

Hands In Clay

March 2003

General Meetings

Our meetings are held at the Nepean Sportsplex at 1701 Woodroffe Avenue. Meetings start at 7:30, the library opens at 7:00. Executive Meetings precede the general meeting and begin at 6:30. Remaining dates are April 8 (Tuesday) and May 6 (Tuesday).

Meeting Program Tuesday, April 8

Thanks goes to Bruce Jones for making the arrangements for this month's guest speaker, Stéphane Bédard.

Shoji Hamada has been quoted as saying that "the art of throwing pots should be likened, not to mountaineering but rather 'strolling down a hillside in a gentle breeze'". Essentially this is the view of Shambhala Art. Why does it sometimes seem like effort and what is the path to 'strolling down a hillside in a gentle breeze'.

Stéphane Bédard will give a talk on the universal nature of creativity, how to allow the space for creativity to happen, the nature of perception and seeing things as they are. His talk will feature slides of the Shambhala Art program in Ottawa.

Stéphane is a master of ikebana and has taught meditation for 25 years. He has taught Shambhala Art in France, the U.S., and Canada. He works as a translator in Ottawa.

Visit <http://www.shambhalaottawa.ca/dharmar2.htm>

Fusion Conference in Ottawa

The Fusion Conference is fast approaching. **There is a need for volunteers** to do a variety of jobs such as posting signs around the conference centre at Carleton, helping with registration and other jobs that will help to make the Conference smooth running and successful. There will be a sign up sheet at the next Guild meeting where people can choose a job to volunteer for. If you can't attend the meeting and would like to actively participate in the Conference, please call Anne Chambers at 823-6826.

Editor

Contact Gord Smith with information for the newsletter. **Deadline for the April Newsletter is Friday April 18, 2003.**

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Guild Website www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca

Almonte Potters Guild, a.k.a “Mudslingers”! has 1100 square feet of space, with three kilns and seven wheels. Our day time slots are not full and we are offering studio space and classes at very reasonable rates. If you have been looking for somewhere to fulfill your creativity, then Mudslingers is for you! For more information call Rosemary McGinnis at 256-5556 or 257-1075.

Annual Membership

Attached to this newsletter please find the form for registering and paying for your membership to the Guild for the coming year. The fee has increased to \$25.00 for a single membership and \$35.00 for a family membership. Heidi Geraets and I will process all membership cards and receipts and bring them to the May 6th meeting. Any not distributed at the meeting will be mailed.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation,
Cathy Payne, membership secretary, and Heidi Geraets, membership secretary volunteer.

Members' Album News

Please be sure to check out the MEMBERS' ALBUM at the meetings. Each month we have 3 to 5 new pages being added. If you don't come to the meetings, the book will be available and on display during the guild's Spring and Christmas Sales. Attached to this newsletter you'll find the form to fill in and return to me, Cathy Payne. I'm happy to do your page for you, or if you have the capability you can, of course, do your own page as others have. For those who have more professional pages already done, please consider adding them to the album. We'd like to get as many of the 188 current members represented as possible! The album has become a fascinating means for getting to know the variety and diversity of talent represented by our membership. Please, also, consider adding your business card to the album, and any other pictures of your current work or other items to your photo sleeve. I've really enjoyed working on this project, so I'm anxiously awaiting future contributions!

Cathy Payne

Who's Who

<i>President</i>	Vickie Salinas	<i>Vice President</i>	Lisa-Marie Serafin
<i>Past President</i>	Anne Creskey	<i>Secretary</i>	Roz Tabachnick
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jean Jaffe	<i>Membership</i>	Cathy Payne
<i>Newsletter</i>	Gord Smith	<i>Members Workshops</i>	Gina Marin
<i>Outside Workshops</i>	Chandler Swain	<i>Librarian</i>	Barb Engel
<i>Exhibition Convener</i>	Sandra Marshall	<i>Standards and Education</i>	
<i>Sales Committee</i>			Doris McIlroy
	Vickie Salinas		Louise Simonson
	Lis Allison		Catherine Brewster
	Pat Jessop		Diny van den Berg
	Jennifer Fuller		Chandler Swain
	Carolynne Pynn-Trudeau		Rosemary Swan
	Alison McCleary		Rita Redner
			Lucie Rossignal
<i>Refreshment Convener</i>	Joyce Lemke	<i>Website Manager</i>	Bruce Jones

