

Chinese Clay Art, USA

Newsletter Vol. 57

August 2007

"CHINESE CLAY ART" is a newsletter emailed to professional artists, curators, collectors, writers, experts, educators and students in the ceramic field, 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.

An earlier newsletter is on the Web at:

<http://www.chineseclayart.com>

Chief Editor: Guangzhen "Po" Zhou, English Editor: Deborah Bouchette

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New Products at Chinese Clay Art

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New Products at Chinese Clay Art

Requested by some of our customers, Chinese Clay Art Corporation is planning to carry many products for jewelry art. We are going to have our Chinese vendors make some ceramic beads and pendants. Some of them are designed by Po Zhou, our director who has been working in the arts and crafts field since 1975 in Shanghai China. The first batch of products will be available online about early September, 2007, and will include a variety of

ceramic beads, cords and other accessories.

Guangzhen Zhou, Chief Editor

Testimonial regarding Tours of Ceramics China

 [Ceramics China June 07](#)

Testimonial regarding Tours of Ceramics China *For details of our upcoming tour in October 2007, please visit www.ChineseClayArt.com*

From Ingeborg, www.thepottersworkshop.com

We spent a couple of days in JingDeZhen and I think it is one of my favorite places. What a lovely campus where you work. Regretfully, Po was not able to locate you while we were at the Ceramic Institute.

I have many great memories and wonderful pictures of the bustling ceramic business. Everywhere I looked people were transporting enormous pots on the back of bikes, mopeds or those two wheeled carts pulled by human beasts of burden. Twice I saw a large truck (dump truck size) loaded to the hilt with rectangular clay extrusions. It was quite a sight and unfortunately, my camera was not ready. By the time it booted up, the truck swerved around a corner and was gone to whatever factory he was delivering the clay, which, by the way, was not packaged in any way. It would have been a great shot.

The first part of our trip with Po was a gastronomic delight. What we think of Chinese food is a sad replica of what we actually experienced in China. It was quite something. I wish I had some of the recipes that these great dishes were concocted from. All of the restaurants Po took us to were quite nice, but I regretted not being able to eat at the little roadside stands. We were duly warned if we wanted to stay well and not risk illness to not drink the water nor eat at that kind of establishment. While I never paid for any of the meals, it appeared eating out was very reasonable at least by our standards. The food was fantastic and we ate large quantities three times per day. Hard to believe that I didn't put on 10 lbs while there. Actually I didn't gain an ounce. Amazing!

We all purchased tools in Yixing and brushes, ink and paper in Beijing. The prices were unbelievable. I am anxious to get back into the studio and try using some of them before I forget what they are for. I am now wondering what I bought buffalo horn for? But, how many times do you get the opportunity to purchase buffalo horn?

It was a wonderful trip, something to remember for a very long time. Now I am back home and need to get back into the swing of things here. Work always waits for you, it seems, and it is hard to get much done with the heat and oppressive humidity. We are now in the rainy season and every afternoon it storms and usually rains often times with horrendous lightning storms where it is not safe to be outside. It helps cool things off somewhat (for an hour or so--ha ha) Soon I will have to get back into the studio and make inventory for the upcoming tourist season. My little Yixing teapot will be on display in my gallery...of course it won't be for sale. And if I don't find a use for my buffalo horn I guess it can go on display as well.

Ingeborg, www.thepottersworkshop.com

From Ric Swenson

Ingeborg, Happy to hear about your trip with PO...He is indeed a gem. He helped me with my first visa application and I met him here when he brought a group to JDZ last year. BTW Don't miss the CERAMICS MONTHLY article on Trimming in the current (June-July, Summer issue, 2007) It was written and photographed by my friend "Shirley" who is just finishing her graduate degree in ceramics here at the JingDeZhen Ceramic Institute. Her photos, I think, are quite outstanding. The article clearly explains the trimming process as it has been done here for nearly a millenium ("thin as paper, sound as a bell, white as jade.....usw). I just watched a program on CCTV-9 (China's English language station...available on cable worldwide) about Hu Tian Fe and his long research and work on the Cadmium cone 13 China Red glaze. Some of the first Chinese ceramic work, according to archeologists, was done in Chang Cha, Hunan Province. (They showed an unglazed piece 15,000 years old!) The kilns at Chang Cha were purportedly the first to do Copper reds....and are the origins of the 'sacrificial' firing stories...and strong reduction causing the copper to go ox blood red instead of green, pink or the combination peach blossom. I flashed-back to 1980, when I met the monk (Brother Thomas) at Weston Priory in Vermont, who did beautiful copper reds. His porcelain 'pots' weren't too shabby either. Happy potting. Ric

Call Entries



The International Ceramic Art Exhibition at Jingdezhen, China

Entry Deadline: August 10, 2007

The exhibition is sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of State Commerce and Chinese National Ceramics

Association, and the catalog of the exhibition will be printed and distributed to all over the world.
As one of the sponsors, Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA will organize the exhibits from the United States to

join the show in Jingdezhen, China.

