



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

March 2005, Vol. 43

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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.

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FEATURES

Teapot Exhibitions in the Teapot Center of the World - Yixing, China, June 2005

Working with the National Council on Education for Ceramic Art and the International Academy of Ceramics, the Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA and the Yixing Ceramic Conference Committee are going to host two international teapot exhibitions together at the Yixing Ceramics Museum: the competitive exhibition of NCECA (please find details at www.nceca.net), and the invitational exhibition of IAC members.

Both exhibitions will be hosted during the conference in Yixing - the Teapot Center of the World. It will be one of the most important teapot exhibitions in the ceramic world.

The exhibition catalogs will be available at www.chineseclayart.com in September 2005.

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TRAVEL

Free book and China visa application information

The participants who register before March 20 for the Yixing conference or China tour offered this year will be received a free copy of "Chinese Ceramic Cultural Sites-A Traveler's Handbook," a \$24 retail value. For detailed information about the book, please visit the book section of www.ChineseClayArt.com.

Information about Chinese visa application (for people living in countries other than the U.S., please contact the Chinese Embassy or consulate in your home country)

There are two ways to get your Chinese visa.

A. Apply for your visa in person at one the consulates or the Chinese embassy.

1. Search for a Chinese embassy or consulate near your home at www.china-embassy.org. To apply for a Chinese visa, you need to fill out an application form and submit it with a 2-inch photo and your passport. The application fee is \$50 (money order or cash, no personal checks).
2. Make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport, and that there is at least six months before the passport's expiration date. You can apply for your visa through a travel agent. To download the application form and information, please check www.china-embassy.org.

B. Use the Application / Mail Service provided by the Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA (for people living in the US only).

1. Your application materials must be received before April 15, and we will take them all together to the Consulate General of China in San Francisco, and mail the passport back to you before May 1, 2005.
2. Application Materials: a completed application form, one 2-inch photo, and your passport (Make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport, and that there is at least six months before the passport's expiration date). Enclose a \$65 application fee, (which includes a \$15 handling fee). Make your check payable to the Chinese Ceramic Art Council.
3. You must include a self-addressed return envelope with sufficient postage. We suggest that you use Express Mail with a large envelope and tracking numbers.
4. Mail all of your application materials to:
Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA
1041 Miller Ave.
San Jose, CA 95129

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EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

DEMONSTRATION OF YIXING, DINNERS @ SAN FRANCISCO and BALTIMORE

Chinese Yixing Teapot Making Demonstration

1pm - 4pm, Sunday, March 13,
North Court; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco,
Free w/museum admission.

Artists from Yixing "C China" is a famed source of purple clay and the exquisite teapots also known as Yixing - will demonstrate their craft. Mr. Li Shoucai, Arts and Crafts Master of Jiangsu Province, will show the Jun-ware techniques of Yixing ceramic tradition - decorative relief dragon. Ms. Gu Meiqun, Senior Master, will use traditional hand-building techniques to make a Yixing teapot. (Ms. Gu will lead a hands on teapot workshop in Mother Earth Clay Center, Sunnyvale, California, April 9, 2005, www.mamasclay.com to register or call 408-245-6262 to register over the phone).

Mr. Zhou Bo, Master of Art and Crafts, he will work on the contemporary teapot style.
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
Tel. 415 581-3500

Welcome Banquet of Chinese artists.

6pm, Sunday, San Francisco, March 13, 2005.
Contact Guangzhen Zhou, at chineseclayart@hotmail.com, or 408-891-5866.
Canton Seafood Restaurant,
655 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. (between 2nd and 3rd Street.)
Tel. 415-495-3064.

Dinner together with Chinese artists in Baltimore March 18, 2005, 6:00pm.

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council will host a dinner during the conference. For people who would like to meet the Chinese artists and Ms. Ya Hong, vice mayor of Yixing, China, please contact Guangzhen Zhou, at chineseclayart@hotmail.com, or 408-891-5866. Our NECEA booth number is 301.

Tony Cheng's Szechuan
801 N Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21201, Cross Street: Between E Read St and E Madison St.
Tel. 410-539-6666

The Art of the Yixing Teapot - April 9th, 2005

Slide presentation, hands-on workshop, and exhibition

Hosted jointly by Mother Earth Clay Art Center and the Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA

Location:

Mother Earth Clay Art Center, 790 Lucerne Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Schedule:

9:00am - 9:30am, slide presentation "Art of Yixing Tea-ware," by Guangzhen Zhou

9:30am - 10:00am, slide presentation of the art works by Meiqun Gu.

10:00am - 12noon, demonstration of the traditional techniques of the Yixing teapot.

