



# CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

February 2001, Vol. 19

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## 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)

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## FEATURE ARTICLES

The Chinese National Master of the Arts and Crafts  
Wang Yin-Xian

Among the contemporary potters of Yixing, I have always admired Wang Yin-Xian and her works. Walking among the villages during my last visit to Yixing and seeing numerous potters making teapots in every household, I finally understood the meaning of the phrase "jiajia huhu du zhipei" (every family is making teapots). Because of its rich deposit of clay and its endless generations of talented potters, Yixing has long been known as the taodu (pottery capital) of China, and this fame continues today.

Wang Yin-Xian began her study of Yixing ware in 1956 under the guidance of Wu Yungen, Zhu

Kemin, Pei Shimin and Jiang Rong. From these famous teachers, she learned how to make teapots in the shape of bamboo, of various tree trunks, and scholars' objects in naturalistic shapes. Later on she was taught by Gu Jingzhou, a master of plain geometric teapots, famous for their perfectly balanced and succinct forms. The works of her teachers represent the full spectrum of Yixing ware, the culmination of the works of generations of potters. In the works of Wang Yin-Xian, we see the ancient tradition brought to fruition. She is versatile in all styles of Yixing ware, ancient as well as contemporary. Her work is refined and elegant, and shows a fine articulation of lines and proportion. Following traditional practice, she copies the works of ancient masters such as Chen Mingyuan and Xiang Shengsi. The prunus teapot of Seattle Museum of Art and the peach cup of Nanjing Museum, attributed to these masters, have strongly influenced her works. Wang Yin-Xian has created many teapots, and she has collaborated with distinguished designers such as Zhang Shouzhi and Han Meilin. When professor Zhang of the Central Academy of Arts and Crafts designed his "Qu" teapot, Wang Yin-Xian was able to create this simple-in-design yet complicated-in-construction teapot.

Wang Yin-Xian's works have won numerous honors, given as gifts to heads of state, and collected by museums and private collectors not only in China but all over the world. She took part in the Woman's Meeting in Beijing, and recently she received the highest accolade given to artists in China, that of gongyi meishu dashi (Great Master of Arts and Crafts). I wish her a long life devoted to Yixing ware, and many students to carry on this wonderful tradition.

Terese Tse Bartholomew, December 20, 1996, at San Francisco

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## **OPPORTUNITIES**

Ceramics in China 2001, organized by West Virginia University, USA

Now in its fifth year, West Virginia University's ceramics department continues its well-established summer study experience in China through another exciting 5-week trip in the summer of 2001.

The program offers students an opportunity both to work with Chinese artists and tour China's historical roots which have influenced ceramics for centuries.

Our trip will begin May 24th with a two-day stay in Shanghai where we will experience one of the world's most prominent collections of ceramics, bronze, jade and much more at the Shanghai Museum as an introduction to this unique cultural history. Trips to the European section, "the Bund," and the Shanghai antique market are also planned during our stay.

We will then travel to Jingdezhen via train, offering one of the best opportunities to see the Chinese countryside and experience a colorful side of Chinese life, an exciting way to see the countryside.

Jingdezhen, the Imperial City of Porcelain, has set the standard of porcelain production for centuries. With close to 60% of its population involved in porcelain production, it is truly a ceramist's delight, and our intensive stay will allow us to visit many aspects of this "city of ceramics," including the Tainbo dragon kiln and Gaolin mountain where kaolin was first discovered. During our 16-day stay will live and work at the Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute. This school is China's national college of clay-working, and represents one of the largest and finest ceramic art and design programs in the world (and with whom we have created a strong relationship over the years bringing Chinese artists to West Virginia).

> From Jingdezhen we travel to Xian and Xianyang for a 12-day stay, again offering an opportunity to work side-by-side with Chinese artisans. Xian, China's ancient capital, is a pivotal site connected to the origins of Chinese civilization. Our visits will include the Xian Museum, the famed emperor Qin's terra-cotta army and much more. While in Xianyang we will reside and work on the campus of the Northwest Institute of Light Industry, where we have established well equipped studio space through our linkage agreement with them. Trips in the region will also include Chen Lu, an ancient pottery village whose traditions have shaped and continue to be an important segment of Chinese

ceramics.

