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# Chinese Clay Art, USA

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"CHINESE CLAY ART" is a newsletter emailed to professional artists, curators, collectors, writers, experts, educators and students in the ceramic field, 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.

An earlier newsletter is on the Web at:

<http://www.chineseclayart.com>

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## *Additional tips for the China Trip*

### **Be careful of Counterfeit in China**

Counterfeiting is a common problem in China. Sometimes, it is very hard to tell the differences. When you are traveling in China, you should always prepare some small change for pay to street vendors or taxi drivers.

### **Do NOT bring any counterfeit DVD and food products back into the US**

In many big cities, at evening you may be able to see some street vendors who are selling American movies for 7 to 8 RMB (About \$1.10) each. Please don't bring any of this kind of DVD into the US, because the penalty will be \$10,000 for each copy if you got caught by the customer officers at the US airport. Also, please do NOT bring any food products (Tea is OK) into the US which are forbidden by the US Agricultural Department.

### **Chinese & US Currency Converter Chart for Travelers**

By Chinese Clay Art USA, 2008/08/23

RMB=UDS	RMB=USD	RMB=USD
1 = 0.15	10 = 1.46	50 = 7.30
2 = 0.29	15 = 2.19	60 = 8.77
3 = 0.44	20 = 2.92	70 = 10.23
4 = 0.58	25 = 3.65	80 = 11.69
5 = 0.73	30 = 4.38	90 = 13.15
6 = 0.88	35 = 5.11	
7 = 1.02	40 = 5.84	
8 = 1.17	45 = 6.57	

9 = 1.31

Based on \$1 = ? .82

Guangzhen Zhou, Chief Editor

## **Decal Usage**



### **The Decal Tissues Were Burned Out**

About the decal tissues that were burned out: Early in August, I got a call from a female potter who complained about the fact that her decal tissues burned out, and she said that some other potters have had the same problem. We have one large kiln only, so I didn't try it out until she called me. I was happy that I received her calls and did the test.

I have tested two pieces, one was correctly placed and the other was reversed. The results are: The first one is perfect, and the second one burned out. I think the problem was that the decals were upside down.

Here is the suggestion I received from her:

Po, a good idea would be to change your printed directions and say, very specifically, that this is done **JUST THE OPPOSITE OF REGULAR DECALS**. As you probably know, regular decals in the US are put on shiny face up...so this creates confusion and problems. Thanks, I will be in touch.

### **Decal Usage**

Apply over a fired glaze surface only. Clean up the ceramic surface with industrial alcohol (about 75%). Prepare a pan of water enough to cover the size of the decal paper. Add 3% alcohol in the water. Dip the decal paper into the water, take it out right away and then slide it onto the surface to attach it (The glossy side of the paper faces down). Use a soft rubber scraper to smooth and drive out any air bubbles. Fire it in oxidation (normally in an electrical kiln) at cone 018- 017 (750-780ç Š). Keep the kiln door slightly open until the paper burns off (about 300ç Š), or the images may become burnt. Allow the temperature to cool down naturally after having shut off the electricity. The images will be transferred to the glazed surface permanently after the firing.

For details, please click at [www.ChineseClayArt.com](http://www.ChineseClayArt.com)

## ***New DVD "Sylvia Hyman Eternal Wonder"***



**New DVD "Sylvia Hyman Eternal Wonder"** by Film House Inc. Nashville, Tennessee. \$39.95, Special discount **\$35.00** until the end of September 2008. Sylvia Hyman was in her forties when she first began working in clay, quickly gaining international recognition. Five decades later she continues to re- invent herself as an artist as she pushes the boundaries of her medium.

Sylvia Hyman: Eternal Wonder traces the evolution of Hyman's career as an artist. As a master of "trompe l'oeil clay", Hyman's sculptures inspire both disorientation and

delight when viewers realize that everyday objects that appear to be made of wood, cardboard and paper are actually superbly realized simulations made of clay.

Hyman uses porcelain and stoneware to create items like letters, maps, scrolls of sheet music and books that are often grouped in containers such as berry baskets and cardboard and wooden boxes, also made of clay.

And while her artistic achievements are already internationally recognized, Sylvia Hyman: Eternal Wonder provides a truly inspirational portrait of both the artist and the person, as we discover an artist at the peak of her powers as she prepares to celebrate her 90th birthday.

This DVD includes the 10 minute version that was created as part of the First Center for the Visual Arts exhibit Sylvia Hyman: Fictional Clay, as well as the 23 minute director's cut that has been shown in film festivals around the world. The DVD also includes a photo portfolio of over 400 images tracing all the stages of Hyman's work, from the earliest functional pieces to her more recent sculptures.

### ***Texture Mats sales extend to Sept. 10, 2008***



**Texture Mats, PA 02B, 4/set of rubber mats** (PA 02-#2, #4, #5 and #6), was \$48.00, Discount price is \$38.00.

**Texture Mats, PA 210B, 4/set of plastic mats** (PA 212, PA 214, PA 218 and PA219), was \$48, Discount price is \$38.00.

**Texture Mats, PA 210C, 4/set in half size** (PA 212s, PA 214s, PA 218s and PA219s), was \$24, Discount price is \$20.00.

[Read on...](#)

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