. Selections will be made and students will be notified by April 6<sup>th</sup>. Please see below the expectations of exhibiting student artists:

1. Student artist work that is selected must be well packaged (wrapped) and boxed with name on box.
2. Wrapped and boxed work must be delivered by 5pm on April 17th (you can leave the work with your instructor or me to place in the office).
3. Each student artist will be required to help with the show. When showing up for your shift, arrive 15-30 minutes early to allow for parking. We will need volunteers to keep an eye on our exhibition (Fri, Sat). Each student artist will have two shifts (each shift is 2 hours). This is subject to change based on how many student artists attend the show. Times and signups will be posted as we get closer to the conference.
4. Student artists do not have to pay for the conference. Other student exhibitions, including ours, are always free to the public, however, access to the lectures, panel discussions and demonstrations are only for paid attendees. I encourage many of you to attend the lectures and demos. Day and Multiday passes are available for purchase.
5. Work does sell; patrons who buy something must have a check or exact cash. They can pick up the work at 4pm, Saturday April 29th, after the show.
6. There is no insurance on the work exhibited, but we have had no issues in the past. Someone is always at the space during the day and the building is locked after business hours.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [lpe@communityarts.org](mailto:lpe@communityarts.org). I encourage you all to submit work. We can't wait for another exciting exhibition at CCACA! Thank you.

## Line up of Winter Classes & Open Studio Times January 11 - March 21, 2026

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 am	Open Studio	Class	Open Studio	Open Studio	Glaze Mixing	Class	Class
12:00 pm	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class	Open Studio
3:30 pm	Open Studio	Class	Open Studio	Class	Class	Open Studio	Open Studio
7:00 pm	Class	Class	Class	Class	Teen Class	Class	

## Question of the Quarter

By Marina Xavier

### What's your favorite glaze combination?

**Dina:** Yellow salt with grey bird over in oxidation

**Marla:** Commercial Mayco glaze Stone Denim

**Mihran:** Copper red with oribe in reduction

**Gilda:** Copper Red with Oribe in reduction

**Julie D:** Grey Bird with Blue Overglaze in oxidation

**Mimi:** Underglazes with Clear in oxidation

**Jackie:** Temoku with Satin White over in reduction

**Marty:** To me, glazing is an opportunity to ruin a piece

**Maria:** Matte Black with drips of Oribe in oxidation

**Hilde:** Raku Screen sprayed, Samurai's Dream top half, top third spray Oil Spot lightly

**Gregory:** Mayco glaze Winter Wood and Midnight Rain

**Mona:** Mayco Shiny Black and Snow in oxidation

**Amanda:** Glossy White with Satin White over; it makes a great palette!

**Chip:** Yellow Salt and Grey Bird in reduction

**Chris:** For someone else to do it or if I have to choose, Glossy White, Oribe, and Gill's Blue in oxidation

**Alice:** Copper Red in oxidation or Copper Red with Rutile Colemanite in Reduction

## Got Tools?

By Nicole Collins

### CAG Tool and Underglaze Shop



While in line to buy clay, you have probably glanced over at the CAG Tool and Underglaze Shop: the tall rack filled with all sorts of pottery goodies.

This little shop is run by CAG volunteers for all the students and teachers who come to our studio. We stock the shelves with underglazes, tools, brushes, calipers, ribs, and bat pins. We provide Darvan 7, sodium silicate, Magic Mender, and tool kits. We also sell ...well, the list goes on.



Although all of us buy a few things from large online stores, we purchase the bulk of our tools, underglazes, and products from ceramic and pottery merchants, focusing on quality and reliability. Our studio likes the idea that we are also helping the larger pottery world. By buying in bulk, we can get sizable discounts that we then pass on to you.

If you have suggestions for tools or products that would be useful, use the small whiteboard on the side of the cart. And the next time you need a trimming tool, run out of your favorite underglaze, or

lose your chamois, don't forget: we are here and all purchases are cash only.

### Gently Used Tools

Next to the tool and underglaze cart is another cart with gently used tools that have been either donated or left behind in lockers at the end of the quarter. All of these items are only a dollar. Cash or check only.



# Handcrafted Holiday Sale 2025

By Ruth Mannon



Holiday shoppers were out in full force at the Handcrafted Holiday sale this year! From the moment the doors opened on Saturday, the place was packed. It was my third year selling at the sale and by far the busiest crowds I'd seen. I started off with a shift in the children's sale room and didn't stop

wrapping for my entire shift. I appreciated the move to bags and tissue paper instead of wrapping paper. I don't think I could have kept up with the smaller shoppers otherwise.

By the time I made it to check on my booth, I had to weave through crowds to update my inventory. There were less vendors than last year, but I think ultimately we were grateful for the extra space for customers in the sale rooms. I overheard many conversations about how wonderful all different booths were, and how impressed the shoppers were with the quality of the pieces for sale. I only wished I had more time to peruse the other booths myself. I'm always so impressed and inspired by everyone's creativity and artistry.

Sunday felt quieter in general, but the crowds were still steady. I felt like my time was well spent. I have to admit, perhaps my favorite part was confusing open studio regulars who don't usually see me outside of my overalls and hat. It usually took people a few minutes to recognize who I was in clean clothes with my hair down!

I had a great experience at the sale this year, and as always, am grateful for our studio community. Looking forward to seeing everyone's creations in the new year!



# Kids' Shopping Room A Huge Hit at the Holiday Sale!

By Pat Alger

This year's Kids' Shopping Room at the Handcrafted Holiday Sale was a resounding success! Over two busy days, 110 enthusiastic young shoppers carefully selected gifts for their loved ones — and in the process, helped raise an impressive \$1,400 in sales. Most of the popular finds were in the \$5 range, making it easy for every child to choose something special.

We also introduced a new wrapping approach this year: instead of traditional wrapping, children picked out decorative bags and personalized them with drawings and embellishments. This simple change kept the lines moving smoothly while adding a creative twist that the kids absolutely loved.



The positive feedback from parents and shoppers was overwhelming — many commented on how joyful and meaningful the experience was for the children.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers and guild members who donated their time, talent, and handmade pieces. Your efforts helped make this event a success and created lasting holiday memories for many families in our community.

# 2026 Gala Reopening at the Ceramics Studio

By Stella Chu



The opening gala took place from 1PM to 3PM. After a speech from Robin, guests enjoyed delicious homemade hors d'oeuvres and desserts (thank you, Michael!) while mingling and admiring the display pieces in their new lighting. Those present at the gala were also able to tour the new locker room, which can be found through the doorway beside the sinks.

The grand re-opening of CAG's display gallery was held on Saturday, January 10. What began as a simple dusting task in August 2025 grew into a complete refurbishment project, headed by Brad Krebs and Robin Moore. In addition to reorganizing the studio's collection, Brad and Robin updated the display with new LED lights, gave the cabinets a fresh coat of paint, and expanded the gallery by replacing some of the lower cabinet doors with glass (with help from Brandon).

It was a lovely event and everyone was eager for Winter classes to begin. Thank you, Brad and Robin, for your incredible hard work!



The pieces currently on display were purchased from visiting artists over the decades. Some works did not have any identifiers, but thanks to some internet sleuthing, the majority of the mystery works

were identified. You can find laminated pages on a hook beside the bathroom door that will inform you of the artist, clay body, and firing method for each piece in the gallery. Be sure to check it out! Photographs of the guild collection can also be found on the CAG website.

