



ASP NEWS March 2007

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
ASP Centre
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Peter Lange
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Email: asp@ceramics.co.nz
Web: www.ceramics.co.nz

Studio Opening Hours	
Monday	12.30pm - 5pm
Tuesday	12.30pm - 5pm
Wednesday	12.30pm - 5pm
Thursday	12.30pm - 5pm
Friday	12.30pm - 4pm
Saturday	10am - 4pm
Remember to pay \$3 per hour up to a maximum of \$9.00 per day	

Social Evening with Richard and Carol Selfridge

Friday night 16 March 7pm

Richard is bringing a movie with him that has been produced at great expense by the Canadian Arts Council – they will give you a fantastic look at the work of 4 important Canadian potters – Richard and Carol as well as John Chalke and Barbara Tipton. Make this your ASP event for the month – supper provided and a \$5 entry donation will cover some of the costs for the evening. Bring a friend. There will be a bonus selection of slides of some of our best-known Auckland potters taken in 1980 when hair was black and pots were brown. Come along - we don't have too many international guests these days so make the most of this special evening.

Richard Selfridge Workshop

Saturday 17th March, 10am-4pm

We are extremely fortunate to have the Canadian potter Richard Selfridge visiting New Zealand on his summer vacation and we have nabbed him for a demonstration during March. Richard has been in NZ before and knows a number of our potters. He has a huge website: www.selfridgeceramicart.ca which gives you a bit of an idea of his kind of work. He's a ball of energy and will amaze you with the variety of his techniques. Obviously he won't be able to cover all of these in a day but he'll answer questions about slip-casting, throwing, decorating, majolica, wood-firing and marketing.

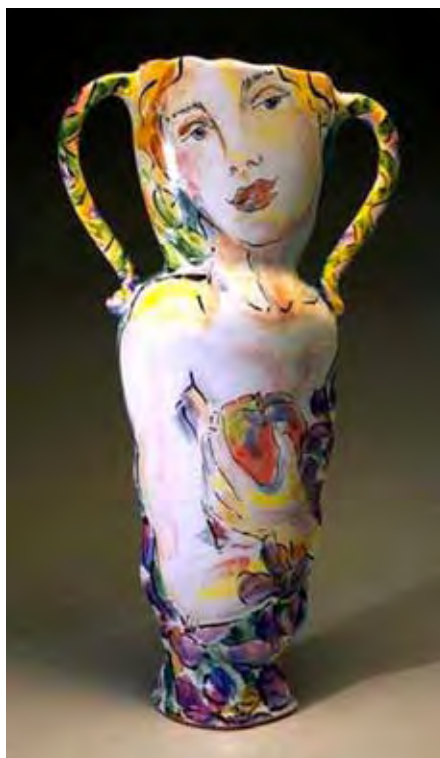
On Saturday 17th March the workshop demonstration will kick off at 10am and finish at 4pm, with a shared lunch. This is where Richard will show off his skills in making, assembling and decorating domestic ware. He is a woodfirer, but also uses other kilns according to the style of work made. He is brilliant at marketing and will be able to pass on much useful information in that regard. Come along to our first workshop of the year and you'll be impressed how much useful information you'll walk away with – all for the price of \$35.

I have met Richard at conferences overseas and he is a full-on, entertaining demonstrator. This will be a day of fun and information; Richard has worked in many different countries and with a lot of well known potters. One day only!!

Book now, see you there.



Richard Selfridge mug



Selfridge majolica vase

ASP AGM

The Auckland Studio Potters AGM is on Sunday the 1st April, kicking off at 9.30am with croissants and coffee - the meeting usually lasts about an hour. Come along and have your say about how your society is running and make suggestions for changes – please remember that you must be a paid up member to vote (another benefit of sending in your subs money). Nomination forms are in this newsletter. This annual event is a positive and friendly time - the reports from the various activities that we are involved with these days seem to be all good news and the breakfast is up to Ponsonby Rd standards. It would be good to have you there to support (or join the Committee.

Renton's Ramblings

Well at least one nightmare hasn't happened. I have had bad dreams over the next newsletter. But it appears that Peter has not only recovered well but he has learnt well from "the departed one". We don't appear to have any major holes or spaces. I now hope that members get their newsletter and only the non-financial receive the part-newsletter.

