



Auckland Studio Potters

DOMESTICWARE AWARD 2011

ASP Centre, 9-16 September 2011

Opening Thursday, 8 September 2011 at 6:30pm

Premier Award: \$500
Merit Awards: \$500 (total)

SELECTOR: ROSIE MURRAY

Submission days
Monday - Wednesday
5-7 September 2011

The ASP Domesticware Award is generously sponsored by Tony Bacon



STUDENTS' EXHIBITION

The 2011 Domesticware Award is only a couple of weeks away - good prizes, great opening night (rumours of an ASP live acoustic band are rife), the odd speech and the usual ASP hospitality. Even if you are not entering please come along and join in the good times. There will be a wide range of ASP members' functional ware on show - it is great to see the flag flying for this important and most fundamental part of the ceramic spectrum. There is nothing quite as satisfying as a well-made and comfortably useful pot. It is also good to be able to use the word "pot" without worrying about offending all the rest of the workers in clay; the work on show here will definitely be "pots".

Rosie Murray, the judge, has been one of our leading salt-glazers and makers of functional ware for many years and will bring that experience to the decision making and awarding of prizes - these are serious amounts of money and the number of entries should reflect that, so get your work ready. We are very grateful for Tony's sponsorship and your support as members.

And of course we have "Fire and Clay" the ASP's annual exhibition coming up as well. Selected this year by Lex Dawson and Richard Fahey, we hope there will be plenty of functional pots in this show as well - often they are not entered because there is a feeling that sculptural and non-functional work is what is required for this sort of event, but that is not true: we welcome the sort of well-made pots and vessels that have always underpinned our society. Entry form with this newsletter.



Vicki Baas, Chris Southern and Lois Jameson
at the opening of the Students' Exhibition

Friday evening 29 July was the opening of the annual Students' Exhibition at the Centre. The show was a great surprise for anyone who had been around during the very quiet submission week (second week of the school holidays), because somehow between noon and 6pm on Friday, the number of pieces for exhibition seemed to multiply about fourfold! All the classes were well represented, including some Diploma students, and the work ranged across many styles and firing methods.

The show was expertly organised and catered, as it has been for the past few years, by Chris Southern's Monday night class - mulled wine (best ever) and multiple yummy varieties of chili combatted the winter cold, and the chocolate jaffa cake afterwards was to die for. (Not that we're food obsessed at ASP or anything.) Musical accompaniment was provided by Helen Adams and Elizabeth Wilkinson, so the crowd was really treated on all fronts. And it was a crowd - it's very encouraging to see so many people coming out for these events, as has been the case more and more in recent times. It is the food, isn't it ... no matter, we'll take it! The show ran for the following week. The people's choice vote was a tie, between Nadine Spalter for her group of three tall porcelain vessels, and Gina Ferguson, for her shino teapot and jug (photo above) - they will split the prize of a term's free tuition. And the winning tutor, with the most entries from students in his class, was Chris Southern - congratulations to all of you!

Next up is the Domesticware Award, opening on Thursday 8 September - judging from the amount of great functional work in this show, there shouldn't be any shortage of entries for that; entry form with this newsletter.

We need urgently (right now) ... pictures of you!!

Send in any photos you have of yourself, or past members of the ASP - we are looking to produce an exciting "family" image for our 50th birthday year publicity. Digital images to: asp@ceramics.co.nz or post old snaps to Box 13-195 Onehunga, we'll return them.

Centre Report

Renton Murray

From the desk - and what a tidy desk it is. The computer has been replaced with lots of new memory space (I wish I could get some of that) and I'm told it's much, much better. However that meant that the old one went away to get cloned, and that meant that Trien had less to do, resulting in a very, very tidy office, helped by the removal of the large next-to-useless dinosaur of a printer. Jo-Anne busied herself in the library where does all the junk come from? We really could think about a conveyor belt direct to the dump over the road. We are looking so tidy.

Let-down time ... the new computer packed a sad hardly two days into its new life and went away for a new C drive ... how I hate computer jargon. All the recently fed-in data disappeared and thank heavens all the notes and forms were found in the rubbish bin.

To further underline the fact that life at the ASP does not always go smoothly - the gas kiln also played up. So the Marx Bros fitted a new regulator and all seemed well until it again went out part-way through its next firing. An emergency text was sent to one of the Marx Bros and the firing was saved (we think) - thank you Tony "Marx" Lowe.

The Friday opening of the Students' Exhibition was a good evening. Well supported even though we were worried we had timed it badly with the new holiday dates - wretched World Cup - but it went well with many entries. Many thanks to the Monday evening class for all their work. Well done also to Nadine Spalter and Gina Ferguson the joint winners.

