



Centre closed 2nd July for school

Newsletter of the
New Zealand Studio Potters Society Inc
PO Box 13-195 Onehunga
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Travel Evening - Friday June 24th, 7pm ASP



China

Come along to find out what the Chinese Butler Actually Saw. Trien, Peter and Duncan all saw it for themselves through these peep-holes in the street theatre in Suzhou. Lots more strange ceramic adventures too, travelling through Shanghai, Yixing, Jingdezhen and Zibo.

STOP PRESS: Extra lead-in presentation featuring NZ's own Sub-Antarctic Islands. One of our members, Lawrie Mead, is involved with research there on albatross and sooty shearwater. Bonus event!!!



Alaska

You'll see bears, mooses, hoary marmots and maybe even Wild Palins. Jo-Anne took an extensive trip through the wildernesses of Alaska following a lifetime's dream and you can share it with her. Hair-raising small-plane trips, tramping adventures and incredible scenery.

CENTRE REPORT

Renton Murray

It's not the "same old same old" this month at the Centre. Pots made, pots fired, pots left, seemingly forever, in the bisque shed awaiting their makers' remembering their existence. No, we now have a new alarming trend at the Centre. Burglary!!! Yes, we've had 2 in the last month (five in the year). One over the Queen's B'day weekend and one about three weeks ago on a Thursday night. Thank goodness they don't do any damage apart from cutting locks and forcing doors. Nearly all the tools were removed from the locked tool shed and the kiln shed yielded up its prized shelf grinder. This last one saw 'only' a Diploma student's tool box removed from the dipsters shed. We have only just had a new security light fitted and the others repaired and checked over. Watch out!! The Marx Bros seek revenge and automatic high pressure hose systems and/or electrification of all padlocks is being considered.

On a happier more constructive note, the Social Committee have been busy and a travel evening has been planned for later this month and also a weekend workshop has been organised. Aaron Scythe (see April newsletter) does a very interesting modern take on traditional Japanese pottery. He worked there up to the earthquake. The workshop will be a mix of hands on and demonstrations ending with hi-fire Raku. Places will be limited, so book (and pay) early for this.

The hifire/lowfire group are getting ready to launch and the honey glaze continues to run onto the shelves in the meantime. The kitchen boiler, after two new switches were fitted at great expense, now boils - thanks to a concerted effort from the Marx Bros. Many cups of tea had to be made and tested and the boiler watched, adjustments made, and it's temp taken with a digi-probe ... rather like firing a kiln but with more serious repercussions.

The Library has been a hive of activity with new titles added and old ones found and returned. In total about 550 titles, thank you Judy Rae. It's all fun at the ASP (apart from the thefts) and Peter and I and others are talking of a "Business Trip" to Barry's at Coromandel to discuss burner details. Sounds like fun; followed by hard work on the kiln site.

Workshop with Aaron Scythe

NZ potter working in Mashiko for 20 years, now back in this country after the tsunami.

A very energetic and expressive approach to clay
Saturday and Sunday 2nd - 3rd July

day 1: throwing and glazing techniques
day 2: finishing pots and high fire raku

Cost \$60 for 2 days ... shared lunch

Demonstrating or hands-on if you wish

minimum 15 people maximum 20 people

http://www.aaronscythe.com/english/ewebkoten_02.html
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3T-TnYVRQo>
<http://www.aaronscythe.com/index.htm>



A day in the life

of a Diploma student

Suzy Dünser

Someone asked me recently how I got my glaze to be so even. I was astounded. The thought that anyone could perceive me as being in control of my glazes was just so far from my own experience I couldn't believe I'd managed to give that impression... but I suppose if you persevere long enough with a glaze eventually you get on top of it. And then you start over. Here is a more typical story of my glazing life, not exactly to give hope to people struggling with glazing, but to let them know that what they may be experiencing is not atypical...

I am very new to porcelain, and recently I glazed three porcelain bowls with copper red. I wanted to see if I could make the glaze thin enough on the outside that a raised pattern I'd water-etched on would still show up, so my plan was to spray the outside (thinner than dipping), and then put a light coating of Abbot's Clear over the top to keep the red from burning off totally. The bowls came out of the gas firing with the outsides okay, although thicker than I'd expected - but with massive pools of glaze on the inside, and dunting cracks right around the outside where the tops of the glaze pools were. Very disappointing - I was just relieved the glaze hadn't run off on the outside and ruined the shelves as well. I had one more bowl I'd glazed the same that hadn't gone into the firing, so I rinsed it and brought it home to dry.

