



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

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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 ARTICLE

Since the first Chinese Delegation of Ceramic Artists invited by the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA in 1999, more and more Chinese artists participate in NCECA conferences every year. This year there were more than ten Chinese ceramic artists at NCECA.

The visiting artists from China were Lu Pinchang, a professor from Beijing; Zhou Ding-Fang from Yixing; Wang Fen from Shaanxi Province, and Xiong Wen-Yin from Guangdong Province. Artists newly immigrated to the US were Luo Xiao-Ping from Yixing, China. Graduate students included

Huang Chun-Mao from Alfred Ceramic College, Lin Xu from Washington State University, and Liu Lily from Canada; and also attending was a Chinese writer and journalist, Wang Qi from Guangdong Province.

Pinchang Lu, Chinese Artist in the US

Pinchang Lu, the Chinese sculptor, visited the US from Feb. 7 - March 25, 2002. A few American artists and I worked together like a team, arranging his trip in the US. - compiled by Guangzhen Po Zhou, editor of the Chinese Clayart News.

Reported by Bob Anderson, Professor at West Virginia University. Feb. 7, Pinchang flew from Beijing to the US, and presented his first slide lecture right after he got here. He was invited by Professor Bob Anderson of West Virginia University, in Morgantown, West Virginia. While here, Pinchang presented slides and spoke to faculty, students, and attending public at West Virginia University's College of Creative Arts. He finished 3 pieces of work, 2 sculpture pieces and 1 terra cotta bust of one of the students. His work was represented in the "Shared Journeys" Exhibit that was shown during his visit. "Shared Journeys" was a traveling exhibit of ceramic work that represented Chinese and American ceramic artists. I arranged to have him visit Washington, D.C., where he visited the Freer Gallery, Sackler Gallery, Hirshhorn Museum, and the National Gallery of Art.

Invited by Wayne Heigby, Pinchang Lu was at the Alfred Ceramic College for two days and did a slide talk and a workshop there.

Reported by Marvin Sweet, faculty member at The Art Institute of Boston. Lu Pinchang spent one week in Boston, from February 20 -27. His host was ceramic artist Marvin Sweet, faculty member at The Art Institute of Boston. Professor Sweet was able to arrange several lectures. Lu Pinchang spoke at the Art Institute of Boston and The School of the Museum of Fine Arts where he was a special guest of the Museum and had an opportunity to see their outstanding Asian ceramics collection. Professor Lu also spoke before large audiences at the Massachusetts College of Art and at Harvard University. At Harvard, Lu Pinchang had time to tour the campus and see several of the outdoor sculptures which included works by Henry Moore, Alexander Calder, as well as a large stele which had been donated to Harvard by The Peoples Republic of China. A review of Lu Pinchang's lecture appeared in the University's newspaper, The Harvard Crimson. While in the Boston, Lu Pinchang was able to enjoy the city's rich history by walking along the "Freedom Trail," eating in Chinatown and seeing the architectural blend of the old and the new from the 52nd floor of the Prudential Tower. Lu Pinchang also had a chance to visit with collector Stephen Alpert and see his outstanding collection of contemporary American ceramics. On his last night in Boston, Cheng Bing a fellow sculptor and long time friend from Beijing, with his wife the painter Du Chun Mei, feted Pinchang at a special Szechuan banquet.

Reported by Yih-Wen Kuo, Professor at Northern Illinois University. Though Professor Lu's visit at NIU was a short one, he left a incredible impression on his audience. During his one-day visit, he completed one large scale figurative piece besides a slide lecture on his art in the afternoon. Students were amazed to see the quickness and craftsmanship he demonstrated in building the "Ah Fu" figurative piece. Even though he did not talk much during his demonstration, students did not feel bored at all. They were all busy and enjoyed seeing his performance.

It was very inspiring to see Professor Lu complete the beautiful sculpture piece in four hours and know his art through his lecture. We all hope to visit China to see his large outdoor sculptures in Beijing one day.

Reported by Guangzhen Po Zhou, editor of the Chinese Clayart News. Arriving on the west coast on March 2, Pinchang stayed at "Barbara Brown's International Hotel," just like many other international artists do while in the area.

Pinchang went to San Francisco his first day. The next day Pinchang and I spent the whole day in Napa Valley with Carolyn Broadwell. March 6, four of us, including Jeroen Bechtold (an artist from Amsterdam, the Netherlands) and professor Tom Kerrigan (Tom was my first Ceramic teacher in

the US, now retired from University of Minnesota-Duluth, Po Zhou, editor of the Chinese Clayart News), went to the Palo Alto Cultural Center where we saw the exhibition of "Maquettes of Robert Arneson," and to the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for the Visual Arts Museum at Stanford University. We got a very nice dinner at Barbara's house.

