

Chinese Clay Art USA ~ Newsletter

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Guangzhen Zhou**

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Yongkang**

**Modern International
Ceramic Center Shaoxing,
Zhejiang, China**



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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 Eastern 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

For subscription, please send your e-mail address
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Our newsletter is supposed to be sent out on a quarterly basis, but due to my busy traveling schedule, I have skipped again and again. Many things have happened after that time. I am so glad to have had the chances to visit Vilma Villaverde in Argentina, Carlos Runcie Tanaka in Peru, Rolando Giovannini and his wife Antonella Cimatti in Faenza Italy, and to meet many IAC members through activities in China, as well as NCECA in the US.

--- Chief Editor Guangzhen Zhou

ACTIVITIES IN CHINA



Contract Earth, First Central China International Ceramics Biennale opens in Henan Museum.

December 9th 2016 to March 12, 2017

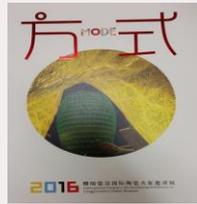
Curator: Wendy Gers (France).

This exhibit was hosted by Henan Museum and sponsored by the International Academy of Ceramics, Central Academy of Fine Arts, and Jingdezhen Ceramic University.

The exhibition's aim is to show the following characteristics: taking the road of cultural innovation, highlighting the international, artistic, academic, and forward-looking sides of ceramics, showing the essence of the traditional ceramic art and the world of contemporary exquisite ceramic technology, leading advanced technology and cutting-edge art, focusing on the relationship between ceramics and public life, inspiring people's enthusiasm for both the cultural and creative, promoting exchange and cooperation between the artists and major ceramic-producing countries of the world, creating a new field for the development of Chinese traditional museums, and promoting the development and innovation of the ceramic industry and ceramic culture of the Central Plains.

The biennale exhibition included one main exhibition, "Cont(r)act Earth," as well as three parallel exhibitions. During the exhibition, there was one Film Week of International Ceramics, one High-end Forum, several arts forum conferences from all over the world, and several related social education activities. In total, the major exhibition presented over 500 ceramic artworks from about 20 countries and regions.

The curator, Wendy Gers, may have a lot to say.



Liling Ceramic Museum in Hunan Province

Mode - International Ceramics Art Invitational Exhibition in Liling Ceramics Valley Museum

Curator Jin Wenwei

Member of International Academy of Ceramics (IAC)

Professor of Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute

November 16th, 2016 to February 15th, 2017

Artist Residency:

There are ten residency artists, including Bruce Dehnert (America), Vlad Basarab (Romania), Torbjorn Kvasbo (Norway), Lee Taxoo (Korea), Maria Cheung (Brazil), Martina Lantin (Canada), Betul Aypete (Turkey), Vinodkumar Daroz (India), Philip Read (America), Antonella Cimatti (Italy).



IAC Chinese members' exhibitions in Jingdezhen and Qingdao

Refresh Memory - IAC Chinese Members' Artworks and Documentary Traveling Exhibition #1

Time: February 22, 2017 - March 30

Location: Institute of Ceramic Art, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Jingdezhen

Curator: Zhou Guangzhen

Academic Chair: Lu Pinchang

Refresh Memory - IAC Chinese Members Artworks and Documentary Traveling Exhibition #2

Refresh Memory - IAC Chinese Members Artworks and Documentary Exhibition and "SHUITU-Water and Clay around the World", the 2nd Qingdao International Ceramics Exhibition

Time: April 8 - May 14, 2017

Location: Qingdao Sculpture Museum, Shandong Province

Curator: Wan Liya, Ye Dongwei,

Academic Chair: Zhou Guangzhen

Sponsors and Host:

International Academy of Ceramics

Central Academy of Fine Arts

China Sculpture Institute, Qingdao Sculpture Museum

Jingdezhen Tao Wenlang Group

Jingdezhen Tao Xi Chuan Tao Yi Co., Ltd.

Introduction:

"Refresh Memory" refers to a Chinese saying, "eliminate prejudices, update comprehension." (This means to treat a person with renewed vision when meeting them again three days later). This is not only a need, it should be a habit.

