



**The Chinese Clay Art, USA**  
PO Box 1733, Cupertino, CA 95015, USA  
Tel. 1-800-689-2529, Fax. 408-343-0117  
[chineseclayart@hotmail.com](mailto:chineseclayart@hotmail.com),

## Chinese Clay Art, USA

### Newsletter Vol. 85

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[Newsletters](#)

"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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### ***Happy Chinese New Year of Tiger! -from the editor Po Zhou***

The new Chinese lunar year is coming, and it is on February 14, the same day as Valentine's day. I wish all of you health, happiness and productivity in art and keep growing your business as a tiger with wings!

February 2010

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Guangzhen Zhou, Chief Editor

***The Grand Prize Winner of the 4th International Teapot Competition and Show at Saddleback College, California***



February 11th was the opening of the show. Over eighty exhibits were selected from more than 300 entries this time. The exhibition is growing. There are so many powerful teapots and such a variation of styles and forms. There were over twenty pieces sold on the first day. Many of them were purchased by one of the largest teapot collectors in southern California. The Grand Prize winner is Kevin Chamberlain, Iowa City. He will join our "Ceramic China Tour " in June this year. His piece is titled "Arachnipot". It is a tiny, very delicate and highly realistic sculpture of a spider with a variation of the glaze affects. On top of the spider is the unglazed handle and spout; underneath, five tips legs standing on the small pedestal. If you look at it carefully, there is the tiny body part of another spider sticking out from the pedestal. The pedestal is part of the artwork. I would like to thank all of the artists who have participated in the exhibition this time and during the past years. If I missed your piece this time, please don't feel disappointed. I am just one person's eye with my own personal preference. Also, I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Tony Huntley and Gloria Gimbrone at Saddleback College, who gave me the chance to be the juror of the show, and his colleagues -- the gallery team, who have been contributing a lot of energy and time for this show. It has been seven years since the first International Teapot Competition and Show started at Saddleback College. I am very impressed by the development of this show.

*Chinese Artist Zhangfa Qian will visit the US*



As a residence artist, the Chinese Artist Mr. Zhangfa Qian will visit the US and stay at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, California for one month. His artworks are unique.

Zhangfa Qian is a member of China National Ceramic Industry Association, a member of Chinese National Arts and Craft Association and a member of Zhejiang Artists' Association.

Mr. Qian was born in 1966 at Changxing Zhejiang Province, which is about a 40-minute drive from the Purple Sand Teapot Town. In 1985, he studied at the ceramics department at Chinese Academy of Arts. Also, he has learned traditional Yixing techniques from a local master.

Since 1990, he has received many prizes from national ceramic art competitions and his works have been collected by many art museums in Korea, Japan and China.



### ***The scholarship for Ceramic China tour***

We are offering a scholarship for artists and educators (we may arrange a slides talk in one of the art schools in China). If anyone is interested in the program, please send your resume and five images of your works through email to

ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com.

The tour application form is online at

[www.ChineseClayArt.com](http://www.ChineseClayArt.com)

***About the underglaze decal***



**From Barbara Brown, Sunnyvale, California**

Here is the information on using the decals I got from Suzanne Wolfe who is an expert in this. My first project was with my lowfire class. We used lowfire white clay (cone 04) from Clay Planet. We made the piece, let it dry a week, followed Suzanne's instructions, fired in bisque kiln to 04,(one student left the paper on the piece when it went into the bisque kiln. This is not a good idea, the paper should be peeled off and thrown away before firing). The next week we put lowfire clear glaze on piece and glaze fired it to 06. They turned out great.

I then took the idea to my highfire class and we made piece, let dry, put on decals, bisque fired to 04. Next week we put highfire transparent glaze on piece and fired it to cone 10. Some students used Bmix and some porcelain. The porcelain pieces came out the best. So from now on I will use porcelain when doing this project with my students in high fire studio. I had a book about a Chinese potter with pictures of his work and it looked like he used decals on top of glaze so I tried one piece this way. I bisque fired the piece, then glazed the piece with 2 glazes (1 on each half of the tray). One glaze was gloss white and the other waxy white. I then layed the decal over the wet glaze and took a brush and brushed on more water until the decal came off the paper. Threw the paper away. Put the piece into kiln and fired it to cone 10. It came out ok but the blue decal design is not nearly as bright as it is fired on greenware and then glazed with transparent. So I will not do that decal on top glaze project again.

My Sunnyvale students are excited with the possibilities of using underglaze decals and I will share the lesson with my students at Palo Alto when we start class on the 14th. You are welcome to take any of this information and condense it and share it with people who buy the decals from you.

**From Suzanne Wolfe, Hawaii, USA**

Decals -- tissue transfers. Use on bone dry clay. Face down, Squeeze water underneath - between the decal face and the clay. Let surface lose sheen, and remove carefully. If some color is left behind, squeeze a little more water in between and wait a little longer. I have fired to both low and high fire equally well. High temp we bisque to cone 06 and glaze to cone 9 -- every color is fine. Low fire we bisque to cone 04 and glaze to cone 06 -- every color is fine. Hope this helps.

[Read on...](#)

***New Products***



**CH 17**, Adjustable Tri-Blade Slab Cutter, W. 16" (cutting space). \$58.00  
Made out of aluminum alloy tube with three adjustable stainless-steel blades

**CM 03**, Tube Shaped Carving Set, 17 pieces L. 6.5", \$29.00  
Made out of stainless steel with 34 different shaped carving knives

**SR 15**, Serrated Scraper, Stainless Steel, \$1.50

**New Decals**, please click [Decals](#)

**DC 821**, "Wood Surface" Decal, 14.25" x 9.75", \$6.00

Easier to make super-realism clay works. The decal may change your clay work to be a wood surface looking.

**Underglaze Decals**, different patterns: Dragon, Harp Fish, Flowers, Sea Shell, Mini-Cubic, Fans.

email: [chineseclayart@hotmail.com](mailto:chineseclayart@hotmail.com)

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