



THE BIG SMOKE Our Own Conference UNITEC APRIL 1 - 3

And
where there's (BIG) SMOKE
there's (PLAYING WITH) FIRE

PLAYING WITH FIRE

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can be checked out at the Centre right now!
\$55 to ASP members

HELP!!

we need

BILLETS

(for overseas guests and out-of-town potters)
Around the time of the conference ...
late March/early April for a few days

STAFF

to look after the NZSP exhibition for shifts of
about 3 hours. You will not be alone and it
will be a really interesting experience in the
heart of Mt Eden. Every day 2nd - 22nd April.
Pick your own days.

LABOUR

to set up the exhibition in Mt Eden during
the week 28th - 31st March. Shifting (light)
plinths, moving pots in boxes, no heavy work,
some painting.

OPENING NIGHT STAFF

Serving wine and food, sales desk duties,
general assistance.

ADMINISTRATION

At the Conference on opening day looking
after people and making sure they are all
comfortable and happy.

MORE LABOUR

Setting up the teaching rooms for the
demonstrators - moving in wheels and basic
equipment first thing on Saturday morning.
Also dismantling on the Sunday night - lots of
people needed for that short, but full-on, job.

There will be other requests coming through -
this is our biggest function of the decade, it's
an intensive but enjoyable few days and we'd
love to have you involved.

Get in touch with the ASP office
6343622
PLEASE!!



Conference Guests

Left: Michael Doolan
(Australia)
Lower left: Paul Maseyk
(NZ)
Below: Gustavo Perez
(Mexico)
Right: Linda Christianson
(USA)
Lower Right:
Tavs Jorgensen (UK)
To come next month:
Carla Ruka (NZ)
Mike O'Donnell (NZ)



There has been a change in line-up for the conference ... Brian Adams has been replaced by Tavs Jorgensen from the Royal College of Art in London (photo below) who works with similar computer-generated design techniques.



2011 - ASP 50 Years on

In an attempt to preserve stories about the ASP, Lex Dawson, Helen Perrett and Jacqui Brown invite you to send in memories about your association with ASP, whether it be about classes, workshops, firing tales, ASP Guy Fawkes recollections, tales about teachers and their methods - we would be interested to hear your memories. Please write to Helen: hperrett@yahoo.co.nz or Box 13195 Onehunga to be collated into a web journal to be kept over this year, the year of the 50th anniversary of ASP. In this monthly journal we want to have funny anecdotes, stories, interviews and excerpts from past publications - we are also very keen to have old photos scanned and put on the website for everyone to enjoy. The better quality the image to be scanned the better the result. We will return the original prints to you. Thanks
Helen Perrett

New Year at the Centre *Renton Murray*

The new term is underway and nearly all the classes are very full. John Dawson is doing the first term on Tuesday evenings and he has a very full class. He appeared to be keeping my old class (with some newbies) in good humour and under control - it must be the prison training. I'm told by Trien, who keeps a keen eye on this sort of thing, that we need to increase the price of porcelain. We have not been recovering our costs. Clay stocking and pricing is a tricky thing - we don't want too much stock over the hot holidays in that little tin shed. We can't always get deliveries exactly when we want. So we started the new term with a few shortages but two pallets arrived on the 1st Thursday and thanks to two helpers Trien had it all put away in no time. I've started as tutor of the Thursday morning class, a major change for me as I've always done night classes. It left me more time for making pots, but as that's not happening at present taking over from Peter Stichbury seemed a good idea. He's left a big hole and I have my work cut out to fill it.

Trien has been doing overtime on the yearly accounts and the Conference, but did manage some time away and chose the stormy end of January to go sailing. Safely back on shore and brain not waterlogged I'm glad to report.

Jo-Anne and the Conference are joined at the hip. She organised a "potathon" so you can drink coffee and eat off pottery rather than paper cups and plates at the conference. A really good idea and I believe a lot of fun was had by many supporters. Mugs thrown, handled and sprigged with a logo and bowls made and turned. The centre looked amazing, like a real production pottery (a lovely sight in my eyes). Boards and boards of pots. A really good effort.