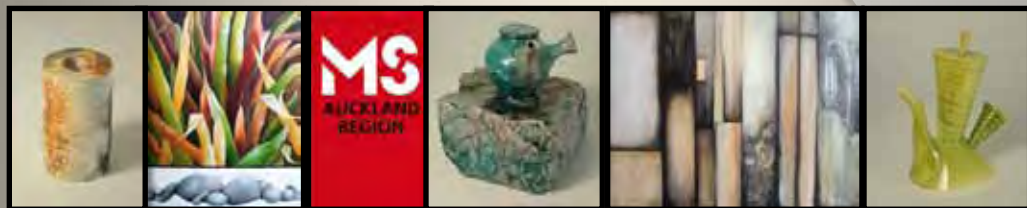
Saturday I went to reglaze it, assuming that the reason it was so thick was that I'd gotten extra glaze on the inside when I sprayed the rim. So I poured the inside again and then dipped the rim (rather than spraying it) and then sprayed the outside with the bowl upside down so no glaze got in. When I turned it over, I saw some glaze had chipped off the rim - not a big deal to fix, but it looked really thick. So I dug my nail into the glaze on the inside of the pot... and it was just as thick as the first time. Now, I have used copper red lots of times in the past, and I'd checked the thickness on my hand before I poured it, and it was totally fine... but maybe not for porcelain. The only thing I could conclude was that despite the pot's being thin, the porcelain was so absorbent it was sucking a huge amount of water up and making the glaze really thick. So I scraped out the whole inside, and decided to try repouring it then, hoping the dampness of the pot would keep the glaze from getting



when he thought I had enough glaze on the outside, and also reassured me that the white rim on the pot would be fine and would have happened anyway, so I let it be at that point (also didn't spray on the Abbots Clear, maybe a mistake) and put it in the kiln, pretty sure that one of any number of things would turn out to be wrong - glaze pooling on the inside, not thick enough on the outside, nothing on the rim...

The bowl came out proper red on the inside, and no pooling, so that was a relief. It's sort of black on the outside (carbon trapped, probably from the glaze being somewhat thin and the firing being heavily reduced), not much red at all... However, the thin glaze means the raised pattern on the outside of the bowl shows up really well, which is what I was hoping to achieve in red, so it's not all bad ... I think it's growing on me already.

Your Invitation to An Occasion.....



6TH ANNUAL "ART FOR MS" EXHIBITION

BNZ FOYER

AOTEA CENTRE

4TH TO 10TH JULY 2011

Monday morning I went in feeling slightly doomed. I thinned down the copper red and poured the inside of the bowl. For some reason, probably to avoid chipping, I decided not to dip the rim then, but to spray the outside first. In the middle of that exercise, Peter Lange came over to see what I was doing: "You should really have that on a chuck," he said. Duh! If I'd used a chuck, I could have also dipped the rim first (and avoided what happened next, which was that the glaze didn't stick to the rim, because of course by then the pot was totally wet). Peter told me

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too thick. Ha. Of course the pot was totally wet and I ended up with a superthin coat of glaze on the inside, with the whole pot so wet that I couldn't touch the outside either without patches of glaze coming off on my fingers. At that point I was sick of the whole thing, so I chucked the bowl on a shelf and pitched out the door. Later, common sense made me go back and rinse off the patchy glaze, so I could start again from scratch.

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The show advertised above is in support of the MS Society and will feature many pieces from ASP members:

Annie McIver, Brendan Adams, Graham Ambrose, Helen Perrett, Jo-Anne Raill, John Parker, Margaret Sumich, Nadine Spalter, Rachel Carter, Suzy Dünser, Susan St Lawrence, Peter Lange, Jacqui Brown.

Social Shenanigans

Susan St Lawrence

The events team has finally caught its breath after the Big Smoke conference and have put together a calendar of events that will keep you on your toes for the rest of the year. Not only are there plenty of exhibitions to challenge your creative abilities but there's the ASP 50th Birthday Knees-up to challenge your dancing abilities. Better start your get-fit regime pronto!

Pencil these events into your diary now, we'll confirm dates and details closer to the time.

Friday 24th June, 7pm: Intrepid Travel Talks. Peter Lange and Duncan Shearer on their ceramic trip to China. Jo-Anne Raill on her slightly-ceramic-but-mainly-hiking trip to Alaska.

Mid/late July: ASP Student Show. Get making now.

Mid/late August: ASP Domestic Ware Award and Exhibition, kindly sponsored by Tony Bacon. Great prizes to be won. Start planning now.

Tuesday 13th September: Annual Fire and Clay Exhibition.

Mid/late October: "Lamington and Lustre" ... the ASP's 50th Birthday Celebration.

Saturday afternoon high tea for a bit of a cruise down Memory Lane, followed by much more than a bit of partying in the evening. Volunteers wanted for help with catering, studio tart-up and decoration, bonfire setting etc etc. A chance to show how much you love the place.