The Centre is working well; John Dawson's class on Mon morning [Peter's stand in] is turning out periously thin porcelain (kiln loading has become less back breaking). John Parker's Diploma class is also turning out highly colourful agate ware. The kiln racks are bursting ... again.

See you all at the AGM.

Waiheke Trip

Helen Perrett

About 25 ASP members recently enjoyed a trip to Waiheke Island to visit the Sculpture on the Gulf walk, a small but delightful side trip to peruse the Guthreys' art collection and after lunch a visit to the Te Whau sculpture garden.

It was a neat day, the island was buzzing with people over for the Wine Festival and the Sculpture walk (I suspect one or the other not both and the Wine Festival had by far the greater numbers). Taxis were in high demand and a little hard to come by (for 25!) but this did not deter us, although perhaps it slowed us down. The weather was incredibly hot so we weren't into racing around anyway.

The cliff top walk to admire the sculptures was stunning, the works were well spaced and varied - many made by overseas artists in very high-tech materials. I must admit my favourites ended up being by New Zealanders made from down to earth materials but I enjoyed the contrasts and the stories that went with them and even the things I didn't much like were still interesting- can't ask for more than that. There were some humorous pieces too: a giant plug in the sea, a sunken bath - with upholstery reminiscent of a coffin liner - on a grassy slope, there was even an interactive hat and scarf performance piece where we were the performers. Many of the works were kinetic, appropriate to an open headland where wind was the usual source of energy.

The Guthreys' collection featured many wonderful contemporary New Zealand ceramics as well as paintings, glass and sculptures. It was also a welcome, cool shady break. The Te Whau sculpture garden is worth a revisit. I think a lot of us were enervated from the heat and we were tied to the return of the taxis so couldn't take our time doing the longer sculpture walks where the larger works were - so sorry, Peter, we didn't get to see the brick pieces in their new home. Around the house there were plenty of small scale sculptures and ceramics to admire.

Thanks to Jo-Anne for organising the day and cajoling taxi drivers, to the Guthreys for their wonderful hospitality and to David Mason for helping ferry us about.

If you used bone ash from a mad cow would the glaze craze?



John Roy work at Masterworks

President's Report

Michael Billington

It seems strange being in at ASP these days and not having "our Duncan" somewhere around to answer those never ending questions that crop up all the time. In saying that though collectively we have plenty of expertise in both our co-directors and membership. Duncan's farewell barbeque was a very relaxed and pleasant evening. Duncan was presented during this farewell with an iPod which from the look on his face when unwrapping it was a good choice. We can only wonder at what selection of music he will fill it up with - as opposed to the music he played in his studio which he shared willingly with the whole of Onehunga. It was good to see a good turnout for Duncan's Pot Sale. I note there are still some lovely pots for sale at Pike's Point Gallery at ASP.

Thanks to those folks who have given up their Saturdays to do their duty at ASP; it is much appreciated. The studio is a hive of activity on Saturdays. Being a regular user (in fact the only chance I get to make pots) of the Centre on Saturday it is pleasing to note that people are cleaning up after themselves very well and leaving the Centre ready for another week of business. The tidying up also includes the kitchen please note. It is quite fascinating to watch the Diploma students' work going from strength to strength along with students from our other classes. It really does show that if you persevere and 'do the time' it pays off.

New Novalite roofing has been delivered to ASP to replace the old mouldy roofing between the house and the studio this will be put in place very soon (thanks

Renton).

Last weekend saw the first of the regular Raku Group gatherings and we broke our own firing record and did four firings in one day - which to the uninitiated is a lot. But I learned a valuable lesson about wet gloves as well and have the blistered fingertips to prove it. Moral of that story is to keep your gloves dry (similar to keeping your powder dry) and just because the pyrometer says 300 degrees doesn't mean the kiln shelf isn't still red hot. My god it hurt. So if you love a quick fix - try Raku (minus the wet gloves)

Our AGM and election of executive officers is coming up soon so if you think you would like to be on our committee please let someone at ASP know. We are losing some of our committee because of other work commitments and overseas travel.

Also a plug for membership subs - if you haven't paid up and want to continue being a member and receiving the benefits please send them in. If you intend to cease membership please let ASP know either by phone, email or by snail post. Remember you must be a member to submit work into the Annual ASP Exhibition at Mairangi Bay.