Next we embark via train for a 4-day stay in Xinying and the Qinghai region where we visit Qinghai Lake, China's largest salt water lake, and visit with the Tu national people and the Tibetan Nomads of this very beautiful area of China.

> From there our trip will end in Beijing with a 3-day stay in China's capital city. Our visits there will include the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Palace Museum and much more before our return home on July 2nd.

Space is limited to 18 students, so apply early.

Faculty will include Bob Anderson, West Virginia University, and various faculty from the Beijing Academy of Art, the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, the Northwest Institute of Light Industry, and others.

Cost for the trip is \$4395.00, which includes 6 credits from West Virginia University, available on undergraduate, graduate, and professional development levels.

For more detailed information, contact Bob Anderson / China Study Division of Art  
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## **TRAVEL IN CHINA - Schedule Update**

Upcoming China Excursion to  
International Ceramic Art Symposium, Yixing,  
and Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel. Schedule Change Notice:

According the schedule of Air China (the schedule has been changed every season), we have changed our departure and arrival dates (from and to San Francisco only). There will be a direct flight to Shanghai, and one stop, Beijing-Shanghai-San Francisco on the way home. The original schedule was May 24 - June 13, and the new schedule will be May 25 - June 14. We will cut one day off in Shanghai and stay one more day in Beijing, but no other itinerary will be changed. The application deadline is April 12, 2001. For more information, please check out web site at [www.chineseclayart.com](http://www.chineseclayart.com). Contact: Guangzhen "Po" Zhou [pozhou@email.msn.com](mailto:pozhou@email.msn.com), or Richard Notkin, Symposium co-chairman, [notkin@ixi.net](mailto:notkin@ixi.net).

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## **PROFILES**

### The China National Museum of Fine Arts, Beijing

The China National Museum of Fine Arts is one of the ten principal architectures built in the early years after the founding of the People's Republic of China. The museum building has the Chinese traditional palace style with orange roof tiles and covers 17,051 square meters. The Museum was completed in 1962, and it is the first-rank fine art museum in this country under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. The museum has collected a large number of modern and contemporary art works (over 60,000 pieces). The museum has sponsored and held many significant exhibitions of paintings, sculptures, Chinese calligraphy, photography and many other art works nationally and internationally.

### The Ancient Palace Museum, Beijing

The Ancient Palace Museum is also known as The Imperial Palace, or Forbidden City. It was the Chinese Imperial Palace when built by Emperor Yongle in 1420, and in use until the last Qing Emperor. The Palace covers 720,000 square meters, has 980 buildings and 8,707 rooms with golden roofs and deep red walls. The Palace was not only the place where the imperial family lived, but also all of the important state events of the Ming and Qing dynasties took place here, including the enthroning of a new emperor. In 1925 it became the Palace Museum. Today, many of the Palace rooms are used for exhibitions of court customs, imperial collection of clocks, paintings, bronzes and ceramics.

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## **EXHIBITION**

International Ceramic Art Exhibition, Yixing, China, 2001  
(for those who decided to participate the Yixing Symposium). Entry deadline: March 12, 2001 (to be received, otherwise the image of your work may not get printed in the catalogue).  
The Exhibition is in conjunction with the Yixing International Ceramic Art Symposium.  
If you would like to participate in the Exhibition, please send your exhibition application form and slides to us early. We are going to print the full-color catalogues.

International Ceramic Art Exhibition, Yixing 2001  
Location: Yixing Ceramic Museum, Yixing, Jiangsu Province, China.  
Deadline: March 12, 2001  
Everyone who will be participating in the Yixing Symposium is encouraged to bring one small piece for the show (capable of being carried in your luggage, and, if you wish, you may exchange your work with Chinese artists). The Symposium committee will print a catalogue of the show and every participant will receive a free copy.  
Please attach the photos of yourself and your work for the catalogue and send the application form with all material to:  
The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, PO. Box 64392, CA 94088-4932

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## **FREE POST CARDS**

Free Post Cards available by request.  
We have printed 8.5" x 6" post cards of the Yixing Symposium, China, 2001, with the works of Xu Xiutang and Wang Yin-Xian on the front. Please send us your mailing address, and we will send you the post cards for free.

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