



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

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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)

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA.

P.O.Box 64392, Sunnyvale, CA 94088, USA

Tel. 408-777-8319, Fax. 408-777-8321, Email: editor@chineseclayart.com

www.chineseclayart.com

Chief Editor, Guangzhen "Po" Zhou

English Editor, Deborah Bouchette

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FEATURE

Jingdezhen, China - Celebrate the Millennium of the Porcelain Town

Together with local companies, the government of China is going to invest 60 billion RMB Yuan (equal to about \$7.25 billion) to build or restore 20 huge projects. These huge projects include the Ceramic Town of China, the Ceramic Art Center of China, the Imperial Kiln Museum, the Sculpture Garden of World Celebrities, and many traditional residential houses and porcelain-ware studios to

attract tourists. All of these programs will be completed in October 2004.

JINGDEZHEN

Located in northeast Jiangxi Province, Jingdezhen is renowned as the "Capital of Porcelain" and has over 1,700 years' ceramic production history. According to historical records, Jingdezhen was named "Xinpingzhen" at first, and changed its name to "Changnanzhen" in the Tang Dynasty. In the Northern Song Dynasty, ceramic productions of the area were admired by the Emperor Jing-de (AD. 1004-1007), and many of the porcelain wares were marked with "Made in Jingdezhen." Then the city was re-named to Jingdezhen, and many emperors set up their imperial kilns there. Jingdezhen is famous for its achievement of unique blue and white porcelain, polychrome decoration, colored enamels, colored glazed ware, etc. The ware reached its blossom during the Ming and Qing Dynasties and was exported to many foreign countries. The characteristics of Jingdezhen porcelain can be described as follows: the whiteness of jade, the thickness of paper, the purity of a mirror, and the sound of a bell. These represent the characteristics of rich Chinese ceramic culture. Nowadays there are over 17,000 private, joint-venture, and state-run ceramic factories in the area.

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PROFILE

Sanitation Issue for Traveling in China

The SARS infection is over, the names of the cities were taken off the travel restriction list by the World Health Organization, and daily life got back to normal for all of these people, but there are still some sanitary condition problems in some undeveloped areas in China. Here are some suggestions.

First, NEVER take "the Standard Class" trains in China, which might not have air conditioning, have no private compartments but instead facilities with three berths top to bottom. These trains are usually very crowded and congested. In mainland China there are two classes of tickets available for travelers called "Soft Seats" or "Soft Coach" (first class), and "Standard Seats" or "Standard Coach" (standard or second class). The Soft Coach class is especially designed for foreigners and "decent" people. Most train stations have nice "soft coach waiting rooms" for foreigners. Soft class train travel is safe, clean, and comfortable with air-conditioning. Soft class has four-bunked compartments (two bunks per side), and each car has washing and toilet facilities. You can watch China's diverse countryside speed by, relax, and enjoy your trip. Do not take the Standard or second class trains.

Second, eat in neat restaurants or hotels only, which you can find anywhere in China. NEVER buy cooked food from the street vendors. If you pay attention, you might see what they may do: the bowls, plates, and chopsticks might just be rinsed in a bucket of water that has been re-used many times, they don't really get dining ware washed before serving the next customers. Also, do not drink water from hotel bathroom faucets. You can drink boiled water from a thermos bottle provided in most hotel rooms, or purchase bottles of drinking water, which are readily available.

Be healthy and happy for your China trip!

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TRAVEL

Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange 2004

June 2 -19 (18 days). Cities include Beijing, Xi'an, Jingdezhen, Yixing, and Shanghai.
Fee: \$2450 for early birds - first 6 signed up participants (regular price is \$3,200). The fee includes international round-trip airfare, ground transportation, tour guide, three meals a day, tickets and lodging.

All participants will be able to meet Chinese artists and tour their studios, show your slides in schools and universities, and we are going to set up the American Delegation Clay Art Exhibition in Shanghai (please plan to bring a small sized work with you).

For details, please contact:

Guangzhen "Po" Zhou, The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA

PO Box 1733, Cupertino, CA 95015

Tel. 800-689-2529, 408-777-8319, Fax. 408-777-8321

Website: www.chineseclayart.com, Email: chineseclayart@hotmail.com

Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange 2004

Itinerary June 2-19, 2004

Day 1, fly from San Francisco airport to Beijing.

Day 2, arrive in Beijing in the evening.

Day 3, visit Tiananmen Square and the Ancient Palace Museum. In the afternoon, visit Tsinghua University-Academy of Arts and Design, and Hap Pottery Studio and Gallery.

Day 4, visit PanJiaYuan antique Market and the Great Wall. In the evening, take the train to Xi'an. (Beijing W - Xian, K 41, 17:10 - 7:41).

Day 5, arrive in Xi'an in the morning. Visit the Yaozhou Ware Museum, the Chenlu Ceramic Village, the Great Mosque, and the antique market in the evening.

Day 6, visit the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum. In the afternoon, take the train to Nanchang. (Xian - Nanchang, 578/575, 15:05 - 17:03).

Day 7, arrive in Nanchang the next day, transfer by bus to Jingdezhen. Arrive at Jingdezhen in the evening. Stay at the Jingdezhen Joint Venture Hotel.

Day 8, visit Gaoling Village (Ancient Site of Kaolin Mine), the Hutian Kiln site, and have exchanges with the faculty and students at the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute.

Day 9, sightseeing continues, the Ancient Kiln Porcelain Factory, the Jingdezhen Ceramic Historical Museum, Ancient Porcelain Factory, and Longxin Porcelain Factory, where 12' high porcelain vases are made.