Below you will find the answers to the Potters Crossword. I have had lots of feedback about this - some comments along the lines of "you must have a deranged mind," "it has driven me crazy" to some demands for the answers almost at knife point. So you'll be relieved to know there is a solution. Have a good month.

Across	Down
1. Wedge	2. Extrude
5. Terracotta	3. Grog
7. Footring	4. Handle
8. Pugmill	6. Brick
9. Stoneware	10. Whiting
13. Frit	11. Knobs
14. Lid	12. Plastic
15. Slab	16. Belly out
17. Wadding	18. Gallery
20. Salt firing	19. ASP
22. Slip	21. Fettle
23. Wicket	24. Gas
26. Pyrometer	25. Kiln
29. Stopper	27. Mug
30. Clamming	28. Raku

ASP New Members
Welcome to:

Cherrie James
Evelyn Williams
Tracey Scott
Judy Shen

General News

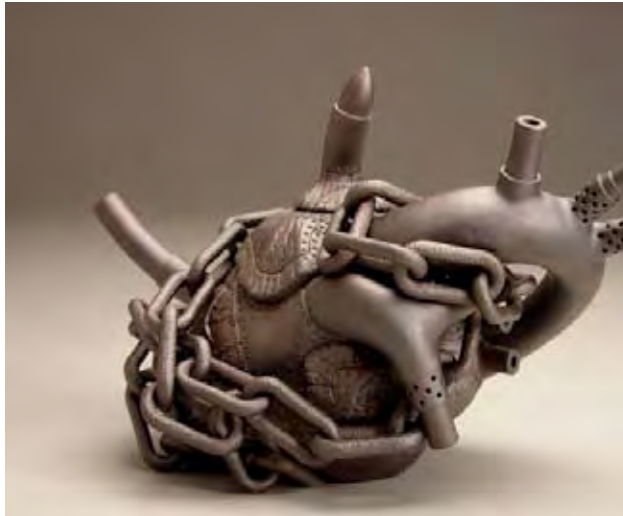
Peter Lange

We advertised extensively for someone to climb onto the ASP staff merry-go-round to fill the gap left by Duncan's unexpected leap off, assuming (hoping) that Renton would stay on for the ride. No new person has been brave enough to come aboard so Renton has been moved to a bigger horse. Jo-Anne stays steadfast on her mount and I will ride in one of the teacups. So I am finally back in the office after more than a year away and it is good to be back and in contact with so many enthusiastic people. My resumption has been delayed while I had 3 "cabbages" done – the hospital staff kept talking about my "cabbage" and it turned out to be an excellent acronym for Cardiac Artery Bypass Graft, CABG, though a word like cabbage doesn't bestow the sort of dignity that such a prestigious operation should have in my opinion. Thanks to the all of the ASP folk who sent good wishes, fruit and books and a bunch of alternative remedies. I regret not having the courage to suggest to the surgeon that the distilled bile of an Andean anteater or somesuch would do the trick, but I felt that the combination of plumbing and embroidery that the hospital offered me was a useful option and perhaps should be tried first, considering the phenomenal success rate of the procedure. And I am not sure that the life expectancy of Peruvians is any better than ours. Are potters more gullible than the national average? Do we still compare star signs now that Pluto has been downgraded to a rogue lump of road metal? We follow a craft that includes a fair dollop of science in the process, but maybe the "alchemy" of the fire turns our heads, the happy accident (read incompetent stacking or firing or glazing perhaps) persuades us that there is another force out there stronger even than the tutors at the Centre. The bunch of flowers that sits over the firebox as an offering to the kiln gods always looks so forlorn by opening time - good firing or bad firing it's always sad - and it would be nice to think that the cones could drop as easily as the flowers do.

I have seen very few exhibitions this year but I really enjoyed the show by John Roy at Masterworks. He's a talented younger potter – as is Paul Maysek who is showing there as well. Very exciting work from both of them and they have bright futures, possibly even outside this country. I reckon they would fit happily into the sort of gallery and attract the same audience that Garth Clark described during his recent visit. Which reminds me – Garth Clark has generously sent over, as a donation to the ASP, a swag of amazing catalogues and books and they are available at the Centre. Many prominent international ceramic artists are represented in this shipment. He had a good time here and felt that the ASP had looked after him and Mark so well that he took the trouble to find a way to make his visit profitable to the ASP – a really great gesture, and one that has already put us at break-even for that event.

John Parker's "White China" exhibition is on at Masterworks about now as well and will be an important show to visit.