1:00pm - 4pm, hands-on teapot workshop--everyone is going to use Yixing tools, Yixing clay, and the techniques to make their own teapots.

Registration fee: \$65 per person

Contact:

www.mamasclay.com to register or call 408-245-6262 to register over the phone.

Yixing Teapot Exhibition:

About forty contemporary and traditional Yixing teapots will be in the show at the gallery, and most of them will be for sale.

About the Yixing Artist Meiqun Gu

The ceramic culture since its discovery at the dawn of the civilization has witnessed several thousand years of history. Yixing provided a safe ground for the purple sand clay pottery art culture to flourish. It allows even today the ancient art to maintain its place among highly developed modern technologies. It permits us as well to continue enjoying a piece of peace, a spirit of relaxation, and a scent of nature.

Gu Mei-qun was born in Yixing, Jiangsu Province, China, in 1966. Growing up in this environment, she learned by the total immersion of experience. Inspired to do something great in the arena of purple sand clay art, she was determined to impose upon herself a strict discipline, which included working hard from the start, seeking guidance from the learned forerunners and communicating with her peers. It meant sweat and the freezing of the hands. She was the only one who knew what kind of hardships she had gone through--much as a phoenix must go through trials and tribulations before its rebirth.

Through all the research and the hard work, she was able to partake in a taste of success. Her initial accomplishment did not perhaps account for anything great, but it did pave the way for a solid foundation. In an ever changing world, she realized that staying in one place meant being left behind. That is why she was never satisfied with what she did. She always strives forward, pursuing the higher and the better. In 1993 she was the first to visit Japan as an exchange artist representing the Fifth Purple Sand Clay Handicraft Factory. In 1994, "Yi pian qing xin pot" placed third in the Fifth National Ceramic Design Competition. In 1995 her work "Wordless" was awarded the first class prize within her Factory. In 1997 her name was included in the "Who Is Who in China and Abroad".

Since 1998, Ms. Gu has visited the United States many times. She has led teapot workshops at the University of Hawaii, New London Art Center in Minnesota, and the Clayground Clay Studio in San Jose, California.

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EXHIBITIONS

The Teapot Exhibition of the International Academy of Ceramics

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA is working with the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC) to promote the International Ceramic Art Conference in Yixing, China, June 2005. This international showcase exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Yixing Ceramic Art Conference in Yixing, June 1 through June 4. You can learn more about the conference at www.Yixing2005.org and www.ChineseClayArt.com .

Location: Yixing Ceramics Museum, Yixing, China

Date: June 2 -18, 2005

Deadline: All exhibits need be received before May 15, 2005

Eligibility and Conditions: The invitational exhibition is for the members of IAC only, and limited to two pieces from each member. All works must be dominated by the ceramic medium, and cannot be in excess of 12 inches (30 cm) in any direction. All works must be for sale, and must have a value of no more than \$250 USD. (The museum may add a certain value for their commission.) All unsold pieces are welcome as donations to the Yixing Ceramics Museum.

Shipping: Artists are responsible for insured shipping to Yixing (the address will be posted on the website www.Yixing2005.org soon). All pieces must be sent in sturdy, re-usable packaging. The Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA will be responsible for the return of unsold pieces. Please fill in a value of \$50 (or less) for each parcel on the customs form when you mail your art work to China (otherwise it take weeks to go through all of the process and pay the custom duty to get your piece when it arrives in China).

You probably need to mail (air-mail only) the artworks to China before April 20. Usually international air mail takes two or three weeks to be received. All exhibits need to be received before May 15, 2005. The address:

The Ceramic Art Conference Committee

Yixing Ceramics Museum

150 Dingshan Bei Lu, Yixing

Jiangsu Province, Post code 214221, P. R. China

Contact:
Guangzhen Zhou
The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA
1041 Miller Ave.
San Jose, CA 95129, USA
Tel. 800-689-2529, 408-777-8319, Fax. 408-777-8321
Email: Chineseclayart@hotmail.com Web: www.ChineseClayArt.com

The IRON SAGA

ChunWen Wang, solo exhibition at the American Museum of Ceramic Art
April 9th to May 7th, 2005

Address:
American Museum of Ceramic Art
340 S. Garey Avenue
Pomona, CA 91766

There exists in the Fukien (Fujian) province of China an ancient kiln site, established during the Song dynasty, where the finest white tea leaves are still cultivated. This historic site is littered with shards from the handsome, dark glazed tea bowls produced for drinking the legendary beverage. Called Chien Yao (Jian Kiln) bowls, they are characterized by deep brown or subtle black glaze finishes; the brown or silver streaking referred to as "hare's fur," and "partridge feathers" refers to a dramatically black glaze splashed by rust. Other glaze finishes are referred to as "oil spot," and reveal silvery splashes of iron crystals that have risen to the glaze surface during the cooling process. Lost for centuries, the formulas and firing techniques used to produce these rare glaze effects have recently been researched and resurrected.

