



ASP NEWS November 2008

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
ASP Centre
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Renton Murray
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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



The Big Clay Day Out

Sunday 7th December
10am -3pm

It is nearly here and we are busy preparing for another successful BCDO. As you open your newsletter you will find some flyers which we would like you to distribute amongst your friends, relatives, neighbours, work colleagues ... word of mouth is our best way of advertising so please let everyone know where, when and what is on offer.

This is a great day out for the whole family with plenty of things to entertain everyone: raku firing, paint a pot, throw a pot on the wheel, and for kids - the lucky slippery dip, clay catapult and facepainting.

The stallholders are booked (maybe one or two places left) and the hugely popular Pottery Sale will be the perfect place to buy presents. At 1pm, our in-house auctioneer is auctioning off pots from ASP tutors, Ceramic Diploma graduates and other contemporary ceramic artists. The current Otago Diploma students will exhibit their work in the Bandhall next door.

A delicious selection of food - sausages, oven baked pizza, Asian delicacies - and drink will be on offer.

It is all about fundraising for the ASP and showing the community what we do here. But we need your help. We call on the cooks amongst us to start baking slices and cakes to sell with coffee and tea and provide homemade goodies for the raffle hamper. We need helpers for decorating the studio

into a first class showroom and setting up all other activities. And we need members to help man the various stalls on the day. Please ring the Centre if you are available to help; it is a lot of fun. A huge thank you in advance.
Trien Steverlynck

Guy Fawkes '08

Nadine Spalter

We were promised an evening with a 'surprise event' run by not-so-sensible citizens at the complete mercy of their crazed pyrotechnic compulsions. No disappointments there ... Mike Donaldson and Tony Lowe were seen huddling with plastic bottles and cylinders of gas, plotting, occasionally running for cover, being generally useful around the Centre for quite a few days before the event. All to good effect of course, considering the spectacular results. The 'surprise event' itself was in honour of Duncan's 40th and was carried out with military precision. Renton skilfully drove his beast of a machine at a staggering 5km/hr, dragging a trailer with a flaming '40' on the back. Impressive. Then there was a pause, everyone held their collective breath, and as the flames brushed underneath the seemingly innocuous balloons hanging from the tree, a series of not-so-little explosions occurred. Of course, the balloons were filled with LPG... did I mention pyrotechnic compulsions? What a way to celebrate a 40th - Happy Birthday Duncan! Peter was seen searching for 'a white bucket full of chemicals' which was slightly unnerving and I fervently hoped it hadn't been mistaken for, I don't know, barbeque seasoning. Luckily he found it and we were all witness to the boy/man at play with fire that changed colour and the odd expletive as he did something that perhaps he shouldn't have. Lots of fireworks, lots of food, possibly not enough booze for myself, and then the emergence of the bisqued pots from the bonfire firing. Hmmm. Black pots anyone? Peter was heard admiring some with his complimentary: 'This'll go straight to the pool room.' Thanks to everyone involved for making this a thoroughly irresponsible and fun evening, and for those wanting to view the explosions, go to Youtube and type in the search 'asp40'.

NZ Sculpture on Shore

Until 16th Nov, 10am - 6pm daily

\$10 Adult, \$8 Senior, \$5 Child, \$25 Family

Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve, Devonport - Vauxhall Road, by Narrowneck Beach.

Over 100 New Zealand artists exhibiting including a number of ASP members.

Cafe on site. All artwork for sale, proceeds go to support NZ Women's Refuges.

From the President

Michael Billington

I have heard that the recent Guy Fawkes members' event was a great success. Unfortunately I was unable to attend because of another engagement (the silly season begins!). I would like to wish Duncan Shearer belated birthday good wishes. There seems to be no end to the imagination of our Centre staff and committee. Heaven knows what will eventuate next year? ASP obviously is a breeding ground for budding pyromaniacs!!

There is a request out to Diploma graduates, ASP tutors and Andrews Scholarship recipients to donate a couple of pots each for our auction this year. The auction is a favourite and is on the programme list by popular request. Remember to invite your family and friends to the BCDO on the 7th of December.

I should also mention the intersection just up from the ASP (Captain Springs and Neilson streets). I had a close call with a red light runner there recently and I know that others have experienced the same thing. I would advise caution when turning or crossing at this intersection as it is dangerous. Please take care and make doubly sure the way is clear.

