



# CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

September - October 2002, Vol. 28

## FEATURE ARTICLES

[Foshan Expo, China Exchange and Travel,](#)

## PROFILE

["FOSHAN" & "SHIWAN GONGZAI"](#)

## EXHIBITION

[Between Tradition & Contemporary Expression](#)

## WANTED

[Exhibition Space](#)

## CLAY STORE NOTICE

[The Clay Mats Have Arrived](#)

## 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)

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA.

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[TOP](#)

## FEATURE ARTICLE

LETTER FROM FOSHAN, CHINA

Foshan Ceramic Exposition 2002 China, [Website](#)

China Foshan International Ceramics Conference 2002

Seminar on International Ceramic Art

Foshan has a long cultural history. This is an important page in Chinese and international ceramic history. Foshan's modern ceramic production has evolved through its long ceramic culture.

We wish to have the world better understand Shiwan, Foshan and China, and to encourage Foshan and Shiwan ceramics to make significant progress to enter the global perception.

Together, the China Building Materials Industry Association, China Ceramic Industrial Association, China Building & Sanitary Ceramics Association, and the People's Government of Foshan will host the Foshan Ceramic Exposition 2002 China on October 18-22 in Foshan City, Guangdong Province, PR China.

The Exposition Committee will invite, from home and abroad, famous designers of interior design and exterior architecture, related organizations, experts, scholars and art critics in the ceramic medium, and ceramic artists - a total of 500 participants are expected to gather for the exposition. At the same time there will be held four excellent exhibitions of the designated subjects of ceramic products and art.

During the exposition a seminar will be held on the topic of Contemporary Ceramic Art in the Global Village, which is one of the main activities of the China Foshan International Ceramics Conference 2002 - Seminar on International Ceramic Art.

Conference sponsored by:  
The People's Government of Foshan

China Ceramic Industrial Association

Institute of Interior Design of Architectural Society of China

Central Academy of Fine Arts

The Art Department of Qing Hua University

Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts

Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute

International Academy of Ceramics

National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts

Seminar sub-topics:

- 1 Contemporary Ceramic Arts from the Global Cultural Perspective
- 2 The Value of Local Cultures in the Global Vision of Ceramic Arts
- 3 Public Issues of Contemporary Ceramic Arts
- 4 Modernization of Public Image of Ceramic Arts as a New Public Medium
- 5 Contemporary Ceramic Arts and Modern Life

To guarantee this conference is successful, the Committee will invite prestigious celebrities and those who have made significant contributions in the arts or technical fields. As specially invited experts for lecture related to the above sub-topics, you are humbly requested to give a lecture of 30 minutes - edited from a 3000-5000 word article to be published in both Chinese and English before the conference. We are very appreciative of your expertise and extensive knowledge of art. We are honored to invite you as a noted expert to lecture to the China Foshan International Ceramics Conference 2002.

Seminar on International Ceramic Art

Date: 19-21 October 2002

Site: Meeting Hall in Government Building of Shiwan Town

Topic: Contemporary Ceramic Art in the Global Village

Contact:  
Planning Office  
Foshan Ceramics Exposition 2002 China Committee

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Shiwan District, Foshan City, Guangdong Province  
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[Website: www.2002taobo.com](http://www.2002taobo.com)  
Director of Planning Committee  
Zhang Wenzhi

[TOP](#)

## **PROFILE**

### 1. FOSHAN

Foshan City is located about 18 kilometers southwest of Guangzhou. Foshan, which means Buddha Mountain in Chinese, has a long history of over 1300 years. She gained her present name when the villagers dug out three bronze Buddha statues left by Indian monks.

The city is famous for its ceramics industry and other Chinese crafts. Within Foshan City, there is a small district called Shiwan. Within Shiwan, there are over one thousand ceramic manufacturing facilities.

### 2. SHIWAN GONGZAI

Located in Guangdong province in the southern part of China about 100 miles northwest of Hong Kong, Shiwan is a small town belonging to Foshan City. There are over one thousand ceramic manufacturing facilities in this area.

Realistic figurative stoneware sculpture has been produced in Shiwan since the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). This style of sculpture is called Shiwan Gong-Zai. Traditionally, the unique ceramic figures mainly were made by the pinch method of hand-building; today, slip casting and press-mold techniques are also used. Several different colored clays often are used to distinguish the skin, beard, cloth, or other details. Usually unglazed clay represents skin.

Shiwan Gong-Zai originally was used in architecture (to sit on roofs), representing historical heroes, Buddha, or gods for temples. Later on, this kind of figure was also used for gardens and from it developed 2- or 3-inch high mini-figures, called Shan-Gong, such as a man reading or fishing, old men playing chess, or a boy and a cow. The Shan-Gong (mountain man) is usually used in mini-landscapes.

[TOP](#)

## **EXHIBITION**

Between Tradition & Contemporary Expression,  
China Ceramics Today, 2002-2008

Organized by the Ariana Museum, Geneva, Switzerland, and the Guangdong Art Museum, China

Sept/2002-Jan/2003,  
Ariana Museum, Geneva, Switzerland  
Mar-Apr/2003,  
Danmark Keramik Museum, Grimmerhaus, Denmark  
June-July/2003,  
the Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA  
Sept-Oct/2003,  
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, USA  
Dec/2003-Jan/2004,

Orange County Center of Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, California, USA  
Jan-Mar/2004,  
Hawaii University, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA  
Apr-June/2004,  
Hong Kong Science & Technology University, Hong Kong, China.

[TOP](#)

## **WANTED**

Yixing Ceramic Art Traveling Exhibition, USA-2003  
(Curators wanted)

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA and the Ceramic Art Branch of the Arts and Crafts Association of Jiangsu Province, China are working together to host "Yixing Ceramic Art Traveling Exhibition, USA-2003". The contents of the show will be about 20-30 pieces of smaller sizes done by the most talented Chinese clay artists, and most of the art works will be Zisha (un-glazed brownish stoneware) teapots.

We are looking for some art galleries and museums to work together to display this exhibition in different areas in the United States.

For more information, please contact:

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[TOP](#)

## **Texture Mats Have Arrived**

CHINESE CLAY ART - WEB STORE (the website will be updated soon)  
Letter from director of Chinese Clay Art, USA.

All of the four Texture Mats (Bricks, Fish Scales, Rocks and Wood) are available now. For details, please visit our web [www.chineseclayart.com](http://www.chineseclayart.com).

The Web Store offers new patented plastic texture mats, Chinese hand made bamboo and buffalo horn tools, and ceramic-related books.

For a free catalog, please send your mailing address before Nov. 1st, 2002 to:  
[Chineseclayart@hotmail.com](mailto:Chineseclayart@hotmail.com), or call: 800-689-2529, 408-777-8319, fax: 408-777-8321.

Show room:  
The Clayground  
1253 Kentwood Ave  
San Jose, CA 95129  
(near highway 85 and De Anza Blvd.).

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[TOP](#)