



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

September 2004, Vol. 40

LETTER

[LETTER from the editor Guangzhen Zhou](#)

CONFERENCE and TRAVEL

[Jingdezhen Ceramic International Fair Special](#)

CONFERENCE AND EVENT

[International Ceramic Art Conference, Yixing 2005, June 2-4, 2005](#)

EXHIBITIONS

**[Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco Presents
a Ceramic Exhibition of Contemporary Yixing Master Works](#)**

New Products

[Stamold](#)

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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[TOP](#)

LETTER

LETTER from Guangzhen Zhou, the director of Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA. Jingdezhen Ceramic International Fair Special. Sponsored by the Chinese government, the Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair is coming soon. To ensure to get enough participants for this group within few weeks, we decided to offer the special scholarship \$600-\$800 for every participants.

[TOP](#)

CONFERENCE and TRAVEL

Jingdezhen Ceramic International Fair Special

Partially sponsored by the Committee of Jingdezhen Ceramic International Fair and China Tour.

Application deadline: September 15, 2004. Cost includes: International round trip flight, in-country

transportation, three meals each day and lodging (twin sharing, three star hotel), museums tickets, tour guide/English interpreter.

Cost Excluding: Visa application (You may send your passport to Guangzhen "Po" Zhou, director of the Chinese Ceramic Council, USA with \$60 if there is no Chinese consulate near your hometown), the U.S. domestic flights, International Airport taxes (US \$12, onetime when departure from home flight), personal phone calls and other services. Single supplement: \$40 per day.

Plan A.

Oct. 6-18, Shanghai, Yixing and Jingdezhen. 13 days. Fee: \$1,750. (original was \$2,350).
Oct. 6, Departure from the west coast of the US, or your home country,
Oct. 7, arrive Shanghai,
Oct. 8-9, Shanghai Museum, Yu Garden and the market, and ceramic art galleries. Boat on Huangpu River.
Oct. 10, tours in Yixing. National masters' studio, dragon kiln, purple sand factory, teapot market,
Oct. 11, tours in Yixing and bus leave to Nanjing in the afternoon. Take overnight train to Jingdezhen,
Oct. 12, arrive in Jingdezhen in the morning,
Oct. 12-15, International Jingdezhen Ceramics Fair,
Oct. 16, take overnight train from Jingdezhen to Shanghai,
Oct. 17, Shopping and relax in Shanghai,
Oct. 18, departure from Shanghai, home flight to US.

Plan B.

Oct. 6-22, Shanghai, Yixing, Jingdezhen, Xi'an and Beijing. 17 days. Fee: \$2,350. (original was \$3,150).
Oct. 6, Departure from the west coast of the US, or your home country,
Oct. 7, arrive Shanghai,
Oct. 8-9, Shanghai Museum, Yu Garden and the market, and ceramic art galleries. Boat on Huangpu River.
Oct. 10, tours in Yixing. National masters' studio, dragon kiln, purple sand factory, teapot market,
Oct. 11, tours in Yixing and bus leave to Nanjing in the afternoon. Take overnight train to Jingdezhen,
Oct. 12, arrive in Jingdezhen in the morning,
Oct. 12-15, International Jingdezhen Ceramics Fair,
Oct. 16, bus to Nanchang, flight to Xi'an.
Oct. 17, Visit Terri-cotta Warriors Museum and antique market,
Oct. 18, visit Chenlu, a historical ceramics village,
Oct. 19, overnight train to Beijing, (Z20, 19:23-06:53).
Oct. 20, Great wall in the morning and exchange with faculty and students at The Center Academy of Fine Arts in the afternoon,
Oct. 21, visit Tainanmen Square and Ancient Palace Museum/the Forbidden City, and gifts shopping in the afternoon,
Oct. 22, departure from Beijing, home flight to US.

[TOP](#)

CONFERENCE AND EVENT

International Ceramic Art Conference, Yixing 2005, June 2-4, 2005

Dear Friends:

I am sending this message to some ceramic artists to join me, with the excellent tour host and guide (and ceramic artist and author), Guangzhen "Po" Zhou, for an incredible three-plus week tour of various ceramics venues in China in the late spring/early summer of 2005. The tentative dates of the tour are approximately May 28 or 29 through June 20 or 21. The exact dates are still being determined.

The focus and highlight of the tour will be a major ceramic art conference in Yixing, June 2-4. This is the reason I have assembled the list of people that are currently being invited to join this tour, as

all will be giving slide lectures at the Yixing conference. To ensure that the conference in Yixing will be of great value to the cultural exchange between Chinese and Western ceramic artists, we are inviting a top roster of the most respected artists from China and the West.

There will also be an exhibition in the museum in Yixing, and each participant will be asked to bring a piece for the exhibition. (The pieces can be small, as they will be exhibited in glass cases along with many teapots of the Yixing artists, and to facilitate their transport to Yixing.)

The tour venue will begin with about three days touring Shanghai, with day trips to the incredible Shanghai Museum of Art, the best museum of Chinese art, historical through the present, that I have ever seen. There will also be visits to at least one University art department and/or the Pottery Studio (a resident artist program), antique markets, a tour of the Bund and a boat ride in Shanghai harbor.

From Shanghai, a three-hour bus ride will take us to Yixing, the birthplace of the teapot. The three-day conference will include slide lectures of Yixing and Western teapot artists, demonstrations of traditional Yixing teapot techniques, a gala opening of the exhibition, and incredibly opulent Chinese banquets, with unending mounds of exotic foods, attended by some of China's most renown artists and local dignitaries. There will also be visits to a teapot factory, and several Yixing artists' studios, probably Xu Xiu Tang, Zhou Dingfang, Luo Xiaoping, and others. A visit to the bamboo forest where parts of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was filmed will also be an added delight...

