



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

FEATURE ARTICLE

[First anniversary of the Clayart China E-Newsletter](#)

PROFILE

[The Shanghai Museum](#)

GLOSSARY

[Shiwan Gong-Zai](#)

ACTIVITY

[International Ceramics and Teapot Conference](#)

EXHIBITION

[American Clay Art Works in the Shanghai](#)

CHINESE CLAYART

"Chinese Clayart" is a newsletter emailed monthly to professional ceramic artists who want to know about ceramic art in China and things related. This newsletter will be a bridge between China and Western countries for the ceramic arts. Comments and suggestions are very welcome. (Copyright 2000, The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA. All rights reserved)

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA.
P.O.Box 64392, Sunnyvale, CA 94088, USA
Tel. 408-777-8319, Fax. 408-777-8321, Email: chinaclayart@hotmail.com
www.chineseclayart.com
Chief Editor, Guangzhen "Po" Zhou
English Editor, Deborah Bouchette

[TOP](#)

FEATURE ARTICLES

This is the first anniversary of the Chinese Clayart E-Newsletter Monthly. The newsletter was founded in August, 1999, and was designed for Western artists, curators, collectors, writers, experts, educators, and students in the ceramic field.

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, is an organization for ceramic cultural exchange between the East and West and sponsors the Clayart China Newsletter. As a cultural bridge, the organization provides Chinese ceramic information, consultation, and connection through the Chinese Clayart Newsletter and its website. The organization invites Western clay artists to participate in organized visits to China; it invites Chinese clay artists to come to the United States; it organizes Chinese ceramic art exhibitions in the United States; and it organizes Western ceramic art shows in China.

An earlier newsletter is on the Web at:
<http://www.chineseclayart.com/news.html>

PROFILE

The Shanghai Museum in Shanghai, China

Address: 201 Renmin Dadao, Shanghai, P. R. China, 200003

Tel. 86-21-63723500, Fax. 86-21-63728522

Open: Sunday - Friday, 9:00 - 17:00 and Saturday, 9:00 - 20:00

Located at Renmin (People's) Square, next to the Shanghai Municipal Hall, in the center of the city of Shanghai. The Shanghai Museum was established in December, 1952, and houses one of the best collections of ancient Chinese art.

The new museum building was built in 1995 with two floors underground and five floors above ground, covering 38,000 square meters and standing 29.5 meters high. The shape of the building is like a giant bronze tripod, looking graceful and solemn; also, there are many circles and squares representing the sky and the earth of ancient Chinese beliefs.

The museum has 120,000 works of art in its collection with ancient Chinese bronze, ceramics, calligraphy, and painting as special features. The museum has ten monographic galleries of bronze, ceramics, calligraphy, painting, sculpture, seals, jade, furniture, coins, and minority nationalities' art; one special gallery for donated ceramics; and three exhibition halls to hold temporary exhibitions. The works of art shown in the galleries are mainly masterpieces of Chinese cultural heritage, spanning from the Neolithic Age through the Ming and Qing dynasties until modern times. Traveling exhibitions from museums and institutions of other Chinese provinces and cities as well as of foreign countries are held in the three exhibition halls.

The museum has published 94 special books and catalogues in conjunction with a group of curators and archaeologists specialized in research and authentication of Chinese cultural relics. It has an advanced library with over 20,000 books of art and history, a laboratory for scientific conservation of cultural relics which has won several prizes of National Science and Technology Achievement, and research studios for restoring and mounting ancient Chinese painting and calligraphy as well as for repairing and restoring ancient bronze and ceramics.

The Bund of Shanghai

During our Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange in 2000, we went on a cruise on the Huang-Pu River and enjoyed a night view of the Bund in Shanghai.

Situated on the west side of the Huang-Pu River, the Bund is a symbol of Shanghai and an epitome of the modern history of Shanghai. With many magnificent buildings of different architectural styles all built within the last hundred years, the Bund can be called a museum of modern architecture of the world. Since the early 90's, many new buildings grew on the east side of Huang-Pu River, such as the landmark Eastern Pearl (a TV tower), along with an eighty-eight story skyscraper in the area called Pu-Dong--the new duty-free district.