Schedule:

Deadline; Entry materials received through email before August 10, 2007. Notification: August 16

The actual works must arrive in San Jose California by August 31 and will be shipped to China together. Or the artists may send the pieces directly to Jingdezhen, where it needs to arrive in China before October 10th, 2007.

Qualifications:

All ceramic artists must live in the US. All entry works must be at least 60% made out of fired clay. The work's size cannot exceed 12 inches in any direction; the total weight must not exceed 30 pounds.

Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA will help ship the exhibits back to your home or studio address. To avoid paying the high international shipping costs, we suggest all of the entry works to be donated to the Chinese government for their permanent collections. The exhibition and donation certificates will be received within two months.

Insurance: the artists have to pay for their own shipping insurance. Chinese Ceramic Art Council accepts no responsibility for any damage to the art works.

Please email your short version bio, two images of the art work, and your contact information to ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com.

Contact:

Guangzhen Zhou, Chinese Clay Art USA
1155 De Anza Blvd. San Jose, CA 95129
Email: ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com
Tel. 408-343-3919

Taiwan Ceramics Biennale 2008

Deadline: August 31, 2007

Awards:

1. Grand Prix (1 winner): NT\$1,300,000.(≈US\$40,000.), a trophy and a certificate.
2. Gold (1 winner): NT\$650,000., a trophy and a certificate.
3. Silver (2 winners): NT\$250,000., a trophy and a certificate.
4. Bronze (3 winners): NT\$150,000., a trophy and a certificate.
5. Special (5 winners): NT\$100,000., a trophy and a certificate.
6. Commendation (7 winners): a trophy and a certificate.
7. Selected works (approximately 100 recipients): a certificate of selection.

Please check out the details and send application at:

<http://www.ceramics.tpc.gov.tw/competition>

Contact:

Miao-Feng Chen Tel: 886-2-8677-2727 Ext. 509 . 200, Wenhua Rd. , Yingge, Taipei 23942 , Taiwan

Third International Small Teapot Competition and Show

Saddleback College Art Gallery, Mission Viejo, California, USA

The First Prize will be a free trip of Ceramics China

Entry Deadline: December 10, 2007

Exhibition: February 21 through March 21, 2008

Artist's Reception: February 21, 2008, 6 to 9 pm

Juror: Guangzhen "Po" Zhou
Contact: Teapot Competition Saddleback College Art Gallery 28000 Marguerite Parkway
Mission Viejo, CA 92692 USA
<http://gallery.saddleback.edu/shows/25FE B08/>

DVD: Teapot Center of Yixing



The World Center of Teapot Making Yixing China

Producer: Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA

Introduction: Yixing (e-shing in English pronunciation), also known as Yangxian in ancient time, is about three hours' driving distance from Shanghai. Ceramic production in the local areas can be traced to Neolithic time, and the purple sand ("Zisha" in Chinese)-brownish clay is made into palm- sized unglazed stoneware teapots--the best known are from Yixing. Yixing City

has been famously named as the "Pottery Capital" of China. Yixing also attracts tourists with its famous bamboo, tea, and caves. There are over eighty caves in the mountain area. The Yixing art that amazes Western culture is perfected in the artists' craftsmanship, variation of design, details of decoration (realistic insects, flowers, leaves, tree trunks or wood textures), all hand building techniques. Yixing ceramists join Chinese scholars, literati, painters, calligraphers, poets and patrons--all together creating a rich teapot history.

The film is about 53 minutes and in sections. The first section introduces the environment of Yixing and the history of Yixing teapots. The second section is about the ceramic cultural exchanges between Yixing and the international ceramic world. The last section demonstrates the whole process of Yixing teapot- making techniques demonstrated by well- known artist Meiqun Gu.

From the author: I have been working on this film since 1996. I like to show the audience the huge water jars stacked by the waterfront, and the boats carrying the pots on the canal. I took photos every time I went to Yixing. Change has been so quick in China, many of the sites in my film have gone and are replaced by high rise buildings.

This DVD is available for \$18 each (regular price is \$21), plus shipping and handing fee. Please check details at www.ChineseClayArt.com.

email: chineseclayart@hotmail.com

phone: 1-800-689-2529

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

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