Double Happy 5th November: Cone 5 Debut Exhibition PLUS Guy Fawkes Night (or could even be the much promised Gal Fawkes night...)

Sunday 4th December: Big Clay Day Out including The Diploma Student Exhibition Usual volunteer tidy-up and set-up on Saturday 3rd.



Cone 5 Update

This month the Cone 5 group was so focused, you wouldn't have recognised us. We've picked the glazes we're going to test for the initial ASP collection (this may be revised over time next year, once we see which glazes are most popular), and we will be testing larger batches of those on pots later this month. Once we have those glazes sorted, we'll go back to our own explorations, which means more colours and textures again - this will probably be in August or September. Around that time, we're also hoping to organise an evening at the Centre with an exhibition of our work glazed with our new glazes, so people can get an idea of the types of effects possible at this temperature (and in oxidation). If you are interested in joining the group, or receiving e-mails with updates on where we're up to, please contact Suzy Dünser: suzy@dunser.com.

The Starving Artist

Cold winter weather intensifies the hunt for food and art that warms both the soul and the stomach. It's also a time when one tends to want to stay close to home, especially if one has the luxury of still having a fireplace in one's living room. Curled up by the fire reading a good book on Henry Moore or Pat Hanly, or watching an enthralling video on Alberto Giacometti and his struggle to translate his inner visions into wax and bronze ... a steaming bowl of soup and mug of hot chocolate by your side ... bliss.

Nourishing, fire-musing times can, for some of us, be all too rare an occasion. But they are truly precious, and as potters have known for eons, fire-watching inevitably leads to inspiration (I'm not sure sitting watching an electric kiln has quite the same effect but all things are possible I guess ...)

So throw a log on the fire (or a fireplace video in the DVD (yes, you can get them) and curl up with some of these treats (recipes on right and below): ASP Pot Luck Recipe Best Ever Mushroom Soup and ASP Pot Luck Recipe Steam Pudding. (NB we have only a few of the ASP Recipe books left for sale).

The Story of Art by E.H. Gombrich

The Big Picture: A History of NZ Art from 1642 by Hamish Keith

Art and Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking by Bayles and Orland

How to Have Creative Ideas: 62 Exercises to Develop the Mind by Edward de Bono

Any book or DVD on Henry Moore, Pat Hanly, The Blue Rider, Ralph Hotere, Botticelli, Marino Marini, Edward Hopper, Degas, John Constable, El Greco, Shane Cotton, Sean Tan

Tip: Our supercity library system now allows you access to books in ANY library from Manukau and Franklin to Rodney and Waitakere. The range of art books is limitless.

Also visit Videon video library in Dominion Rd, Valley Road Shops for an awesome selection of art videos. It's a great experience to be led through The Hermitage or Le Louvre by a knowledgeable art commentator. They have lots of biographies on significant artists as well.

Golden Syrup Steamed Pudding, p 51

100g butter, 100g caster sugar, 2 large eggs, grated rind of one large orange, 100g self raising flour, 1 Tbsp orange juice, 3 Tbsp golden syrup

Cream butter and sugar until smooth and pale in colour. Add the eggs one at a time together with the orange rind. Beat until mixed through, add orange juice and mix. Sift the flour and fold into the creamed mixture. Grease a 1 litre pudding basin with butter and place the 3 tbsps of golden syrup in the bottom. Spoon the mixture into the basin and cover either with a lid or with foil. Stand the basin in a large saucepan, filled one third full with boiling water. Place the lid on the saucepan and steam for 2 hours. When cooked, remove the lid and carefully run a knife around the edge of the pudding, then turn out onto a plate. Serve with runny cream, custard or even yoghurt. For an alternative, substitute 3 Tbsp raspberry jam for the golden syrup, 1 Tbsp jam for the orange rind and 1 Tbsp milk for the orange juice.

Best Ever Mushroom Soup, p 37

2 cups finely chopped mushrooms, 2 cups finely chopped onion, Olive oil, 2Tbsp butter, 2 Tbsp flour, 1 cup milk, 1 Tbsp sweet paprika, 1 Tbsp tamari (soy sauce), Black pepper, 2 cups stock or water, Sour cream or plain yoghurt, parsley or dill, chopped.

Saute the onions in the olive oil and after a few minutes add the mushrooms, allow to sweat gently for ten minutes with the lid on. Add half a cup of the stock or water, tamari and paprika and simmer for 15 minutes.

In a large pot melt the butter, whisk in flour and cook for a few minutes, add milk and stir while the white sauce thickens. Stir in the mushroom mixture and the rest of the water or stock. Cover and simmer gently while it all thickens. Just before serving add black pepper, a squeeze of lemon juice, sour cream and a generous amount of chopped parsley or dill. Serves four.