He is off to China very soon with Richard Parker, Chris Weaver, Moyra Elliott and a few Aussies to a place called Fuping. Check out their website www.flicam.com - it's an amazing setup. They are building an Australasian pavilion there which looks like a large brick doughnut – the sort of building that can be designed in 5 minutes on a fancy 3D design programme and then the poor bricklayers have to deal with it for the next 6 months. Which reminds



me – if you get the chance to see the "Sketches of Frank Gehry" film go along. It's amazing watching him create a model with scissors and cardboard and sellotape like something out of the Playcentre School of Architecture, then his enormous team of computer experts moves in and converts this rough model into an actual building (but not out of cardboard and sellotape).

The Diploma course is bursting at the seams – an unexpected last-minute rush has meant that the class is at maximum and it's a busy time for the tutors and the Centre and the students of course. The first module under John Parker is really moving along and they intend to set up a brief exhibition at Masterworks as part of their course – that will be a fantastic

event. From 0 to 100mph in 10 lessons. Because of the numbers enrolled this year we may have to put a strict limit on next year's intake so if you are thinking about doing this excellent course next year, do something about it soon.

Good to have John Dawson back at the Centre again – he's our potter-in-residence for a couple of months, and he's also taking my Monday morning class for a term.

Continued over ...

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continued from page 3 ...

Everything is very white and pure in that class this term.

Sad to hear that Brian Buchanan from Wellington Potters Supplies has passed on – he and his wife Beryl were always at the NZ conferences and generous with information and advice, and often they stocked materials not available elsewhere. We send our sympathy to Beryl and our best wishes as she carries on running their business.

The National Conference at Gisborne "First Light" 6th – 9th May is well in hand. There are no international guests this year but the group of Maori potters who make up the bulk of the demonstrators will offer a new perspective on making and selling work. The flavour of the conference will be a lot different to the usual with marae style accommodation offered and tours of local vineyards a highlight. Check out the NZ Potters website (nzpotters.com) for all details and booking arrangements. The early cut-off date for the exhibition caught a lot of potters out but there's not much that can be done about that – it was advertised widely.

I have booked a space on Corban's lawns for the end of May for my second attempt at my end-of-fellowship exhibition "Tokens From The Game" after the first was cancelled. I just didn't have the heart for it. I'll advertise the details nearer the time.

classified

All phone numbers in these sections are in the Auckland free-calling area unless an area code is explicitly stated.

For Sale

Free to good home 2 cuft electric kiln, 3 phase, on Waiheke Ph Mr Keramalus 3722242

Wanted:

Kohia Terrace School wants to buy a kiln controller suitable for glass casting. Phone 6304525.

exhibitions

Pots of Ponsonby

298 Ponsonby Rd
Ph (09) 376 0145
Fabrics of Jeannie Van der Putten
Ceramics of Andrew Van der Putten "Island" 19th February - 9th March 2007
Asian Polynesian Fusion Design
"New Ceramics" by Charlie and Chrissie Seakins 16th March until 8th April 2007
Work with a Pacific Flavour

Masterworks:

John Parker's NEW CHINA exhibition continues until 28 March so is a "must do" during the Auckland Festival
Opens Wed March 7 from 5.30 pm.

April brings the first of our Australian exhibitions: Jeff Mincham. Jeff is one of Australia's most eminent ceramicists – producing works of substance and integrity.

Letter from Joe Finch

Back last year I was asked to do a demo for the Midlands Pottery Association and along with the throwing they wanted me to construct a raku kiln that could fire 100 tea-bowls (photos below). I decided to crib your idea of the 'crematorium kiln' but to make it much simpler as I didn't think the track would be strong enough for the bowls, I had opposing burners and metal angle iron runners that I was able to push tiles with the bowls on. That way I could judge the time they needed in the firing area before pushing the next tile along. The first bowl took about 30 minutes to go from start to end but after that they were coming out every 5 minutes or so. Best wishes to the ASP.



Masterworks:
A showcase of new works from Duncan Shearer. "Skyline" features a series first seen at 2006 Portage Awards – handformed tall works that reference architecture and building. 19th – 30th March.

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Library books

Judy Rae
Please return library books promptly so that others may borrow them. Books are issued for 2 weeks (not 2 years) and must be signed out with your name and phone number. There's a folder in the library for this – it needs to be dated when they are returned as well.