See you at the BCDO

Website favourite:

www.donpilcher.net

Here's a sample

Vitreous vicissitudes sounds like an oxymoron but it isn't. Last week we heard that some of my Rascal Ware was actually accepted for exhibition. I was 0 for 11 up till then and the air in the studio was getting a little tight. As a bonus, the judge (who is now referred to around here as St. Virginia) saw fit to anoint these pieces with an award. This all sparked a lunchtime discussion about judges, quality, who might be blind to it and other touchy subjects. People were naming names and the conversation coarsened very quickly. Blind justice is one thing. Blind judges are another.

The upside of this brawl was that the new guy, Hairy Potter, crossed a line and Junior fired his ass. The truth is that Hairy's first day on the job was his best and it was downhill after that. He looked like an opportunity but turned out to be just an opportunist; common enough in the art game.

The downside was that Pilcher tried to restore order and elevate the discourse by posing questions nobody could (or wanted to) answer. He can turn small

talk into a seminar in a heartbeat. That stuff flew at Uni but we professionals weren't having any of it.

Anyhow, back to judges and quality and all that. The problem begins at the beginning and it hangs on this notion: Some pots are better than others and if you work hard, you can learn to make the better ones. So your teacher says; I'll show you how it's done. The line that usually doesn't follow is this one: By the way, while I know these are really good pots, they are frequently rejected by others currently at a rate of 11 to 1. Take Advanced Ceramics and I'll tell you why that is.

In Advanced Ceramics you learn that the disconnect between the maker and the viewer or judge is not a scandal, it's a mystery. For example, don't we all see work published in magazines all the time that is nothing special? Maybe even on this very page. Well somebody likes it a lot. The explanation comes from our resident philosopher, Mosley Bunkham. He embraces this disconnect as follows: Art is a business with no bottom, which is not to say that all of it is equal. It's just that where you stand on better and worse depends entirely on where you sit.

At Rascal Ware here's where we sit. Find an empty chair. Keep an open mind. Stay as long as it takes. It's OK to let them see you sweat. Think faster, work slower and let the kilns cool even slower than that. Keep good records. Answer your mail. Don't become a slave to your cell phone. Try not to make the same thing over and over. Keep coming back and go easy on the pork buffet.

From the UK

Laura Hirst

News from an exASP potter in UK who's been running round in circles since returning. Have fun at the fireworks. I enjoyed last year's. We shall be letting off rockets (yes, banned in NZ) at my brother's place in the country along with a huge bonfire, all very environmentally friendly!!

Say HI to Peter Stitch, Renton and their classes from me please. I have snail mail goodies to send, but the snail has been going in circles too. I will post today! All the best.

"Volume"

Louise Dentice

Contemporary Craft/Object Symposium, held at Hawkes Bay Museum and Art Gallery, 18-19 October

Makers, curators, and collectors from

around the country descended on the (not entirely) sunny Hawkes Bay for an exciting weekend-long programme of lectures, panel discussions and socialising (I mean networking)!

The ASP had a strong representation amongst the 150 or so participants with around 12 of us making the journey down. In fact, ceramics as a whole was very prominent throughout the weekend.

The formal programme kicked off on Saturday morning with engaging talks by the two keynote speakers: Justin Patton, Senior Curator at the Christchurch Art Gallery and Douglas Lloyd-Jenkins, HB MAG Director, both of whom provided much food for thought and hot debate!

Justin's talk covered several aspects of craft/object practice, tackling the very label 'craft/object' which he proposed communicates a state of limbo where we, as makers, are anxious about the old term 'craft', but not comfortable with the new label 'object' either. He presented an amusing anecdote which was intended to remind us the objects we make are to 'have and to hold' and take on a whole new life after they leave our ownership. He suggested that a "good object is like an insulator which enables the current of thoughts to flow from makers to users".

Douglas' talk focussed on the education of craft/object making at tertiary level in New Zealand and questioned whether it is in its best interests to be placed there at all. The tertiary qualification no longer represents a mastery of skills but merely that one has been exposed to these ideas. He believes crafts 'soul' lies in its tradition and the process of its making, by trying to 'squeeze' into the ill-fitting tertiary structure he asks "has craft sold its soul?"