IAC is an international ceramic organization and a partner of UNESCO, representing the highest level of international ceramic art. IAC is like a big family, sharing in ceramic culture and technology. It is a bridge of friendship where each member is responsible for the dissemination of the principles of the spirit of UNESCO and it is our responsibility and obligation to facilitate international exchange.

IAC was founded in 1953. Due to historical reasons, it was 47 years old when they began to accept Chinese members. Mr. I-chi Hsu, one of the former council members, has made great efforts to promote communication and exchange. The IAC Chinese members' exhibition was a proposal that many members have voiced their support for in the past, as a result of Professor Lu Pinchang's initiative, and now it can finally be achieved. After more than 10 years of change, we finally have the opportunity to make this possible for our ceramic community.

Our members include educators from universities, independent artists, and artists from traditional ceramic cities, educational institutions, museums, and professional organizations in the ceramic field. They have made great contributions to the international exchange of ceramics.

Our members have different educational backgrounds, make use of different materials and techniques, operate with different styles, forms and artistic languages, and express themselves in different ways. The various ceramic works do not only reflect the spirit of artisans, the pursuit of exquisite perfection through practical utensils, or the display of glaze chemical technology or unpredictable firing processes. There are sculpture works, installation arts and ceramic products of industrial design. There is the pursuit of a pioneer spirit and whimsical concepts of art, but also efforts to show the transmission of ceramic technology and contemporary art, as well as the developments of material science and technology. Each member of our group has made great contributions to international ceramic exchange.

I would like to deeply thank all the members of IAC and the friends in the ceramic community who have participated in or otherwise supported this exhibition!

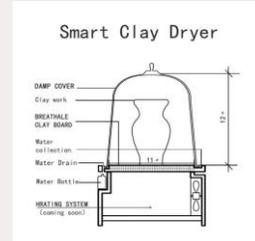
Curator Guangzhen Zhou

Council Member of International Academy of Ceramics - Representative of China

January 28, 2017

CREATIVITY BEYOND ART-New Patented Clay Drying Apparatus

I was fascinated by dome-shaped architecture since I arrived in the US in 1989, prompting me to create several dome shaped ceramic pieces. As a clay artist, I have to face the problems of clay pieces cracking due to the uneven drying process. "Why do you just make a see-through, dome-shaped, damp cover for clay pieces?" I asked myself. Adding a breathable board and heating system that will benefit many clay studio artists.....



CLAY BODY MOISTURE CONTROL AND DRYING APPARATUS

Or called SMART CLAY DRYER

China Patent: 201720114463.X

International Patent Pending

To make wet clay works dry evenly and quickly that drying process possible within over night. Finished wet clay artwork is called "green-ware." Because water sinks downwards while water vapor evaporates upward, the upper side of the clay body dries faster, and the lower part of the clay body dries more slowly. The drying process is not uniform, and this is one of the common reasons for cracking of the clay body. Smart Clay Dryer is able to make wet clay artworks dry evenly and quickly.

Item No. BB 12A

Damp Cover. It maintains a moist environment, to prevent water from evaporating too quickly from the top. The water that evaporates from the clay body adheres to the transparent cover and is discharged to the bottom of the cover and into the drain at the bottom. Size: Height 12.75", Diameter 11.75"

Item No: BB 12B

Breathable Board. The Board is perforated with many holes in order to help moisture to evaporate from the bottom of the clay body.

Size: Height 1", Diameter 12.5"

Item No: BB 12C

Breathable Board and Damp Cover

Sales 15% off until Spet. 30, 2017. Please click [Breathable Board-Damp Cover](#) to view the details.

Smart Heater. The Heater helps the clay body to dry evenly and quickly no matter the surrounding climate, whether it be during a cold winter or a hot and humid season. The finished wet clay pieces may even be able to dry overnight. Please wait for the final products to arrive.....



CM 01



CM 02

Multi-Slab Cutter and Multi-Cube Cutter

We have offer Multi-Slab Cutter for over a year that is good for making tiles and group students teaching. [CM 01](#)

Now we have a new Multi-Cube Cutter arrived by late of July for making cub-shaped clay for many different purpose. [CM 02](#)



Wall-Side Storage BBS 30. Click [here](#)

US Patent No. US D789,090 S

China Patent No: 201620031809.5

Sizes from outside: 30" Long, 4" high and 4" deep.