The entries to the Portage Award have closed, and thankfully not too many last minute firings had to be undertaken. Now it's full steam ahead for the ASP show at Mairangi Bay. Please don't leave your firings until the very end, we may not always be able to rely on a text message to find a kiln repair man mid-firing. Don't forget that excellent notice up on the wall at Elam: 'Your lack of time management is not our concern.'

We are going to have one more demonstration weekend later in the year. We missed out on the visiting American (or was he Canadian) and the Portage Judge from Australia also jumped ship so we are looking to a good reliable Kiwi potter we know will be very popular, so get ready to make your booking. That's all from me.

Auckland Art Fair

Suzy Dünser

I have to admit I was a little sceptical going to the Auckland Art Fair last weekend. As a potter, I was aware I would be entering a world of galleries I don't quite feel I belong in, and as a bonus, I don't always appreciate contemporary art as much as I perhaps should, either. But I do have an interest in art beyond (and of course including) ceramics, and my diploma tutor this term, Bronwynne Cornish, had encouraged us to go, so I did.

As it turned out, it was well worth it. The fair is based around dealer galleries from around New Zealand and Australia showing examples of the work of artists they represent, so the show is for the most part representative of what's happening right now in the art world. It was very interesting to see the concepts people are exploring in all media, and what sorts of objects and paintings they create to express these. It was also valuable to see the kind of art each gallery represents, and to talk to the owners - the conversation I had with one gallery owner was by itself worth the \$25 entry fee, as a lesson in how to market one's work. (Short answer: Blog.)

The Art Fair as an experience was also a positive one. The Viaduct Events Centre is a great venue, spacious and open. It was fun running into people I knew, as well as a few I recognised but didn't know personally - fortunately, apart from greeting Len Brown a little too enthusiastically at one point, I managed not to confuse the two. There were also artists' talks, panel discussions, etc on offer at various points during the weekend, but I didn't go to any of these. Maybe next time - the Art Fair is held every two years, and having seen this one, I will definitely go again.

50th Birthday Reminders

**ASP Special Exhibition:
"Fire and Clay"
Mairangi Bay
September - October
Get your pots ready now**

**Big 50th Birthday Party:
November 5th
Fireworks, food, music
All afternoon
and into the evening
Special performance kiln
Afternoon tea
Barbeque at night
followed by party, dancing,
two live bands
ALL FREE!!**

**Contact ex-ASP members -
bring them along to talk
over old times and firings.
Lots of photos and
nostalgia videos.
Let's celebrate our
great club!!**

!! Party of the Year !!

(Other than the awesome ASP 50th one happening in November) ... You're invited to join an experimental kiln firing in September.

Student Project Needs Helping Hands

Come early September, as part of my graduation project, there will be a rather large clay statue (2.5m high) to be fired in situ on the Unitec grounds but before then there are the firebox and fibre kiln to be constructed, wood to be transported and stacked, pot-lucks to be cooked, wine to be ordered, live music to be arranged and most probably other vital tasks not even thought of yet

So if you would like to be part of the team because you'd like to learn how to build a fibre kiln or do a wood firing, or perhaps just cos you love sitting around a kiln hearth and being part of the action - I'd be really glad of your help.

Please contact me either on 021 730 882 or stlawrence2005@yahoo.com.au and we can talk details.

P.S. This event will be filmed for all sort of reasons; masks will be provided for those who are camera shy.

Susan St Lawrence



4 brick sculptures at New Lynn



Bronwynne at work

Diploma Update

Rebekah Hall

Well, for those of us on the Diploma it's been one hell of a busy time.

Elena's wood firing module was a great success ... all of us had some very beautiful and individual pots that were revealed from our second and final firing, which was a relief as our assessment is yet to follow. Our fellow students who had taken off in their own 'self' direction certainly had not been resting and have produced some very accomplished pieces which they are very proud of - they haven't actually said this but the smiles say it all!

We are now back together, which is great, to finish off the year with Bronwynne Cornish. The class got off to a fantastic start, we listened to Bronwynne as she gave us an insight into her life, work (one and the same), and the people she had met along the way. Her enthusiasm and passion for ceramics was infectious and we are all fired up to play with new clay, Feeney's Red Raku.

Bronwynne demonstrated the freedom and strength of Feeney's using slab techniques. She gave all the credit to the clay for her ease in making slabs become a torso - let's hope my two bags are as accommodating and skilled! Don't forget the Diploma Student Exhibition coming to Estuary Arts Centre, Orewa, in October.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the ASP blog:

ASP50yearsold.blogspot.com

Just spent 30 happy minutes lost (absorbed) in this site - it's wonderful! Amazing photos of dozens of events and schools and firings at the ASP over the last few decades. If you want to see John Parker with his shirt off, or outstanding heads of hair from the past, check it out!