It was subsequently discussed whether there was even in fact a viable economic future for craft/object-making education at tertiary level, with many courses forced to close. This left everyone to ponder how and who will ensure our craft/object-making skills and traditions are passed on?

These talks were followed by a panel discussion from representatives of four public institutes who answered questions from the audience mainly relating to their collections and submission of proposals.

The formal part of the day finished with the "Makers' Showcase". Eight speakers showcased the work of a favour-

ite object maker, providing a national snapshot of current trends and themes in the craft/object scene. A recurring theme seemed to be environmental considerations, with many artists utilising recycled materials.

On Sunday the 'Buy, Swap and Sell Contemporary Craft Market' offered a unique opportunity to buy directly from talented artists – my wallet is still recovering!

The symposium was held in conjunction with the 'Raising Boys' exhibition at the Museum. The show consists of ceramics from Ross Mitchell-Anyon and Richard Parker alongside the work of a younger generation of ceramic artists who they have taught or become mentor figures for: Andy Kingston, Paul Maseyk and Martin Poppelwell.

The exhibition attempts to construct a kind of family tree, tracing influences and connections between the artists. The catalogue produced for this exhibition 'Upstarts' contains some interesting commentary around this and (I believe) the ASP library holds a copy.

The exhibition is still on until the 16th of November and is well worth a look if you're in the area.

All in all it was a wonderful weekend, a great chance to connect with fellow craft (slash) object makers and a good opportunity to take stock and consider the wider context of the craft that we practise and the objects we produce.

All the sessions from the event are available for purchase on DVD; contact Tanya Wilkinson at Hawkes Bay Museum and Art Gallery for enquiries email info@hbmag.co.nz

Diploma Class Update

Suzy Dunser

Almost the end of the year! The final assessments for the students finishing official "years," as well as our assessment

for Marilyn Wiseman's module, are coming up at the end of November, and our other classes are winding up as well.

Having now made it to the end of Year 1 of the Glaze Technology class, I'd just like to write a little about that experience. Glaze Technology is taught by Lawrence Ewing as an on-line correspondence course (you don't need to be in the diploma programme to take it), and it has presented some interesting challenges for us this year.

For starters, it's the first time I've taken a correspondence course, with its inherent requirement to pace oneself, rather than have to face up to a teacher every week. You have to remember that there is a teacher, whom you can ask questions of – that you're not as alone as it might feel at first. And, perhaps the most obvious challenge, it's CHEMISTRY. I think potters tend to be more empirical by nature, and some of us had to overcome a fear that we wouldn't actually understand the material.

As it turns out, you can pass the course with the depth of understanding of your choice. The material is presented clearly, with links to further references; the activities are generally spelled out in a lot of detail; and if you ask Lawrence a question, you get back a prompt and expansive answer. If you just want to get through the class and get it over with, you can follow the instructions step by step and you'll get there. If, on the other hand, you are an information junkie who wants to really understand what is happening in the glaze, and get every last bit of knowledge you can to help you manipulate glazes, then this course is your best option for learning all that in a structured environment.

The question of whether the course demands more hours than stated is still open for me. I know some weeks took longer than others, but then there were

also weeks when we had nothing new assigned. I think it might be possible to structure the course so the workload is weighted less to the beginning of the year, or break each year down into two official semesters so part-timers (the majority of us) have the option of spreading the workload out over a longer period. My conclusion after Year 1, though, is that the course offers an amazing opportunity to learn about glazes at the most basic level, and I wouldn't like to see that watered down.

Centre Stuff

Peter Lange

A lot of writing this month - no photos to hand, but we'll make up for that next month with a bumper end-of-year 8 pager. For a really good visual account of the ASP Guy Fawkes celebrations go to Youtube and type "asp40" into the search button (give it 5 stars while you're there). It shows the wonderful results of mixing creativity and LPG - thanks to the team: Mike, Tony and Renton, for continuing this great ASP tradition. Suggestions are already coming in for next year, and include methane gas from grazing cows, trebuchets and possibly a combination of both.

Annie McIver and Rick Urban both got missed in last month's ASP honours board at the Portage Awards - these 2 bring our percentage to an embarrassingly high level. Go and see it!

Subscription forms for 2009 will be included in next month's newsletter as well. Subs will be the same as last year. It's good value - the Guy Fawkes evening and all the other social and educational evenings are either free, or funded on a small donation and we are pleased to provide our members with these great events, especially when you respond by turning out in the numbers you do around 70 members, families and friends there for the fireworks!