The next day, Pinchang, Tom Kerrigan, and I went to the University of California at Berkeley and met Richard Shaw in the morning; then we visited the Trax Gallery in Berkeley and the College of California Art and Crafts in the afternoon. I had called Arthur Gonzalez in advance, and he introduced the instructor Hedi Ernst to us. While we were walking around the class room, Hedi told us that last week she did a project which was to remove the name and pictures from a copy of the text of an article which was published in the Australia magazine "Ceramics: Art & Perception." She let students study the text of the article and directed them to create a clay piece following the article's description. In the end, Hedi found that most of the pieces got pretty close to that of the original artist. The original artist's name is Tom Kerrigan! What a coincidence!

Invited by the director of the School of Art and Design at San Jose State University, Robert Milnes, Pinchang presented slides there on Monday. And, arranged by Bill Geisinger, Joe Battiatto and Barbara Brown, Pinchang presented another lecture in De Anza College, Cupertino.

Pinchang spent few days in Southern California, then we went together to Kansas City for the NCECA conference.

Reported by Richard Notkin, internationally known ceramic artist. On March 23, 2002, Lu Pin-chang conducted a one-day workshop at the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Helena, Montana. An incredibly accomplished sculptor, with growing international recognition, Pin-chang attracted over 50 ceramic artists from throughout Montana and as far away as Seattle for a day packed with demonstrations and slides. In the morning, Pinchang demonstrated his techniques of modeling realistic figurative sculpture, creating an oversized bust of the Bray Foundation's director, Josh DeWeese. After lunch, he presented a slide lecture of the work of contemporary Chinese ceramic artists and followed this with a demonstration of his unique approach to abstracting the figure, creating a slab built sculpture from his "Fat Boy" series. Following the all day workshop, Pin-chang presented an evening slide lecture at the Holter Museum of Art, and talked of his life and the development of his art. An additional 25 people joined the workshop participants for this event, in spite of the very deep snow and cold weather. Montanans are a hardy bunch.

Pin-chang had been highly recommended by Richard Notkin, Helena studio artist and Bray Foundation board member, who has traveled to China four times in the past decade. Richard and Pin-chang first met at a symposium in Yixing, China in 1998. Prior to traveling to Helena together, Richard served as a tour guide to Pin-chang in Kansas City during the NCECA conference, introducing him to numerous ceramic artists and galleries. A visit to the Ceramics and Sculpture Departments at the Kansas City Art Institute, where Richard had been a student in the 1960's, impressed Pin-chang. The final day in Kansas City was spent viewing the well curated collection of Asian art -- and the collections of modern paintings and contemporary art -- at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

In Montana during the week before Pin-chang's workshop, Richard and Pin-chang became snowbound by a nearly two-foot accumulation in a 36 hour period, the most snow that Pin-chang had ever seen. Towards the end of the week, the roads were clear enough for a drive to Bozeman to visit the studios of renowned Montana artists Deborah Butterfield and John Buck, Gennie DeWeese, Willem Volkersz, and Jay Schmidt. The next day, they drove over the Continental Divide to Missoula, visiting the studios of Lela and Rudy Autio, Adrian Arleo, Beth Lo, and David Regan. A very nice dinner was shared with Lela and Rudy Autio that evening. It was an excellent introduction for Pin-chang of the Montana artist's lifestyle and work, as well as the beautiful landscape of snow-covered mountains of the legendary "Big Sky" state.

The interaction of Pin-chang with so many artists in Montana continues the growing cultural exchange between the ceramic artists of China and America. Pin-chang's incredible energy and skill impressed everyone with whom he came in contact, and the artists of Montana look forward to his return in the future, perhaps to work here for a longer period.

PROFILE

Longquan Celadon Museum, Zhejiang Province

Tel. 86-578-7123131, 578-7124654

Longquan Celadon is famous for both glaze colors and forms in Chinese ceramic history. Longquan Celadon was produced starting in the Three Kingdom Period (about 220-265 AD), developed during the Northern Song Dynasty, and it blossomed in the Southern Song Dynasty. In the Yuan Dynasty, the Meizhi Qing and Fengqing glazes were successfully created.

Longquan is located in southwest Zhejiang Province with beautiful landscape and historical culture. There are about 360 historical kiln sites in the area, and one of them, called Da-Yao Longquan Kiln Site, is a State Protection Unit.