Gauguin To Matisse

The OPG will be taking a field trip to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to see the current exhibition **A Voyage Into Myth - Gauguin To Matisse** from the Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia on Wednesday April 23rd, 2003. The cost is \$16 for the bus; \$6 for a Senior's or full-time student admission; \$12 for admission other than Seniors or students; and, \$5 for a guided headphone tour.

Departure will be from the rear parking lot at the Nepean Sportsplex at 8:30 am. We are booked at the exhibition for 11:00 am., and will leave Montreal around 6:00 pm to head home.

Please fill in the form and post to Carolyn Gibbs, RR#4, North Augusta, ON K0G 1R0 (613 924-2323). Applications must be received by 31 March.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____.

Admission: \$ _____ Bus: \$ _____ Headphone guided tour? \$ _____ Total: \$ _____.

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS-- MONTHLY UPDATE --as of March 2003

Please add to your current list of addresses.

New members are noted with date of membership: (year-month, eg. 02-5)

Contact Cathy Payne with inquiries etc., (819)827-3504, fishart@magma.ca

Karen Kurtzrock kkustzrock@sympatico.ca	2047 Quincy Ave. Ottawa, ON K1J 6B2	749-4759
Janice Glover gloverj@rogers.com		

Classified Ads

Wanted: Information or guidance on the use of **paper clay** for sculpting purpose and the specifics for firing. Does anyone offer workshops on this subject? Please contact Janice at 737-9595 or gloverj@rogers.com.

I have a **Bailey Pneumatic extruder**, stand and numerous dies that I would like to part with. It requires an air compressor to operate and this is not included. I would like \$1000 dollars for the extruder or would be willing to trade it for other pottery equipment (electric wheel, manual extruder, electric kiln). I'm located in Mississauga, Ontario and can be reached at maforbes@passport.ca or at (905) 510-2761. Margaret

Estrin wheel for sale. Includes attached work table and splash pan. Can be used as kick wheel or with attached motor. Asking \$300. Stored in West Island, Montreal. Call Joan Bowden 234-7719.

Small electric enameling kiln for sale. Inside diameter 10" x 4 1/2" x 7". Comes with fully illustrated enameling book. Regular three pronged plug. \$150. Call Rosemary Swan 749-8109. roneilswan@rogers.com.

The **Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art** hosts a variety of lectures and talks about subjects that may be of interest to Guild members. These include "The Maya Universe" and "Lords of Creation: The Origins of Sacred Maya Kingship".

There will be a presentation by Yixing Master Ah Leon. The world's first teapots were produced in Yixing, China, in the 16th century. Ah Leon, a modern master of this venerable ceramic tradition, discusses his work and others.

For Information or Program Registration 416-586-8080
www.gardinermuseum.on.ca.

Update on co-op studio venture. A space for a pottery studio is being considered in the same complex of buildings where a group from our guild met last month. This new space is smaller but has just as many possibilities including a yard where, dare I say it, there's space for a gas kiln and a garden/sitting/working area. There is still room for a gallery. Since it is smaller a whole bunch of teaching and out reach will not be necessary. This space is coming available this summer and the landlord will work with us to specifically renovate the space. This could start May or June.