Following Yixing, we will travel to Jingdezhen, the Porcelain Capital of the World, where we will conduct slide lectures at the great Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute, meet with ceramic artists, and tour schools, the San Bao Village and several factories. Another antiques market is in the heart of Jingdezhen.

From Jingdezhen, we will take four-hour bus to Nanchang and take airplane to Xi'an, where we will view the incredible Terra Cotta Army of over 7,000 figures. A day visit to the terraced mountaintop ceramics-producing village of Chenlu will probably also be included.

An overnight train will take us to Beijing, where we will visit the Beijing Academy of Art and Design, and present slide lectures to the students. A visit to the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the "Dirt Market" and the lively nightlife of contemporary Beijing will round out the tour prior to flying back to the U.S.

All trains are booked for first class cabins, with four bunks in each cabin. It is a very comfortable way to travel, and the Chinese landscape is mesmerizing. The hotels are three and four star, very comfortable and air-conditioned, with safe and delicious food. I have traveled this route several times, and with Guangzhen "Po" Zhou in 2001, and I can highly recommend his good care and knowledge of the areas we will be touring. His connections with artists and schools is an invaluable part of this great and educational journey. As China is rapidly changing, this is a good opportunity to view the traditional ceramics workshops and factories, while they still exist.

The tour includes all travel, including airfare between the U.S. and China, buses and trains. All hotels, all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, in traditional Chinese cuisine) and admission to the conference and various museums on the itinerary are also included. The cost will be approximately \$2,900 per participant. I am inviting you now, so that those of you who are employed in colleges and universities can apply for travel grants to cover the costs of the tour. I wish that I could offer honorariums and all that, but the institutions in China are not yet capable of doing so. They will, however, make our stay quite memorable, and honor our presence and cultural exchange. I guarantee a valuable and enlightening journey.

If you are interested, please contact me soon. As I assemble a list of the participants, I will get back to you with a more detailed and exacting schedule, including the full cost. If you wish to recommend other artists who you feel would be strong additions to the conference in Yixing and tour, please send me their names and e-mail addresses.

Thank you.

I look forward to some rewarding and exciting travel in China with a great group of artists in the spring of 2005. Be well and productive, and keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Richard Notkin, Co-Chairman
International Ceramic Art Conference, Yixing China 2005

Introduce to YIXING

Yixing - the Pottery Capital of China and the Teapot Center of the World
Yixing is a city situated on the western side of Lake Taihu, in the southeastern province of Jiangsu, the delta of Yangtze River, and about four hours' driving distance from Shanghai. The area also called "Fish and Rice Countryside of Jiangnan (Southeast of Yangtze River)". It is one of the richest areas of Eastern China.

According to the history source, the ceramic production history can be traced to 7,000 to 8,000 years ago in Yixing area. It started producing celadon ware during the Han and Jin Dynasties, and a kiln site of the Tang Dynasty has been excavated in the area. Today, Yixing ceramics can be divided into five categories, also called the Five Golden Flowers: Zisha, Jing-Tao (white dinner ware), Cai-Tao (multi-colored ceramics), Jun-Tao (also called Jun glazed ware) and celadon. The purple sand teapots of Yixing might be the most well known in the world.

The purple-brownish highly iron contend clay is called "Purple Sand" (Zisha), which mine in the Huang Long (Yellow Dragon) Mountain at Dingshu Town mainly made into the unglazed, palm size, stoneware teapots became well-known in the world since Ming dynasty (the late 16th century) and Yixing city has been famous as the "Pottery Capital" of China and the "Teapot Center of the world".

Yixing also attracts tourists with its famous bamboo forest, its tea plantations, and its purple sand and caves (there are over eighty caves in the mountain area).

[TOP](#)

EXHIBITIONS

Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco Presents a Ceramic Exhibition of Contemporary Yixing Master Works

PURPLE SAND, FRAGRANT TEA

750 Kearny Street, 3rd Floor (Chinatown Holiday Inn), San Francisco, CA 94108

July 30th - November 27th, 2004

Gallery Hour: 10:00am-4:00 pm, Tuesday-Saturday

FREE ADMISSION

Purple Sand or "zisha" refers to the dark purplish brown stoneware associated with Yixing, China. Yixing or zisha ware, is often identified with the simple, rustic teapots that gained recognition during the late Ming period in the 16th century. Chinese tea connoisseurs consider Yixing teapots the ideal tea making vessels, noting their ability to bring forth the flavor, color and fragrance of the tea leaves. Tea tasting, along with the literary pursuits of poetry, calligraphy, and painting were highly esteemed by scholar gentry who gathered in this prosperous cultural and commercial center during the Ming (1369-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

"Purple Sand, Fragrant Tea" features over 30 outstanding contemporary artists from Yixing. Included are the works of many senior masters still active today. Many are honored as national arts and crafts masters. These senior masters have in turn taught and encouraged new generations of younger potters to perfect their craft, expand beyond conventional boundaries, and seek inspiration from new sources. The exhibition focuses on masterworks created by these young and older artists within the last four years. They illustrate the vital, innovative spirit that persists in Yixing today. Those teapots. These works are part of a travelling exhibition organized and supported in part by the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA (<http://www.chineseclayart.com>)

Free to the public, the exhibition will be on view from July 30th to November 27th, 2004 at the Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108. For more information, please call Mike Curtis at (415) 986-1822 or email to mike@c-c-c.org.

[TOP](#)

New Products

Stamold: The name is combined from Stamp and Mold. This tool has two functions. It can be direct press on clay to use as a stamp. Or use it as a mold. Make a clay ball to match the size of the top of the Stamold. Place the clay ball on the top. Score and moisture the surface where you are going place on. Press Stamold onto the surface. Take away the extra clay around and smooth out the area around.

[TOP](#)