GLOSSARY

Shiwan Gong-Zai

Located in Guangdong province in the southern part of China, about 100 miles northwest of Hong Kong, Shiwan is a small town belonging to Foshan City. There are over one thousand ceramic manufacturing facilities in this area. (In China, a city can include many nearby small towns, similar to the U.S. concept of suburbs in a greater metropolitan area.)

Realistic figurative stoneware sculpture has been produced in Shiwan since the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). This style of sculpture is called Shiwan Gong-Zai. Traditionally, the unique ceramic figures were mainly made by the pinch method of hand-building; today, slip casting and press-mold techniques are also used. Several different colored clays are often used to distinguish the skin, beard, cloth, or other details. Usually unglazed clay represents skin.

Shiwan Gong-Zai was originally used in architecture (sit on roofs), such as historical heroes, Buddha or gods for temples. Later on these kind of figures also used for gardens and developed a 2-or 3-inch high mini-figures, so called Shan-Gong, such as a man reading or fishing, old men playing chess, or a boy and a cow. The Shan-gong (mountain man) are usually used in mini-landscapes.

During this year's China ceramic cultural exchange trip, we were in Shiwan, invited by artist and sculptor Zhang Wen-zhi. Two local artists, Mr. Zhong Ru-rong and his wife Xian Yan-fen, did a three-hour demonstration for us. Mr. Zhong made a medium size monk, and his wife made two of mini-size old-man. This demonstration was a very good experience for our clay artists' delegation.

[TOP](#)

ACTIVITY

International Ceramics and Teapot Conference, Yixing, China, May 30 - June 3, 2001, plus a post-conference ceramic travel program. Please watch for more details in future newsletters. Our travel arrangements and exchange programs are TOP QUALITY.

[TOP](#)

EXHIBITION

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, has organized the American Clay Art Works in the Shanghai Art Fair 2000.

Back in January, 2000, the Shanghai Art Fair Organization Committee Office Director Qian Jianqun, Secretary-General Zhang Ming, and Miss Wang Yan visited the United States. The three of them met with me, your Chief Editor, in San Francisco. We discussed how to promote clay art in the upcoming Shanghai Art Fair. The fair planned to provide a special clay art section. They also planned to invite many clay art dealers and organizations from different countries. The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, was invited to organize a group of American clay art works to be displayed and sold there.

In the February, 2000, issue of the Clayart China newsletter, we announced the event. The event was also listed in the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California's newsletter, and in Ceramics Monthly. At the same time, the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, sent personal invitations to many artists, including those featured in the Chinese language book, "American Ceramic Artists Today."

During the selection process, both the aesthetic and commercial values of the clay art works were considered. We set a goal of 20 pieces in total, with each piece limited to 16 inches in any dimension.

This was a combined competition and invitational event. We received over 50 entries in total and selected about 20 pieces from 13 artists of 7 states. Many works are from well-known artists and university professors, including Marilyn Levine, Richard Shaw, Richard Hirsh, Dennis Parks, Chris Gustin, Rimas VisGirda, Robert Milnes, Bill Geisinger, Sally Brogden, Cameron Covert, and Amanda Jaffe, among others.

A personal note from the Chief Editor. Nineteen years ago, there was a book titled "The Modernism Art Works," published by Shanghai Translation Publishing House, China, 1981. The articles were written by several Chinese art critics, and I saw Marilyn Levine's name and works in that book. (page 29 and page 101). Today, I am going to ship many American clay works to China, including some work of Marilyn Levine's works. Early in August, I went Marilyn Levine's studio and picked up her pieces. As head of the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, I am proud of organizing this event.

[TOP](#)

Copyright 1998-2010, [e-Commerce Technology, Inc.](#) and its respective clients. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#), [Legal](#).