Whether with a bed (typically a bunk bed), sofa, or desk, sometimes there will be a gap in between in wall and furniture. It happens that pen and paper, or even books and other articles may fall through the gap. The present invention is intended to remedy such defects in the home, filling the gap between wall and furniture, such as beds, sofas, or desks to prevent articles from falling. Wall Side Storage can also be used for the storage of laptops, cell phones, glasses, drinks, books and other articles. The design is particularly suitable for residential living compressed spaces, perhaps typically like a school dormitory for students.

Call for entries for new book "Ceramic Art for Beginners-with electrical kilns", by Guangzhen Zhou

About the book project "Ceramic Art for Beginners: With Electrical Kilns".

Deadline: Aug. 31, 2017.

The electric kiln with its automatically controlled firing function is one of the most innovative pieces of technology to have appeared in the ceramic field over the past few decades. "Ceramic Art for Beginners" is a book that introduces its reader to the basics of ceramic technology usage. This book is for those who are starting from zero experience and no ceramic educational background, and it is written to suit all kinds of ceramic art lovers as well as artists of painting and other art media. The book is also designed for ceramic popular education and to help art students in establishing their ceramic studio, or even a ceramic school, using electrical kilns.

This book focuses on the most basic, common-knowledge aspects of ceramic materials, craft, electric kiln control, and information about the creation of and safety issues surrounding ceramic studios, as well as practical difficulties that may be encountered in ceramic art creation, teaching to solve problems, and introductions to the most practical needs. The book will be published in China in Chinese language only, and each accepted artist will received three copies of the book.

Qualification: All electrically fired, innovative ceramic pieces are welcome, including painting on sculptures, layering-glazed vessels, installations, and ceramic murals.

Please send images of your work (maximum 3 pieces / images) with captions to me at ChineseClayArt@yahoo.com

Thank very much for your support!

Guangzhen Zhou



In memory of our mentor and friend, Mr. Yao Yongkang

July 2nd, 23:08, Mr. Yao Yongkang (1942-2017) has passed away. Mr. Yao has long been one of the veterans and pioneers of Chinese contemporary ceramic art as a well-known sculptor and outstanding educator - a senior professor of Jingdezhen Ceramic University. When Western contemporary art was gradually introduced to the country in the mid-1980s, Mr. Yao Yongkang expressed his concerns to avoid becoming lost in the wave of globalization. Yao Yongkang called himself as a "Native Artist". His creative philosophy is "based on our roots, following the natural spirit and being creative in ceramic art".

Yao Yongkang's semi-abstract ceramic sculpture has the charm of freehand painting styles. His ceramic artworks not only embody traditional painting and calligraphy as well as Western realism in sculpture, but also reflect his literati spirit. Yao Yongkang's life is full of the vitality of thinking and creative passion.

Mr. Yao Yongkang is the friend of countless international ceramic artists and a mentor of many ceramic artists and educators in China. He is not only one of the earlier members of IAC, but also received the title of Emeritus Member of IAC in 2015.

About 10 years ago, while speaking with an American ceramic artist, I first realized that Yao's lung disease may be due to the inhalation of a large quantity of ceramic material dust, which is a typical occupational disease in the ceramic industry. Mr. Yao had been sick for a long time, but he still insisted on artwork creation and participated in various activities. In late February of this year, Mr. Yao also attended the opening ceremony and seminar of "Refresh the Memory - IAC Chinese Members' Ceramic Artwork Exhibition" in Jingdezhen.

Yao Yongkang has left an important chapter in the history of contemporary art. IAC - the worldwide ceramic family have lost an outstanding mentor and good friend. Mr. Yao Yongkang, we will always miss you!

Guangzhen Zhou,
Council Member of IAC, Representative of China, July 3, 2017

There are many opportunities for international ceramic resident programs based on different ceramic traditions in China. Here is a new one based on the historical site of Celadon.

Modern International Ceramic Center Shaoxing, Zhejiang, China

We are an artist-residency program, co-established by Shangyu District Government and Fine Arts College of Tsinghua University on Jan 29th, 2015, aiming at recruiting decent artists from around the world to share with us their advanced techniques, experience, and conduct researches, creations, exhibitions, academic discussions and publications here.

Please visit [Shang Yu Celadon](#)