



## The Chinese Clay Art, USA

PO Box 1733, Cupertino, CA 95015, USA

Tel. 1-800-689-2529, Fax. 408-343-0117

chineseclayart@hotmail.com,

# 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>

Chief Editor: Guangzhen "Po" Zhou

English Editor: Rachel Zhou

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*From the Editor Guangzhen Po Zhou*

During Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival California, the weekend of July 12 and 13th, a person asked me why he hadn't received the Chinese newsletter for a while, and many people said they would like to go to China with me. I have to apologize about this. I've been

very busy during the past four months, spending a lot of time in mainland China and Taiwan, arriving home to San Jose, California on July 1st. In China, accessing Facebook, Google and Gmail is problematic. Now, at last, here are updates about what happened in China.

Here is my answer about the Ceramic Tour of China:

Everyone has been talking about the air pollution; PM has been 2.5 sometimes in China during the last a few years. When I was teaching in Shanghai, I had problems and a lot of coughing. The winter foggy season was the worst. Due to air pollution and inflation issues in China, I have discontinued our annual Ceramic Tours for years. Since there is a new leader of China, Xi Jinping, coming to the stage, I believe the problem will begin to reduce.

About our Ceramic Tour in China: I would like to say, yes, next year we will continue to do the ceramic tour in China, but so far, I don't have a schedule. It will most likely be in May or October of 2015. Please wait a few months; we have to coordinate with some organizations to nail down the details of the events.

*Dublin IAC September 2014*



**Through Space and Time, Contemporary Chinese Ceramics**  
--- statement by curator Guangzhen Zhou

The 46th General Assembly of International Academy of Ceramics will be held in Dublin in September, 2014. In early April, I received an email from the president of IAC Dublin 2014, Michael Moore. We discussed organizing a group of small ceramic works from Chinese artists as one of the activities at Dublin IAC. The exhibition will be held at the Chester Beatty Library; the museum is located in Dublin Castle. This is very exciting!

This exhibition will take into account contemporary ceramic art, from abstract shapes to realistic sculptures, from historical heritage to future exploration, different materials and

techniques, and diverse styles. I hope this exhibition can become a microcosm of today's contemporary ceramics in China. I have posted the information, website, blogs, and I have sent out the information through smart phones to the ceramic art community of mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. We have received over a hundred images.

After review by the jury committee, Jack Kaufman, Michael Moore, Judy Schwartz, Isabel Egan and myself, we selected 14 artists (for some reason, one of the artists from Jingdezhen wasn't able to participate the show).

The twelve selected artists are from many different regions of the country and one of each from Hong Kong and Taiwan. These artists include educators from higher educational institutions, such as Professor Dai Yuxiang and instructor Wang Hui at China Academy of Fine Arts, Jin Wei, the vice president of School of Art and Design at Jilin Institute of Arts, and Wu Haoyu at Guangxi Institute of Arts; a few of them are individual studio artists such as the Chao brothers, graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts; Wang Chengwu, graduated from China Academy of Fine Arts; Xu Runhui and Shen Li, graduated from Tsinghua University, Hong Kong artist Tsang, and Taiwan artist Huang Yuying. Among them are also three recent graduates: Zhang Jinghui, graduated from Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, Gao Renjie, graduated from the Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts, and Cheng Wei, graduated from Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Canada, plus Yang Yujie who is still in the PhD program at China Institute of Art Research.

Dai Yuxiang uses different surfaces, colors, textures, and perforated treatments on his new series of porcelain plates. He has an aesthetic of new spirit of conversion, which removes traditional ceramics to find a new language and humanistic spirit; Chao brothers are well-known for their ceramic art of the Red Age - a nostalgia theme of the 1960s and 1970s. They make ceramic works of steaming trains, tractors and other objects that reflected the era of revolutionary time, and inspired the audience to face the multiple emotions of proud and tragic in the special circumstances. Hong Kong artist Johnson Tsang's work "Tears pot" is a white avatar with his eyes closed tightly, as if he was in deep thinking. A black braid behind turns it into a dragon like shape, that reflects an image of the Qing Dynasty's stubborn ignorance, and implies a critique of the culture of traditional feudalism. Gao Renjie's "Writer" is a cartoonish ceramic sculpture figure with the artist's idols from his childhood; and Jin Wei's work is in a style of both realistic and abstract. In addition, Taiwanese artist Huang Yuying's ceramic vessel is decorated with a smoke firing technique which is unique among the others. The audience may also discover the art/design education background and the rigorous sense of our times from the artworks by Xu Renhui, Wang Hui and Yang Yujie.

I specially spent a few extra days in Shanghai. After all works were loaded onto the boat and on its way to Ireland, then I could relax. Ms. Ma Sha at Master Alliance of Art Ceramic in China helped me to receive and ship the artworks. I would like to express my appreciation to her.

Thanks to all of the jurying committee members who have been using their knowledge and time for selecting the pieces!

Thanks to all of you in the Chinese ceramic art community who have been participated in this event, whether the artworks have been selected or not!

Thanks to all of you in Dublin who have spent enormous time and effort toward this great exhibition in IAC 2014

### *Chinese Ceramics Delegation in Dublin IAC 2014*

Due to language - communication and financial issues, there were not many people in IAC General Assembly from China. This is my first time standing out, to work together with Master Alliance of Art Ceramic in China (MAACC) to organize a Chinese Ceramic Delegation. There are eight people in total including three IAC members, Lu Pinchang, Jin Zhenhua (new member) and her husband, the president of MAACC Xia Gaosheng and his assistant; Cheng Wei, a female artist and her artwork entered the show in Dublin; Huang Ziyin, specially invited as an interpreter for the group who is a new graduate from the US in the major of business law; and myself. We plan to visit London and Stoke-on-Trent to learn more about British ceramics after Dublin.