Lois had some fun also ... cleaning up after it all. She is also very busy working towards her exhibition.

Jo-Anne and Trien are working long hours with the NZSP conference. I wouldn't be surprised come the end of the conference that I'll be fulltime at the ASP for a week or two burnout alert.

The Marx Bros have been busy (again) and we hope the damp cupboards improvements will make a difference. Mike has done a good job on them and the firewood pile is quickly vanishing into the storage areas. So to sum up briefly:

Clay in stock. Wet cupboards improved. Glazes mixed (well most of them). Office staff refreshed. Large kiln 'refused' but only to be used over the weekends and never again on BCDO. Welcome to 2011 ... come and use your facilities.

Pot-a-thon:

Report from the trenches by Suzy Dunser

A few months ago, Joanne, our fearless Conference Leader, came to the conclusion that it didn't make sense for potters to be eating and drinking from plastic. She decided that we will all have ceramic mugs and bowls for our morning teas and lunches during the weekend, and at the end of the conference, the mugs will be given away, one to each attendee, and the bowls will be sold.

The next step was to organise a production day at ASP for these, and so the Pot-a-thon was born For those of us who missed the era of production pottery, the day was something of a revelation. There were wedgers, throwers, pot transporters, and later in the day, handle pullers, turners, and spriggers. Quite a few old hands showed up in the morning and showed us newbies how it's done – I would finish one bowl just in time to see another full board being carried away from a wheel to my right. There were a few Diploma students

in the mix, too, and we quietly thanked Duncan Shearer (possibly still a wee bit grudgingly) for the throwing boot camp he put us through a couple of years ago. But the atmosphere was relaxed, with everyone just getting on with their own work. For me it was a great way to get back into throwing after a summer of almost none, and by the end of the day we'd done all the mugs and most of the bowls. I also learned how to sprig properly, which has opened up a whole new range of decorating possibilities in my mind.

Although there was an initial attempt to standardise at least the bowls, each potter put their own twist on the pots, with the result that there are now mugs and bowls for every aesthetic and every appetite – but all united by the Big Smoke logo, which will be a great memento of the conference. It was a really good feeling to have everyone there working and focused on a common goal. And of course we had lovely morning tea and lunch breaks; this is the ASP, after all. (Sorry you missed it? Watch this space – we might do it again, for other causes... Nadine already has plans...)



Pot-a-thon Throwers

Headland Sculpture on the Gulf 2011

Suzy Dunser

Every second year, the headland on Waiheke Island between Matiatia and Te Miro Bay is temporarily transformed into an outdoor sculpture park. The walk itself is stunning enough, with beautiful views over the water of Waiheke, out towards Great Barrier Island, and back to the city, but the addition of the artworks adds layers of interest and meaning to the experience. The walk is free (donations gratefully accepted), and for \$5 you get a full-colour catalogue with statements about the works and the artists' backgrounds as well as concept images. This is a worthwhile purchase, as many of the artworks are conceptual, and understanding the motivation behind them contributes significantly to one's appreciation of them.

It's also interesting to see how the realities of construction, as well as dealing with what are often difficult site locations, impact the development of the work from the concept stage to the realised sculpture. This year, the weather provided an added challenge – two days after the opening, Waiheke was battered by torrential rain and wind, and several of the sculptures were affected by this. It was like a tap on the shoulder from Mother Nature, to remind us who has the final say about the state of this world that we as artists try to understand and comment on.