Light My Fire

Exhibition by 6 ASP members (all present or past Diploma students)

Jacquie Brown, Vince Kobylarz, Jo-Anne Raill, Renee Boyd, Helen Perrett, and Carol Stewart.

Depot Artspace

28 Clarence St

Devonport

Opening Saturday 29th November 2pm

Runs until 11th December

Good chance to support ASP members and find that great Christmas gift.

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classified

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

Free

Want to value your pottery -want advice on the best ways to sell your collectible pieces? Want advice on good restoration work? The ASP offers a consultancy service in exchange for a small donation. Phone the office, 6343622, and leave details and our resident expert will get back to you.

Wanted

Someone to organise and co-ordinate this summer's anagama kiln firing at the Centre. Phone 6343622

For sale

Crum clay, 7 bags, offers Ph Margaret Sumich 410 5396

Corbans Summer School

12 – 16 January 2009

In January each year Corban Estate Arts Centre (CEAC) presents its Summer School, a week long programme of inspiring workshops. There will be seven courses to choose from; each course will run for five days. These include:- theatre and performance, bronze casting, oil painting, jewellery design, creative cape making, film acting, and fabric construction and soft book form creation. For more information, prices and bookings contact Corban Estate Arts Centre Ph 09 838 4455, email info@ceac.org.nz or visit www.ceac.org.nz

To rent

Studio space with spray booth to rent or share - \$75 p/w. I have been sharing a studio space and the person I have been sharing with no longer needs the space as of mid Nov 2008. The studio space

has good size spray booth (you could fit a small truck inside) with an air extractor and large compressor. It is located in the Glendene industrial area off Hepburn Road, West Auckland. The large building is shared by 4 other professional artists and even has a sea view. Roller door access and lots of free parking. Contact me on 027 548 4003 or 834 0107 sarahmunro@xtra.co.nz

For Sale

Extensive range of pottery materials and equipment Contact Peter: 8321229

exhibitions

Masterworks

Paul Maseyk

6 - 26 November 2008

In November Masterworks Gallery has the much anticipated solo exhibition of new work by Paul Maseyk who has recently returned from the prestigious Archie Bray Residency in Montana, USA, and is rapidly building a reputation as one of this country's most distinctive and highly skilled ceramicists. Following his early exposure to the work of Barry Brickell and Ross Mitchell-Anyon, Maseyk has gone on to develop his own signature style incorporating intricate surface illustration.

Maseyk's new series was completed during his time abroad and draws from his ongoing exploration of classical Greek ceramic forms. Combining these traditionally inspired silhouettes with personal, contemporary and often risqué imagery, Maseyk's work is beginning to receive significant attention both within New Zealand and internationally.

Edge City

Have a look behind the green door at 65 Old Mill Road, Westmere.

www.edgecity.co.nz Louise Rive and Chuck Joseph 3763692. Open Fridays 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am - 2pm

Lopdell House

Portage Ceramic Awards 2008, 10 October – 7 December

In keeping with our Portage Ceramic Awards tradition, a handsome full colour catalogue, featuring all or the finalists will accompany the exhibition.

If you're a keen collector, an aspiring ceramic artist, or just plain curious, don't miss this chance to see this year's Top of the Pots in New Zealand.

Auckland Museum

Helen Pollock

"Falls the Shadow"

A (ceramic) sculpture installation to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Armistice. Auckland War Memorial Museum, Pictorial Gallery.

11 Nov 2008 to 11 Jan 2009.

Kura Gallery

PWC Tower, 188 Quay Street

An exhibition of new works by Baye Riddell during November.

Please view our website which has information about Baye and images of his new works currently showing in our Wellington gallery.

www.kuragallery.co.nz

Try this website: www.seapots.com

Internet stuff

Here's a couple of useful pottery internet links sent in by Donna Sarten:

www.nzonscreen.com/title/from-potters-wheel-to-mass-productions-1949/overview

[/title/barry-brickell-potter-1970/overview](http://title/barry-brickell-potter-1970/overview)

We have started a section on our website with links like these - you'll be able to click straight to them from there.

Plus the youtube Guy Fawkes link. Amazing viewing!

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