



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

January 2001, Vol. 18

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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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FEATURE ARTICLE

The Chinese National Master of the Arts and Crafts, Xu Xiu-Tang and his Chang-Le-Hong Ceramic Art Company, Yixing, China.

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Chang-Le-Hong Ceramic Art Company, Ltd.
Tong-shu Road, Dingshu Town, Yixing
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Mr. Xu Xiu-Tang is a Chinese National Master of the Arts and Crafts, the director of the Ceramic Art Branch of the Arts and Crafts Association of Jiangsu Province, a member of the Chinese Artists Association, and the director of Chang-Le-Hong Ceramic Art Company, Ltd.

Born in Yixing China 1937, Mr. Xu started making clay works in his childhood. In 1958 he was selected by the government to study in a special sculptural training course in the Central Academy of Arts and Design (now called the Academy of Arts and Design, Hsing-Hua University), Beijing,

China.

Mr. Xu was regarded as the number one sculptor in the Yixing area. Mr. Xu's works are very realistic with Chinese traditional themes in both sculptural and teapot forms. He has received many national prizes, and his clay works have been collected by many museums national wide and abroad, such as the Shanghai Museum, the Nanjing Museum, the Ancient Palace Museum-Beijing, Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware and The K. S. Lo Gallery, Hong Kong, the Metropolitan Museum of New York, USA, and the Victoria Museum in United Kingdom.

Mr. Xu also wrote many essays and compiled some books, such as "The Chinese Purple Sand" and "Treasure of Yixing," and he was invited by some organizations to visit Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan during 1980's and 1990's.

Funded in 1994, Chang-Le-Hong Ceramic Art Company, Ltd. (In Chinese, Chang means long, Le means happy, Hong means magnificent.) is a Sino-Japan joint venture. The company gathered many clay artists, and the company's products include figurative sculptures, the Purple Sand tea-ware, ceramic statuary, and some other decorative art. The company building contains studio rooms and also the exhibition room that houses a lot of Mr. Xu's early works and many significant pieces from the Yixing area.

NCECA Conference at Charlotte, North Carolina, 2001

Discussion group, March 30th from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.

"Ceramic Cultural Exchanges Between Chinese and Western Artists"

There is a wealth of information and wisdom exemplified by several millennia of outstanding achievement in the ceramic arts in China. What is the best way to engage in a meaningful exchange between artists in our two cultures? How can we share equally to develop mutual respect and understanding? What are the pitfalls and stigmas we need to recognize and avoid?

The discussion will be led by Richard Notkin and Guangzhen "Po" Zhou. Richard Notkin is a full-time studio artist who lives and works in Helena, Montana. Guangzhen "Po" Zhou, born in Shanghai, China, is a ceramic artist and author who currently lives in Sunnyvale, California. Mr. Zhou is the author of "American Ceramic Artists Today," the first text published in Chinese on American Ceramics.

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OPPORTUNITIES

The International Ceramic Symposium, Yixing and China Ceramic Tour, May 24 - June 13, 2001. All of the information is available now at our website [Chinese Tour Site](#).

TRAVEL IN CHINA - Things To Do and To Know in General

(Updated January 2001)

- (1). The time difference between China and the United States is 16 hours for the East coast, and 13 hours for the West coast. Jet-lag could be a problem for everyone. Eastward flights have stronger effects than westward. Avoid heavy food, alcohol, coffee and tea, be relaxed and go to bed a little earlier for a few days before departure.
- (2). The electricity voltage is 220 in China. An adapter is needed if you need a battery charger for your video camera.
- (3). Your passport must have at least 6 months before it expires. Carry a photocopy of your passport in a separate place, in case your passport is lost or stolen.
- (4). Be prepared for additional expenses and purchases, etc. with traveler's checks, credit cards and some cash. Bring a few personal checks just in case. Carry money, credit cards and passport in a concealed pouch or money belt for protection.
- (5). Bring a copy of your medical record in case you need to see doctors in China.
- (6). To call China from the U. S., use the country code 86, plus city code and phone numbers.

Check with your long distance company for any discounts calling to Asian countries.

(9). Plan to wear comfortable dress, in natural fibers to allow your skin to breathe. Bring more T-shirts and underwear and a pair of sandals. It will be warm for the most part during the summer. A light jacket or sweater is needed for cool evenings in some areas.

(10). Bring a pair of sunglasses, raincoat or umbrella.

(11). Toilet paper is not provided in many toilet facilities. You might want to purchase about a dozen pocket packs of Kleenex tissues before departing, and carry one with you at all time.

(12). Avoid oversized luggage. Two medium-sized pieces are preferable, at least one of which should be "carry-on" size. Shoulder straps and / or wheeled luggage will help during long walks through a train station. Pack lightly -- leave room for acquisition of pottery, books and other mementos of the tour. An extra, collapsible bag can be carried in your luggage for the return home.

(13). Slide film is difficult to buy in some small towns. Please purchase film in the U.S. before departure. 200 ASA is the most versatile for all exposure needs, but you may consider other films. Some 400 ASA is desirable for dark locations (some museums and indoor sites, and for night or evening shots).

(14). Print your business cards with both English and Chinese (highly recommended, available for about \$15 for 100 pieces if printed in China).

(15). Bring your biography, resume and 10 - 20 of slides of your work for ceramic cultural exchanges. Also, bring postcards, catalogs or magazines with your work. These are eagerly exchanged with Chinese ceramic artists. Small ceramic objects exchanged as gifts are also appreciated.

(16). Tipping: About \$1 for the driver and \$2 for the local tour guide everyday is recommended. Expect to leave some additional tips for luggage handling at hotels, airports or train stations.

(17). Crime is not a great problem in China, but pickpockets are common. Most train stations have nice "soft coach waiting rooms" for foreigners, which are quite safe. Do not take third class trains.

(18). For sanitation reasons, do not buy food on the street, and do not drink water from hotel bathroom faucets. Plan to purchase drinking water, which is readily available. You may also want to purchase packaged moist "Towelettes" to wash your hands before eating, or sanitized packaged alcohol wipes for sanitizing any eating utensils you are worried about.

(19). Do not exchange money on the street. You may get counterfeit currency.

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Chinese Potters Newsletter

A bi-lingual (Chinese and part in English) quarterly magazine is available for the cost of the postage \$20 US (annually).

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[Email](#) [Main Web Site](#) [\(ceramic section\)](#)

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ACTIVITY

The Second Chinese Delegation of Ceramic Artists

will come to Charlotte, North Carolina, for the NCECA Conference; the group will be about five clay artists, including two of the Chinese National Master of Arts and Crafts: Xu Xiu-Tang and Wang Yin-Xian (there are only six artists who have received this honorary title in the Yixing area.)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

To match our web site address www.chineseclayart.com, our email newsletter title has been changed from "CHINA Clayart" to "CHINESE Clayart," and also our email address has been

changed from chinaclayart@hotmail.com to chineseclayart@hotmail.com. Or you may send emails to editor@chineseclayart.com. We very much appreciate your subscription.

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