



The Chinese Clay Art, USA

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Chinese Clay Art, USA

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"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

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A Letter to All of the Artists around the World

Regarding to the Bureaucracy of Chinese Cultural Administration

Date: Sept. 9, 2009

The 115 km long railway for the 350 km per hour bullet train took only 37 months to get finished. The efficiency of the Chinese government shocked many people around the world. I believe that the Chinese government has been doing outstanding great jobs during the past three decades!

I love my mother country, but I have to fight against this new regulation for the art world. I am writing this letter to Chinese government and the US embassy in Beijing. I need your endorsement.

The Temporary Regulations of the Artworks Import and Export Administration was posted by the Cultural Administration of Beijing government that effective since August 1, 2009. According to this regulation, there shall be no international art exhibitions, nor shall any artworks will be allowed for shows in China without the government's permission - including artworks exported from China! None of China's artists will able to participate in international art events without the special permit. All of the imported and exported artworks need to get a special permit from the cultural department of the provincial government. To apply the permit, each single image of the artworks, name of the artists and the descriptions need to be submitted to the provincial cultural bureau officers for approval. The waiting period is about 15 day and then there are the costs of document fees

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and handling charges.

I have been in the US for two decades. During the first decade, I have introduced western ceramic art in Chinese magazines and compiled a book, American Ceramic Artists Today. During the second decade, I have promoted Chinese traditional ceramic culture to the US, especially the Yixing Purple Clay Art, and I had my second book published, Chinese Ceramic Cultural Site-A Traveler's Handbook, in both Chinese and English. During our past ceramic cultural exchange programs, there were a lot of Western artworks have been donated to Jingdezhen Government hosted exhibitions and Yixing Ceramic Museum. Thanks to everyone who has been donated their art to China and has been supporting our cultural exchange programs before!

I will be the judge for Big Fish, Small Pot, 4th International Small Teapot Competition and Show hosted by Saddleback College Art Gallery, Mission Viejo, California and I know a lot of Chinese artists who would like to participate in this show. But because of the new regulation of the Cultural Administration, it will be impossible for them to send out any artworks to other countries without pay extra for the permits.

The new regulation made all the international art events related with Chinese artists become impossible tasks. We don't want the Chinese artists to be excluded from the rest of the art world.

Anyway, I will continue to participate and to curate ceramic art exhibitions in China and to promote western ceramic art in China. No one will be able to stop me.

Thanks to everyone who has been donated their art to China and has been supporting our cultural exchange program!

For the Chinese version of the regulation, please visit the [link](#)

I need your support! For endorsement, please send an email to:

ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com. (Please use email subject: Support Art).

Thanks!

Guangzhen (Po) Zhou

For what I have been doing during the past two decades, please click [my resume](#). Thanks!

Guangzhen Zhou, Chief Editor

The Report from Beijing Art Expo 2009



On the behalf of the Chinese ceramic Art Council USA, we have hosted the Best American Ceramic Art in Beijing Art Expo 2009, World Trade Center in Beijing. It is hard to believe what happened in China after the Beijing Olympics 2008.

Before the show

I have written articles for each included artist and have also printed a forty page, full color catalog. To promote the show, I have established four blogs: the first one is for Chinese ceramic art groups only, the second and third are for art communities, and the forth blog is for general people. I

have been posting my articles, artwork introductions, and pictures almost everyday. I have had updated my blogs two times each day during the last two weeks before the opening, and have got about 200 hits each day. So, many of my articles have been posted on the first pages and my name has become a blog star.

Meanwhile, three of my articles have been published in Chinese art magazines. Also, I have purchased some online AD for the show and have created the definition of the word "Contemporary Ceramic Art" for Baidu, which is the largest online encyclopedia in China. Since I have paid the deposit early, I obtained the booth with the best location - facing the main entrance.

Many problems started after the cargo arrived in Beijing

The Cultural Administration of Beijing government has posted a new regulation effective since August 1, 2009. All of the imported and export artworks need to get special permission from the cultural department of the local provincial government. As a business company from a foreign country, I can't sell anything during this commercial show. If I would like to sell anything above \$5 USD, I have to pay 1000RMB (about \$150 USD), plus a 1000RMB document handling fee (total is \$300 document fee for EACH transaction) and the tax (the custom duty and sale tax together will be 34%) - plus the two week waiting period after the show and the warehouse storage fee and the document process fees. Also, there were a lot of hidden charges from the Chinese broker. Since the cargo arrived in their warehouse, I have to pay whatever they asked. I have been paid over \$20,000 USD for this commercial art show, but I can't sell anything due to the new regulations.

Once our cargo had arrived on the exhibition site, one of the officers came towards me and he collected some items to bring back to the custom's office. He took away my cutting knife and packing tape, which were made in China. Each item's value was less than \$1 USD and were for personal use. I shipped them together for show installation.

There was a big problem. I have shipped 40 copies of my book American Ceramic Artists Today, which was published in Beijing in 1998. "Any book import needs get a special permit from a book import and export company! You are not allowed to bring any books from another country." The officer said. I told him many times, this is a book published in Beijing. I have donated 200 copies to major art schools all over China through the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the Central Government and I shipped thousands copies to the US tax free as an educational item 1999. Why did it become a problem when the books return to Beijing?

During the show in Beijing

The American ceramic artworks have been received very well and I received many inquiries from the Chinese collectors. I have made a lot of new friends there. During the show, I have been interviewed by some major news mediums, which included Beijing TV and Xin-Hua News. My new work, a lady-bee (a bee with a girl's head) has been featuring on the morning news of CCTV, the news network of China.

Due to the Chinese regulation, it is impossible to sell any artworks during this commercial art exhibition! There were a lot of complicated procedures, handling charges and document fees, plus the waiting period of 15 days after the show ended.