Day 10, leave Jingdezhen, overnight train from Nanchang to Wuxi. (Jingdezhen - Wuxi 560/557, 18:44 - 10:13).

Day 11, after lunch, transfer by bus from Wuxi to Yixing.

Day 12, visit local clay studios and meet the national master of ceramic artists (includes Yixing Clay workshop).

Day 13, visit ceramic factories, teapot markets.

Day 14, visit Yixing museum. In the afternoon, take a three-hour bus from Yixing to Shanghai.

Day 15, in the morning, set up the "International Ceramic Art Exhibition" at Hanguang Ceramic Art Gallery, Shanghai (everyone is recommended to bring a small size of your work for the show).

And, we will have the grand opening in the afternoon, and farewell banquet in the evening.

Day 16, visit Yuyuan Garden and the Shanghai Museum. In the evening, boat on the Huangpu River.

Day 17, visit the Pottery Workshop and some other art galleries.

Day 18, leave the Shanghai Pudong airport and arrive at San Francisco international airport in the early afternoon of the same day (San Francisco local time).

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ACTIVITIES

Workshops hosted by the Pottery Workshop Gallery, Hong Kong

Address: The Fringe, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central Hong Kong

Tel: 852-25257949, Fax: 852-25257091, Web: www.ceramics.com.hk

The Pottery Workshop Gallery, Shanghai Branch

220 Taikang Road, 2nd floor

Shanghai, 200025, China

Tel. 86-21-64450902, Fax. 86-21-64450937, email: potteryworkshop@yahoo.com

Steve Heinemann Workshop

16 & 17 September, 2003, Hong Kong
2-day workshop
(20 September, 2003, Shanghai, 1-day workshop, 100 RMB)

Takeshi Yasuda Workshop
29 & 30 September, 2003, Hong Kong
(20 September, 2003, Shanghai, 1-day workshop, 100 RMB)

TAKESHI YASUDA was born in Tokyo in 1943 and trained at the Daisei-Gama Pottery in Mashiko from 1963 to 1966. He is well known for his unique tableware and his critical survey of contemporary European eating habits. He approaches all this as he does pottery: with Japanese vigor and sensitivity. His work is represented in numerous prestigious collections, including that of the Crafts Council and of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Slide show in the morning; hands-on workshop in the afternoon.
HK\$500 member/\$600 non-member. Slide talk/demo only, HK\$200 per session.

Early Bird Special
Take both the Heinemann & Yasuda workshops for
\$900 FPWS member
\$1000 for non-members and we'll throw in a membership!
Sign up by 15th July, 2003!

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LETTERS

Letter from NCECA, March 24, 2003

Dear Guangzhen Zhou,
I would like to personally thank you again for your generous donation to the NCECA International Exchange Program. The 2003 Auction was very successful, as we raised over \$6000 this year. The NCECA International Exchange Program was established to create a way to return to the membership their donation efforts. In the future we are hoping to expand this program to additional international venues.

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Dick Belger made the winning bid in the amount of \$150 for your wonderful book that you donated, "The Dictionary of Chinese Ceramics."

Best Wishes,
Phyllis Kloda
Director at large, 2003 Silent Auction Coordinator
2835 Buntz Station Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015

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STORE

New Items and Books of The Chinese Clay Art Web Store, and the National Distributors. Some of our new items; such as price labelers, plastic stencil sheets and books that have just arrived, and our web store will be updated by the end of this month at: www.ChineseClayArt.com.

New Books:

BK 009, Awakened, Qin's Terra-Cotta Army , \$25.00 Shaanxi Travel & Tourism Press, China, 2001. The book is 126 pages, with over 100 full-color illustrations. The book's contents covers all the information of the history of the first Emperor of China, Qin ShiHuang (Qin Dynasty 211-206 BC), his mausoleum and the Terra-Cotta Army, the discovery and excavation of each pit, newly unearthed relics, and the construction of the Terra-Cotta figures.

BK 010, Invitational Exhibition of International Ceramics, \$15.00

A catalog of the Foshan Ceramics Exposition 2002, China, in the Shiwan Ceramics Museum, Guangdong Province. This full-color album of 92 pages, in English and Chinese, includes 48 international artists' works and their biographies.

BK 011, The Traditional Crafts of Porcelain Making in Jingdezhen, \$32.00

Written by Bai Ming and published by the Jiangxi Fine Art Publishing House, China, the book is in both Chinese and English, and includes 228 pages, 611 color and 16 black-and white photos, and 37 sketches. This well-illustrated guide contains a brief overview of Jingdezhen and her ceramic history, and the layout of a porcelain studio. It describes the porcelain clay process step-by-step: the traditional techniques of clay wedging, throwing, and trimming; and the painting and decoration techniques of the folk art style, blue-and-white, over-glaze, and under-glaze. It also describes the varied traditional kilns and firing techniques.

BK 012, Ceramic Art of Chun Wen Wang, \$80.00

Published by the Wu-Shing Publishing House, Ltd. Taiwan, the book is in full color, with 192 pages, hard cover, and protective case. Over years of extensive testing, Chun Wen Wang has researched the lost glazes called "liquid in liquid-separated glazes" of the Sung Dynasty (1127-1270 A.D.). The glazes include "gold ring," "silver dot," "black pearl," and "fleece." Chun Wen Wang's artworks have been collected and displayed by over 20 art museums around the world, including the Smithsonian, American Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, British Museum, and National Historical Museum of Taiwan.

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