NEW BOOK

Chinese Ceramic Cultural Sites and Information
- Foreign Travelers' Handbook (in both English and Chinese)

Beginning in 1999, when I founded of the Chinese Clayart E-newsletter, I started compiling and editing this book and have worked on it for over two years. Finally, working with Mr. Zeng Guan-Lu, the chief editor of Ceramic Art Magazine, this book is going to be published in Taiwan soon.

The book contains cities or places with Chinese ceramic cultural sites, such as Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Yixing, Jingdezhen, Foshan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan; villages and kiln sites, ceramic schools, organizations, studios and factories, museums and galleries, ceramic magazines, a glossary, and things to do and to know; plus many helpful English-version web sites.

Also included are the Chinese characters of each title and address, so people can easily use them to show and ask any Chinese for directions when she or he is in China.

Since much of the information already has been included in our Chinese Clayart newsletters, I would like to express my thanks to our English editor Deborah Bouchette.

The book will soon be on the web in our Chinese Clay Art Store--Book section.

NOTICE

News from the Chinese Clay Art Store

The Chinese Clay Art Store made very successful sales in Kansas City.

We shipped twelve boxed cartons to Kansas City-NCECA, and we came back with only carry-on luggage. The most saleable Chinese Clay Art tool is the brick Plastic Texture Mat.

After the conference, we received many orders through emails, faxes and phone calls. We are going to get the other three designs of the texture mats shipped to the US by June. Thank you for your patience. Please check out the details at www.chineseclayart.com.

The Chinese Clay Art Store-New Items and Accessories

CH 01, Double Sided Hole Cutter, Brass, 4.5quot; long, 3/set, 6 sizes from 2mm-10mm, \$4.50

Glaze Sprayer with 12" L mouth tube:

MJ 01 Glaze Sprayer, 2 oz, \$14.00

MJ 02 Glaze Sprayer, 8 oz, \$15.00
MJ 03 Glaze Sprayer, 16 oz, \$16.00
HY 12-1, Buffalo Horn Scraper, Regular 5" x 8", \$6.00
HY 12-2, Buffalo Horn Scraper, Large 8"-11", \$8.00
WS 12-5/6, Throwing Stick with Sponge, \$5.00
OA 01, Apron, off white fabric, 237" x 36", \$5.00
OT 01, Tape Measure, two sided, 60 inches and 1.5 meters, \$2.00
OT 01, "502" Super Glue, \$2.50

8 g squeeze bottle. Extremely strong and rapid-drying. "502" Super Glue is made of cyanic-acrylic adhesive. It is the ideal adhesive for many materials, such as ceramics (especially for porcelain ware), metals, rubbers, plastics, wood, etc. It dries rapidly at room temperature and forms an extremely strong bond.

AH 01, Teapot Handle, width 4", \$2.00. Bamboo teapot handle with copper wire.

Special Offer:

Sandal Mallet \$14 each. The mallet's shipping weight is 1.5 pounds, and the shipping fee is \$3.00 each (in addition to the basic S&H charge). Until September 10, 2002, we offer this mallet with no additional shipping fee.

<http://www.chineseclayart.com/store>

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TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER WORKSHOP

Greek Island of Skopelos, workshop Aug 1-14, 2002. Two instructors will cover throwing and hand building techniques, glazing and coloring of ceramics and sculpture items, bisque firing, loading of kilns, firing in a Greek traditional wood kiln, building and firing non-traditional kilns, figurative sculpture and modeling techniques including hollowing and bas relief. The studio facility is at the Skopelos Foundation for the Arts overlooking the Aegean Sea, www.Skopart.org. The renowned ceramist Hector Mavrides and sculptor Sanjay Mittal, both from Thessaloniki, Greece are committed to providing you with an extraordinary experience--limit of 8 participants--\$1,900 includes room, morning breakfasts at the Foundation Studio kitchen, two opening and closing dinners. For details, e-mail info@skopart.org.

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES in CHINA

CONFERENCE 1

Foshan International Ceramics Expo, China, 2002

October 18 - 22, 2002

Location: Foshan City, Guangdong Province, P. R. China

Hosts:

Foshan Municipal Government, Guangdong Province, China

The National Ceramic Society of China

The National Architecture Material Society of China

Exhibitions:

The Contemporary Ceramic Art of the World

The Contemporary Ceramic Art of China

The Traditional Ceramic Art of Shiwan

CONFERENCE 2

The 7th National Ceramic Art Design and Creation Conference,
October 27 - November 1, 2002
Hosted by the National Ceramic Society of China

This conference will include three categories: 1. Commercial decorative ceramics, 2. Chinese Traditional Ceramics, and 3. Contemporary Ceramic Art. During the conference, there will be some ceramic art exhibitions, workshops, and visits to kiln sites.

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