After the Exhibition, Payment for 2nd permit plus the tax

Many young artists who I never met before come towards me offering to help. I had

several artists working together to pack the pieces by the end of the show. The show was over. Since one of the large pieces was broken, I would like to keep it in China. "If you want to throw away the broken piece, you still have to pay the 34% tax plus all of the handling charges. They are two different kinds of permits. One is the exhibition permit, and second is the import permit. You need to apply from the Cultural Bureau of Beijing, and to pay 1500RMB for the permit (one page with a red seal), as well as 1000RMB for importing documents."

What happened to me is: it cost a lot of extra US dollars to have the three artworks kept in China. I have paid over twenty thousand US dollars in total for the show and I wasn't able to sell any artworks because of this new policy.

Opportunity: Big Fish, Small Pot, 4th International Small Teapot Competition and Show

Saddleback College Art Gallery, 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, California USA. Entry deadline: 11 DEC 2009. Exhibition: 11 FEB through 11 MAR 2010
Please visit [here](#)

Avant Garde Clay in Jingdezhen, China



For a long time, I have been studying the: comparison of the Mainstream of Art and the Contemporary Ceramic. I plan to curate an exhibition of Avant Garde Clay in Jingdezhen. China. The exhibition will be beyond the traditional cultural, beyond the ordinary ceramic techniques, beyond the standard academic systems and beyond the three dimensional.

We would like to be creative and explore all kinds of possibilities of creating art with ceramic materials. The exhibits could be collectable art or non-collectable art, fired clay or unfired clay. The artworks could use mixed mediums, they could be conceptual art, ready made, installation, performance art, video art, etc., but, all of the exhibits must be ceramic material related (it must contain more than 50% ceramic material).

Additional information will be release after I have confirmed with my Chinese partners.

Catalog Preface-The Best American Ceramic Art in Beijing International Art Expo 2009

In the fall of 1989, as the first foreign student from mainland China to the US in the ceramic art field, I studied in the University of Minnesota- Duluth and received my MA degree. I was quite choked by the originality and the variety of textures, colors, shapes, and forms, as well as the expressions of freedom in the ceramic field. In the mid-1990's, I had many articles published in Chinese magazines that introduced American ceramic artists to China. 1998, I had my first contemporary ceramic book, titled "American Ceramic Artists Today", featuring 50 American ceramic artists, published in Beijing and I organized the first American ceramic art show in Shanghai International Art Expo 2000. Chinese ceramic art is based on traditional, mass- produced craft arts from thousands years ago, and American clay art is based on the influences of the Japanese Mingei movement and the abstract expressionism that Peter Voulkos started about half century ago. In the US, the contemporary clay arts have been involved with Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, Surrealism, Junk Art, Pop Art, Optical Art, Super Realism, the Funk Art Movement, and Post- Modernism.

With the rapid growth of the Chinese economy, the cultural climate has changed as well. Clay studios have been established everywhere in schools and in public shopping areas. The artists of the young generation are anxious to contemporary ceramic art from western countries. So, I think, this might be the time to exhibit American ceramic artwork in China and try the Chinese art market.

I have received entry materials from nearly 200 artists all over the US. Due to the high competition of the event and limited exhibition space, I could only take a small number of exhibits. I had to select diverse pieces for the show and attempt to meet the preference of Chinese art market. I must apologize to the many artists who have sent very powerful images of their artworks but were still rejected.

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting this event! I would also like to express my gratitude to many of my friends in the US and China who have been contributing their efforts for this event.

Thanks again!

Guangzhen Po Zhou

San Jose, California, July 2009

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BK 021-The Best American Ceramic Art in Beijing International Art Expo 2009.



The full color, 40-page exhibition catalog was printed with 34 pieces of verity ceramic artworks done by 24 artists for the Beijing Art Expo. The pieces were selected from over 200 images nation-wide. The exhibition was hosted by the Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA at the World Trade Center in Beijing and was very well received in China. The artists were as follows: Marilyn Levine, Sally Brogden, Barbara Brown, Annette Corcoran, Harris Deller, Julia Feld, Verne Funk, David Furman,

Anne Goldman, Bridget Cherie Harper, Sylvia Hyman, Thomas Kerrigan, Bob Kinzie, Louis Marak, Lee Middleman, Una Mjurka, Richard Shaw, Randolph Sill, Rimas VisGirda, Kurt Weiser, Stan Welsh, Fred Yokel, Scott Ziegler, and Guangzhen Po Zhou.

BK 021, The retail price is \$15 each , \$10 each for purchase of 10 and up. The catalog will be available by the mid of next month.

Monthly Sales

B 652B, Round Piont brushes, \$2.00, on sale \$1.50;
B 661A, Standard Flat nrushes, \$2.00, on sale \$1.50;
B 505, Student brushes, \$4.80, on sale \$3.75;
CH 14,Hole Cutter w/wood handle, \$11.50, on Sale \$10.00;

Steel Sieves on Sale

SS 20-9, \$ 16.00, on sale \$14.00;
SS 25-6, \$20.00, on sale \$17.00;
SS 25-8, \$20.00, on sale \$17.00;
SS 28-6, \$23.00, on sale \$20.00;
SS 28-8, \$23.00, on sale \$20.00;
SS 28-9, \$23.00, on sale \$20.00;

Poster on Sale BK 950, 100 Teapots of Yixing. \$10, on Sale \$8.00;
BK 951,100 Chinese Historical Ceramic Art. \$10, on Sale \$8.00;
BK 952, 100 Contemporary Teapot of West, \$12.00, on Sale \$9.00;
BK 956, The Traditional Yixing Teapot Construction. \$12.00, on Sale \$9.00;
BK 904, set of 4 posters, \$36.00, on Sale \$30.00.

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