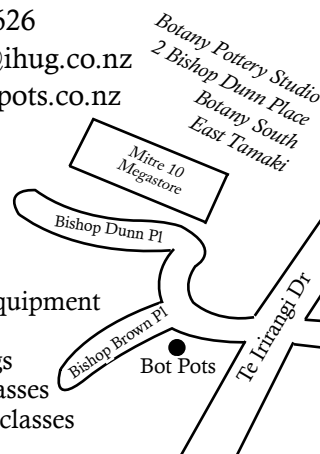
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Wanted: Unwanted Clay for student sculptural project. I get the clay clutter, you get a clear corner and an invite to the open air firing later this year. Contact Susan St Lawrence on 021 730 882 or stlawrence2005@yahoo.com.au

For Sale: ASP has some Fastway South Island courier tickets to sell to members. Suitable for the Ballantyne's Tableware Competition 2012. \$19 for a large box to up 20kgs. Please call office for details. Courier pickup would have to be from ASP.

For Sale:

Elecfurn kiln, 7.5 cubic feet with controller. In great order with extras and spares. Also Talisman electric wheel, excellent order plus spare parts. Offers to: Suzanne, 5231440 info@suzanneart.co.nz

EXHIBITIONS

Masterworks Gallery:

Rick Rudd: "In the (Red) Pink" 9th - 29th June
Rick Rudd continues his exploration into line, form and colour in his latest series of hand-built ceramics. Rick has expanded his colour-palette to six subtle shades of white, pink, lilac, green, blue and yellow, in a continuing play on his now iconic and quirky teapot-like form. He again tests the boundaries of his skill in the creation of unique and incredibly delicate structures that tower, waver and join. Despite the works' sculptural nature, they are also fully-functional as pouring vessels.

Waiheke Community Art Gallery:

"Earth Matters" opens Friday 17 June at 6pm, and runs from 18 June - 11 July. A number of ASP members have work in this show: Carol Stewart, Helen Perrett, John Dawson, Chuck Joseph, Louise Rive, Nadine Spalter, Simon Leong, Susan St Lawrence, Susannah Bridges, Suzy Dü



Diploma Update

Rebekah Hall

Wood you believe it we're all *fired up* (sorry I couldn't help it) and already a third of our way through another great term at ASP on the Diploma course!

Following on from our amazing studio time with John Dawson, a number of students are using this term to undertake 'self directed learning' and we look forward to seeing the results of their hard work a few weeks from now.

The rest of us are being inspired by Elena Renker, our current tutor, who has shared her extensive collection of tea bowls - some of her own making and others gained on travels.

We have been researching tea and coffee ceremonies, taking part in a tea ceremony performed by one of the Diploma students and discussing our favourite drinking vessels one which unfortunately went to an early grave after being unceremoniously dropped! The owner survived the ordeal ... just.

For most of us this is our first wood firing - we are using Elena's kiln and as you'd expect (and probably heard if you're brave enough to come into ASP on a Friday morning) there is a lot of discussion on the firing process over numerous pots of tea, and the different results gained in comparison to, say, a gas firing.

We are being encouraged to try out various clays, wood ash and glazes, in particular Shino, in our first 'test' firing next week. Our second and final firing is in a few weeks time.

I, for one, am really enjoying the course; we are learning heaps, having loads of support not just from tutors but from many familiar and wise faces who call in to ASP ... thanks for all your support.

Lets just hope the results of the firing will live up to expectations. Actually, "Great Expectations" as once again the Diploma students, current and ex, take over the Estuary Arts Centre, Orewa in October for a great display of work. Watch out for the invite!

Invitation: Launch of a new book: *Yvonne Rust - Maverick Spirit*. At the Old Library, Rust Avenue, Whangarei, 30 June from 6pm to 8pm. Please RSVP to the Quarry Arts Centre by Friday 17th June admin@quarryarts.org or 09 438 1215

The ASP 2011

Fire & Clay Exhibition

at Mairangi Bay has been confirmed.

25 Sept Sunday receiving day

28 Sept Wednesday evening Grand Opening

29 Sept Thursday open to public until 15 Oct

16 Oct Sunday dismantle and collect sold/unsold work.

Don't forget!!

Travel evening Friday 24th, 7pm!!

Here's Trien (below) in China handling a 2000 year old vase in a private house in Yixing - with Vipoo, a hard-case Thai potter, not helping.

A warm room and supper provided



ASP CENTRE

Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday: 12.30pm - 5.30pm

Friday: 12.30pm - 4pm

Saturday: 10am - 4pm

\$3 per hour (includes after class fee)

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

Centre Director: Renée Murray

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LETTER

Editor: Lange. Phone 6306942

Please send any copy or photographs to lange52@clear.net.nz

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