The website is <http://www.ceramicmuseum.org/upcoming-exhibit.htm>.

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CALL FOR ENTRIES

Educational Poster Series - 100 Contemporary

International Teapots

The Chinese Clay Art Corporation is publishing an educational poster series of ceramic art. We will select 100 teapots of varied forms, shapes, surfaces and colors, with a variety of cultural origins and styles from the submitted images entered. The poster will be 21" x 31" and be printed vertically in full color. The posters will be printed in China and distributed worldwide through our web store by the end of August 2005.

Eligibility: All artists world-wide may submit images. The main material must be fired clay. All pictures need to be in 35mm slide or jpg format and done by professional level photographers.

Prize: All artists whose work is selected for publication will receive 10 copies of the poster for free.

Deadline: April 30, 2005

Copyrights grant and signature:

I agree to grant the copyright of my selected works to Guangzhen Zhou / Chinese Clay Art Corp. for printed educational materials to promote the ceramic art, specifically for the poster of 100 Contemporary International Teapots.

Your name (print and sign): _____ Date: _____

Contact: Please email the cyber images to: ChineseClayArt@yahoo.com, or mail your slides to:
Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA

P.O. Box 1733

Cupertino, CA 95015, USA

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LETTER

from the International Academy of Ceramics

Musée Ariana, 10 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel. ++41 22 418 5476, Fax ++41 22 418 5451

Email: info@aic-iac.org Web: www.aic-iac.org/uk.

To: The Chinese Ceramic Art Council
Att. Mr. Guangzhen Zhou
PO Box 1733
Cupertino, CA 95015, U.S.A.
Date: 18th January 2005

Dear Sirs,

The International Academy of Ceramics grants its support to the Chinese Ceramic Art Council and gives its permission to use, under your supervision, the IAC logo for the endorsement and its promotional materials during 2005.

The IAC greatly values the experience and expertise of the Chinese Ceramic Art Council and will appreciate collaborating with this institution, widely recognized in the ceramics field as one of the innovative artistic centers. Yours very sincerely,

Prof. Tony Franks, President

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STORE

At the end of last year, the Chinese Clay Art Corporation received many new products, such as many kinds of teapot handles, posters of Yixing teapots, decals of butterflies, bugs and dragons. Recently we also developed and imported many wood molds, such as of gold fish, a hen, roosters, and the Chinese lion, plus a new kind of fettling knife, and some trimming tools. We have been getting new products from China every quarter. Please visit our website at www.ChineseClayArt.com for updated information and new products. We will participate in the NCECA conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in March; you are welcome to stop by our booth #301.

The list of new products:

MD 55A, Wood Mold, Gold Fish

MD 57A, Wood Mold, Hen

MD 57B, Wood Mold, Rooster

MD 59A, Wood Mold, Chinese Lion

CN 13B, Stainless Fettling Knife, Plastic handle with saw blade on other side

OB 55, Tool Hanging Organizer with 5 pockets, h 8"x w 22"

OB 56, Tool Hanging Organizer with 6 pockets, h 30"x w 11"

OB 59, Tool Hanging Organizer with 9 pockets, h 32"x w 12"

New Product: Breathable Clay Board (patent pending)

Does the bottom of your greenware clay work always dry too slow? Does your slab warp during the drying process because the top side dried too fast? The Clay Board has many small breathing holes through from its surface to its bottom and the surface is covered by canvas. Moisture from the bottom of greenware will be able to escape easier and make your wet clay works dry evenly and faster.

This product will come out in two sizes: 10" and 14" square. All of them will be shipped to the US by May, 2005.

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Glossary

Yixing Jun Glaze Ware

The Jun Glaze Garden Pottery is an important branch in Chinese ceramic history. As far back as the Song Dynasty, the beauty of Jun ware resides in its glaze colors which include Jun blue, Jun red, Jun copper, Jun white, etc., more than thirty colors. Among them, the Jun blue glaze is the

most precious, with its special effects like star, halo, and flower. It wins its reputation with the blue halo coming out of gray, brightly colored as the butterfly flower. In Japan, it is called the trepang glaze. The piling-up technique is used as traditional decoration for Jun pottery. The artist only uses his thumbs to scrub, twist, press, and stroke the colored clay on its base, making an impression of relief sculpture.

The Jun pottery products are mainly used in the garden, such as various tables, benches, flower pots, vases, fish jars, and street lamps (some seven meters high). They also produce a complete set of elegant dragon columns and decoration for Chinese traditional architecture.

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