For all of this to come together a cohesive group must be pulled together to set up the co-operative. The core group who has been investigating this has determined that the easiest way to get rolling is to have a group of folks who all have an equal stake in the venture with equal access to it. Since the rent will be approx. \$1800/month we need 20 committed potters to sign on the dotted line (extra \$ for expenses). This will give each person a key to the studio and a voice in the running and organization of the space for \$100/ month. This excellent value for a studio in such a great area. This group needs to come together quickly so this rare and wonderful opportunity doesn't pass us by. This offer is going out to the guild and the group of 25 individuals that met with us at the 1st prospective space on Gladstone Ave. If we don't get our 20 from this group, we will continue to advertise to other pottery groups.

We will also have to start seriously looking for equipment but there is space for people to bring their own wheels and create their own niches. We will need work crews to build work tables and shelving. We may need to do some kind of fund raiser or ask every one to invest a couple of hundred \$\$\$ in the venture.

If you may want to be a member of the co-op it is very important that you come to a meeting at Chandler's Studio at 7 pm on Thursday, March 27. Chandler's studio is at 155g Loretta, one block west of the O Train overpass and just north of Gladstone. Please email or call Chandler if you want to be in on this. Email: kidswain@sympatico.ca or call 730-1247. Chandler (for Susan, Art and Marek).

Creative Art Workshop. Paint or do something with clay. Spring is here. Let your creativity, your inner child come out. Anyone is welcome! No previous experience with mud, paint or brushes needed. Just for you. Enjoy the process. The freedom of expression, the spontaneous and intuitive impulse. Workshop fees 10/hour; clay \$1 per pound.

Rosario Umana and Ricardo Gomez. 18 Kinmount Private in Kanata (near Campeau and old Castlefrank, now Kanata Ave). Call 599 5185.

Inspirations in Clay 2003

The exhibition this year will have a double exposure -first at the Spring show April 10-13 and again during the Fusion Conference at Carleton University May 23 to 25. Leta Cormier of North Gower has agreed to act as judge for the show. A few words about Leta follow. The Guild thanks the contributors of prizes -Tucker's Pottery Supplies, The Pottery Supply House, Wallack's Fine Art and Drafting Supplies, and Capital Pottery Supplies and Studio. With the Guild's contribution, the prizes represent a value of \$850. They will be awarded for Best Design, Best Decorated, Best in Show, Best Functional, Best Non-functional, and Juror's Choice. The corrected rules and registration form are attached to this newsletter. Make sure that you read them carefully as they differ from last year's.

Leta Cormier

Leta has been making raku and reduction fired pottery for thirty years. Her work has received awards for excellence and innovation and has been twice nominated for the Saidye Bronfman Award. She has pieces in many public and private collections including the Burlington Cultural Center, City of Ottawa, Claridge Collection, Museum of Civilization, Ontario Crafts Council, Winnipeg Art Gallery. During this time she has also been actively involved in the arts community as a volunteer, teacher, consultant and juror. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Potters Association (Fusion), Ontario Crafts Council, Canadian Crafts Council, Ottawa Council for the Arts, Ottawa Arts Foundation and the Ottawa Art Gallery. Leta recently spent two years in Nova Scotia where she worked with photography, pastel and watercolour. Returning to her pottery studio in the fall of 2001, she is currently working on an integrated exploration/expression of these experiences.

Heritage Trades Fair at the Pinhey's Point Historic Site Sunday, July 6 from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The City of Ottawa Museums would like to invite members of the Ottawa Guild of Potters to the Heritage Trades Fair to be held at the Pinhey's Point Historic Site on Sunday, July 6 from 10:00 to 4:00.

The objective of the fair is to feature a variety of heritage trades and crafts that are perhaps not as widespread or common today. We have invited wood workers, quilt makers, blacksmiths, spinners and weavers and other trades people to demonstrate their craft. The fair will take place in the historic park adjacent to the Pinhey house. Tents will be set up for added shade space. Demonstrators are invited to sell any products and crafts that they produce. The museum will provide tables and chairs as well as refreshments throughout the day.