Helen has done a great job collecting and scanning photos, identifying the people in them and writing the text - a huge amount of work. You'll see:

Akio Takamori, Jo Finch, Jeff Oestreich, Janet De Boos, John Green, Carol Selfridge, Chris Weaver and Marilyn Wiseman, plus pots from many of our members and demonstrators.



Aerial photography

With not a lot of writing around this month I am putting in some photos from my own album (taken by Suzy Dünser) of some of my brick pieces being installed at the new development in the heart of New Lynn. There is some substantial public sculpture being installed in the area and these 5 pieces are a tribute to the brick-works that used to be such a big part of the life of the area. They will be good for kids to play on as well. There will be a grand opening there in early September.



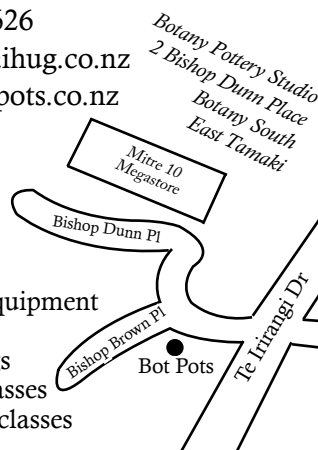
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FOR SALE:

Books for collectors:

"Pioneer Pottery" Michael Cardew \$30

"Clay and Glazes for Potters" Rhodes \$25

"Stoneware and Porcelain" Rhodes \$25

All in very good condition

Collectable plate by David Eeles (UK), 25 cm dia, signed, \$25 (pictured).

Phone Leo King



FOR SALE: 6 cu ft Rexmark gas kiln with furniture, probe and gas bottles. Fired ten times. Contact: Chris 8174018, soulje@ihug.co.nz

FOR SALE:

McGregor electric kiln with programmer (Model 3), pugmill, small shed, several bags of clay, kiln furniture, raw materials. \$5000 the lot. Phone Gaye 6255831

Disappointing news from Lopdell House Gallery:

The judge for this year's Award, Janet Mansfield, well-known Australian potter and ceramic internationalist, who was pencilled in to give a school at the Centre (a bonus spin-off from this event which happens most years), is now not able to fit it into her timetable. Lopdell have been very supportive of the ASP and they will be disappointed too. However we will do our best to find a replacement from outside Auckland. We'll let you know.

Thanks to the family of Jenny Williams for the donation of a stack of pottery-related books.

1150°C Earthenware Firings

With the switch in emphasis at the Centre from Cone 1 to Cone 5, a few people have decided to coordinate with each other to organise earthenware firings at 1150°C.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Helen Perrett: bhperrett@vodafone.co.nz

ASP CENTRE

Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday: 12.30pm - 5.30pm

Friday: 12.30pm - 4pm

Saturday: 10am - 4pm

\$3 per hour (includes after class time)

(up to a maximum of \$9 per session)

Centre Director: Renton Murray

6343622

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Peter Lange. Phone 6306942
Please send any copy or photographs to
lange52@clear.net.nz

Ann's Mulled Wine

(from the Students' Show opening)

2 oranges, 7 cloves stuck into each; piece of fresh ginger, chopped; handful of raisins; 3 cinnamon sticks; 1/2 c brown sugar; 1/2 cup honey; lemon rind; 2 lemons cut into quarters; 2 oranges cut into quarters; 2c orange juice.

Boil up, add 3 bottles of red wine.

Amounts are just a rough guide, I do it by taste. It keeps well in the fridge (don't strain it) and just heat when needed.



Kate and Ann from the Monday Night Class making the mulled wine at the Students' Exhibition



waiclay@taris.co.nz

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DVD Review

John Pirtle

LEN CASTLE - POTTER - DISC 96

This disc is a copy of a 16mm film made by Stan Jenkins for the Department of Education in the mid 70s. It is an absorbing demonstration of the absolute mastery of all the major techniques of pottery from digging and working up clay to throwing, reforming, glazing and firing.

Len Castle needs little introduction; his work is widely known and held in public and private collections throughout New Zealand and overseas. As a contemporary of potters such as Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada he was one of the principal drivers of the craft pottery movement in New Zealand from the 60s onwards, and thus this disc offers encouragement and inspiration to potters at all stages of their careers or interest.

PETER STICHBURY AND LADI KWALI AT ABUJA - DISC 72 - Monochrome

Like Len Castle, Peter Stichbury needs little introduction. A potter whose experience extends over his entire adult life, who, like Len Castle, met and worked extensively with the pre-eminent potters of the 20th century such as Leach and (on this DVD) Michael Cardew, but also spent time with the extraordinary Ladi Kwali at Abuja in Nigeria.

A dog with his leg wrapped in bandages hobbles into a saloon.

He sidles up to the bar and announces:
"I'm lookin' fer the man that shot my paw."



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