### *June 9 -16, 2014, the Ceramic Tour and Symposium in Taiwan*



Invited by Professor Huang Hongwei, I flew to Taiwan and joined the group from Art College - Henan University for a ceramic conference hosted by the schools. We have visited and had discussions at Yingge Ceramic Museum, the Asian - Pacific Institute of Creative, the National Taiwan University and Taiwan University of Arts. We have traveled from Taipei to Taichung and visited many individual ceramic studios in the mountain areas.

Taiwan Ceramics Biennale - Ceramic Vision is great show, and I believe the educational program in Yingge Ceramics Museum is one of the best in the world. Taiwan ceramic art community has wide connections around the world since 1970's. Liou Chen-Chou who was educated in Japan and now he is a professor in National Taiwan University of Arts; Ching-Yuan Chang was educated in the UA and now he is a professor in Tainan National University of Arts. Studio artist Hsieh Chia-Heng graduated from Spain. He told me he would like to help use for the General Assembly Barcelona IAC 2016.

## May 2014 in Shanghai, China



Shanghai International Ceramic Art Expo 2014, May 8 - 12, 2014.

Anything could happen tomorrow. In April, I received a phone call from Mr. Yang, the secretary of Shanghai Ceramic Artists Association, he told me about Shanghai International Ceramic Art Expo that will be hosted in May. My answer was NO. I can't put everything together for a show less one month. Then, I totally forgot about this event. By May 5th, three days before the opening, Mr. Yang called me again, "We are really need you help since it is called international and we don't have any international artworks in this show!" He offered me a booth of 36 meters by 36 meters right in the front of the exhibition hall, facing the entrance.

I hired three students and shipped 12 of pieces from my collection I have stored at my apartment in Shanghai. Most of the pieces are in vessel form and from the members of Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California (ACGA). The artists name list is: Swanica Lightenberg, Lee Middleman, Bill Geisinger, Sandy and Bob Kinzie, Dan Dermer, Anne Goldman, Hsin-Chuen Lin, Bob Pool, Jan Schachter, Bill and June Vaughn, and Guangzhen Zhou.

It turned out to be a great show and attracted a large audience.

May and June was the graduation season in China. I was invited to the graduation ceremony of the Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts with the students I have taught.

## *Big Fish Small Pot: Sixth International Small Teapot Competition*



The images from left to right:

Gold Teapot, Antonella Cimatti, Faenza, Ravenna, Italy

Yellow Boa Swallows the Snow Rabbit, Ilona Romule, Riga, Latvia

Danger Within, Julia Feld, San Jose, CA

### **Big Fish Small Pot: Sixth International Small Teapot Competition**

American Museum of Ceramic Arts, Pomona, California

April 12 - June 1, 2014

[Big Fish Small Pot Sixth International Small Teapot Competition](#)

Organized by Tony Huntley and Gloria Gimbrone from Saddleback College, Big Fish Small Pot features over 100 teapots selected by juror, Guangzhen Po Zhou. Po Zhou is a ceramic artist, writer, curator, a member of the International Academy of Ceramics, a guest professor of Fudan University-Shanghai Institute of Visual Art, the founder of the Chinese Ceramic Art Council USA, and a reporter for the Ceramic Art Magazine in Taiwan.

#### **Few words from the juror Guangzhen Zhou:**

This exhibition is over, and as the juror of the exhibition, I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who has been supporting the show. Since 2004, the exhibition has been growing with more international participation during the past ten years. Sometime, it is painful to make decisions to select the prize winners.

Best wishes to all of you!

#### **The Prizes Winner List**

Big Fish, Small Pot, International Small Teapot Competition

American Museum of Ceramic Arts, Pomona, California

##### **Grand Prize**

Yellow Boa Swallows the Snow Rabbit, Ilona Romule, Riga, Latvia

##### **First Prize**

Gold Teapot, Antonella Cimatti, Faenza, Ravenna, Italy

##### **Second Prize**

Danger Within, Julia Feld, San Jose, CA

**Third Prize**

Monkey T, Bruce Cadman, Stockton, CA

**Honorable Mention**

Neolithic Teapot 7976, Gerald Arrington, Sebastopol, CA

Side Street, Wayne Cardinali, Mississauga, ON, Canada

Tangerina, Fong Choo, Louisville, KY

Nubby Teapot, Oliva Debra, Okemos, MI

When Zeus Was an Octopus, Natasha Dikareva, San Francisco, CA

Just Ducky, Deborah Kaplan Evans, Mission Viejo, CA

Green N. Flight, Robert Lawarre III, Oviedo, FL

Guard, Serina Nakazawa, Lomita, CA

Aromas Yixing, Sylvia Rios, Aromas, CA

Tetera Amuri, Jose Sierra, Forest Grove, OR

Safety Can Teapot, Vijay V. Paniker, Glenview, IL



## *Ceramic Activities and Opportunities around the World*

Deadline: August 22, 2014, Australia Ceramics Triennial

[Australian Ceramics Triennale 2015](#)

Application: January 1- April 15, 2015, 2016 Taiwan Ceramics Biennale

[Taiwan Ceramics Biennale](#)

email: [chineseclayart@hotmail.com](mailto:chineseclayart@hotmail.com)

phone: 1-800-689-2529

web: <http://www.chineseclayart.com>