Contact Anik Després; Education / Interpretation Officer; City of Ottawa Museums; 2100 Cabot St.; Ottawa, Ontario; K1H 6K1; Tel: 247-4944 ; Fax: 247-4832 ; Anik.Despres@Ottawa.ca.

Glaze Talk
by Karen Latorre

This is the fourth in a series of columns focused on glazes.

In the last column we walked through the unity formula, the silica to alumina ratio, and limit formulas, and used these representations of glazes to set an expectation of what a glaze will look like, and to make decisions on what to alter in a glaze to achieve a different desired result.

Each of the oxides in a formula provides it's own properties to a glaze and can influence the end result we're trying to achieve. In this column I will cover a brief description of the base oxides, and what we can expect from them. I will not be covering the effects of lead on glazes. Should anyone be interested in this oxide, please refer to "The Potters Dictionary" by Frank and Janet Hamer.

Firing temperature references indicated below for earthenware refer to cone 08 – 02 firing levels, mid range references refer to cone 4 to cone 7, and high fire refer to cone 8 and above.

Sodium (Na_2O)	Most active flux. Useful flux for earthenware, mid range, and high fire glazes. May volatilize at higher temperatures. Tends to produce a soft glaze (easily scratched) which will weather and deteriorate over time. Highest coefficient of expansion which increases possibility of crazing. Intensifies the effects of colouring oxides. Brilliant alkaline colour response (turquoise blue with copper, mauve with cobalt, reddish purple with manganese).
Potassium (K_2O)	Second most active flux. Useful flux for earthenware, mid range, and high fire glazes. Provides brilliance to a glaze. Intensifies the effects of colouring oxides. Brilliant alkaline colour response (bluish purple with manganese, greens with copper, blue with cobalt).
Lithium (Li_2O)	Potentially poisonous oxide. Care should be taken in handling this raw material. Useful flux for earthenware, mid range, and high fire glazes. In low amounts adds gloss and strength to a glaze, and can reduce pinholing. Lower coefficient of expansion than sodium and potassium thereby reducing tendency to craze. In a glaze with boron, may form crystals in the glaze bucket. Intensifies the effects of colouring oxides. Alkaline blues with copper and pinks with cobalt.

ALKALINE EARTH OXIDES

Barium (BaO)	<p>Poisonous material which should not be used on food surfaces. Handle raw materials containing barium with caution.</p> <p>Useful flux for mid range and high fire glazes.</p> <p>Provides the most brilliance of the alkaline earth oxides.</p> <p>Can provide a soft satiny matt glaze surface (except in the presence of boron).</p> <p>In oxidation gives alkaline blues with cobalt and copper, yellow greens and apple greens with chrome, and a range of colours (blue, pink, plum, red, purple) with nickel.</p> <p>In reduction can give celadons and iron blues.</p>
Calcium (CaO)	<p>Useful flux for mid range (down to cone 01) and high fire glazes.</p> <p>Increases hardness and durability of a glaze.</p> <p>Enhances whiteness.</p> <p>Can provide a slight dulling to the surface of a glaze without affecting transparency.</p> <p>Tends towards alkaline colour responses in presence of small amount of colouring oxide, and can bleach red iron oxide causing yellowish colouration.</p> <p>In high fire reduction, calcium produces the grey-green colour known as celadon.</p>
Strontium (SrO)	<p>Useful flux for mid range (down to cone 01) and high fire glazes.</p> <p>Similar to calcium and zinc.</p> <p>Can be used to replace barium but may provide a different colour response depending on the colouring oxide.</p>
Zinc (ZnO)	<p>Useful flux for mid range (down to cone 01) and high fire glazes.</p> <p>Low coefficient of expansion – useful in reducing crazing.</p> <p>Increases strength and durability of a glaze.</p> <p>Basis of macro crystalline glazes in low alumina base and the presence of titanium (requires special firing cycle).</p> <p>If uncalcined* can produce crawling. Glazes high in zinc tend to crack while drying on a pot.</p> <p>With copper gives brilliant turquoise green, and brilliant blue with cobalt. Burns out other colourants, changes chrome to dirty brown, and iron colours tend to be dull and dingy. Zinc with tin can produce slight pinks.</p>
Magnesium (MgO)	<p>Useful flux for mid range and high fire glazes.</p> <p>Low coefficient of expansion – useful in reducing crazing.</p> <p>Very high surface tension – tends to produce crawling and pinholing.</p> <p>Can provide a smooth buttery glaze surface (especially in reduction).</p> <p>Gives purples when coloured with cobalt, with streaks of pink or red at very high temperatures, and lime to olive greens in presence of small amounts of nickel.</p>