This was most thought-provoking in the case of Jeff Thomson's Carpet, a beautiful woven tapestry of corrugated iron laid out across the ground in a bush-covered area of the walk – and, for the most part, submerged underwater as a result of flooding from the storm. At each edge just enough was visible to give an idea of the extent of the artwork, and to allow appreciation of the effort that had gone into the installation. The statement in the catalogue about Carpet indicates that changes over time from natural causes would form part of the total experience, and even though the flooding was much more sudden and drastic than the gentle falling of leaves, my initial dismay was tempered somewhat by the realisation that this was, in fact, what had been described.

Many of the pieces in the show make serious statements about our use and abuse of the environment, and some are quite abstract, but others convey a definite sense of fun, and some are simply beautiful. The show is well worth a day trip to Waiheke.

headland Sculpture on the Gulf will be on until Sunday, 20 February 2011.

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FURNACE ENGINEERING

EXHIBITIONS

Corban Estate Arts Centre: From March 4th "The Deep End of the Mud Hole" - a group show of ceramics by resident artists at the Corban Estate; some have never touched clay before, some have been potting for many years. In association with the Big Smoke conference.

Objectspace:

"Best in Show" is our annual survey of work by outstanding 2010 graduates from six institutions. We are delighted that two of this year's featured makers have been independently selected to represent New Zealand in Munich at the prestigious Talente 2011 along with other young makers featured in earlier "Best in Show" exhibitions. 8 Ponsonby Rd. Until 24th February.



Pot-a-thon production - some of the 300 bowls and 300 mugs

CLASSIFIED

Wanted: Plate setters to suit plates of a maximum diameter of 30 cms. Contact Maureen Lewis: momac@paradise.net.nz or 09 408 7155

For sale: Kiln, Top Loader, Elecurn Price \$900 Cantilevered lid to open the kiln easily. Kiln comes with 4 shelves & pyrometer, no controller, fires to 1300 degrees. 2 or 3 phase. Condition is good with some surface rust on the lid. Phone Fiona 09 427 9091

The Starving Artist

This month the roving art foodie is positively wasting away. Where have all the art cafes gone?! Can see an excursion to the Wallace Art Trust in Morrinsville (where?) on the cards just to keep the carbs up. If you know of any establishment that serves up good food and art let ASP know and I'll check it out (probably at lunch time).

Win a Book:

We're doing a giveaway of four Lark Ceramics titles. Go to: <http://www.larkcrafts.com/craft-your-life/the-joy-of-clay-a-lark-ceramics-book-bundle-giveaway> includes 500 Ceramic Sculptures, the soon-to-be released 500 Vases, and Masters

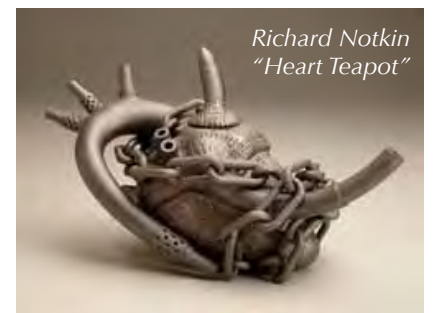
We are setting up the roster for this year's "SATURDAYS AT THE CENTRE" It's good fun, it's easy, you get work done, you meet all sorts. Please get in touch if you can spare a Saturday every 3 months or so.

Porcelain and Masters Earthenware. All you have to do is leave a comment on the post for a chance to win. I thought this would be of interest to you and your friends; please feel free to share the link, leave a comment, and help spread the word! Kathleen McCafferty, Assistant Editor Follow the blog at www.larkcrafts.com

Richard Notkin has sent an email promoting his inaugural Mould-making and Slip-casting School to be held in his studio at Helena, Montana, in the first 2 weeks of July this year. It will be limited to 8 students and I would give my eye-teeth to be there. His work using these techniques is internationally renowned. He is 3 miles from the legendary Archie Bray Foundation and students will be visiting there and other potters in the area. Contact: notkin@dishmail.net Fees (incl tuition and materials): \$US975, all other costs are yours.



What happens when you make pots out of glaze materials - four ASP kiln shelves take a hammering.



Richard Notkin "Heart Teapot"

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

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