STABILIZERS & GLASS FORMERS

Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	Stabilizer. Excessive amounts can cause crawling and pinholing. Tends to prevent crystallization on glaze cooling. Adds to hardness, durability and strength of the glaze. Orange/pink when glaze is high in alumina, low in silica, and contains copper.
Boron (B ₂ O ₃)	Glassformer and flux at low temperatures. Useful flux for earthenware, mid range, and high fire glazes. Very low coefficient of expansion. Useful to decrease crazing, but in amounts over 15% of a glaze, can increase crazing instead. Tends to inhibit crystallization of other oxides in a glaze (tendency away from matts). Intensifies the effects of colouring oxides. Excess harms underglaze reds and greens. Tends to disperse colourants through a glaze layer, and may mottle or break the colour effect. In presence of minor amounts of iron may produce milky or opalescent blues.
Silica (SiO ₂)	Glassformer. Very low coefficient of expansion – tends to control crazing, but in excess will promote more crazing. Addition will increase hardness, strength, and gloss of a glaze.

* Calcining: a process of purifying a material by taking it to 700C (1292F), or bisque firing, thereby burning off molecular water and other volatile substances.

Concepts mentioned above which will be covered in a future column include:

- Coefficient of Expansion and Surface Tension concepts, along with Crazing, crawling
- Safety and health aspects of both raw and fired materials
- Special glaze families, such as macrocrystalline glazes

Should you have any questions on the information above or anything covered in previous glaze talk columns, please don't hesitate to ask by sending an email to pottingeng@hotmail.com, or calling me at 613-477-1648.

Your question, and it's answer, may form a part of a future column.

Karen

The Hilton Kingston Hotel in Jamaica, in celebration of their fifth anniversary, will be hosting an International Ceramics and Bronze Exhibit, scheduled to take place in Jamaica between June 26 and 29, 2003.

The hotel is expecting exhibitors from countries in North, South, and Central America and the Caribbean.

The Hilton Hotel has requested the assistance of the Canadian High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica, in identifying ceramic and/or bronze artists to represent Canada at this exhibition. We are told that the hotel will offer incentives for the participation of artists, namely, discounted accommodation and reduced airline rates (the hotel is making arrangements for this with airlines).

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the co-ordinates listed below should you have questions.

Carol Hart Public Affairs Assistant Canadian High Commission 3 West Kings House Road Kingston 10, Jamaica	Tel: (876) 511-3253 Fax: (876) 511-3491 Email: carol.hart@dfait-maeci.gc.ca Website: www.kingston.gc.ca
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Belly Dancing for the Potter with Lisa-Marie Serafin

It's important to move and stretch daily for improved quality of life. In the workshop we will focus on movement that, if done over a period of time, will improve mobility in the spine, strengthen the abdominal muscles, and give us better balance and co-ordination. The emphasis will be on good posture; the importance of taking breaks from our work; and, having fun with and exploring a different type of creativity than we use in our craft.

Date: Saturday May 3rd, 2003 from: 1 -4 p.m.
Location: 120 Chem Giroux, Mayo, Quebec
Contact lms_potter@sympatico.ca or (819) 281-3307.