



ASP NEWS September 2008

The Newsletter of the
Auckland Studio Potters
Society Inc.
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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

Winning shino bowls by Elena Renker



ASP Student Exhibition

Pictured below is the informal presentation of the “People’s Choice” Award by Lex to Nadine Spalter (Tuesday morning, ex-Monday night classes) for her salt-glazed jugs, a popular exhibit with beautiful blue salting. They have been given a special place at the Mairangi show so you can see them there. Highly commended were Simon Leong and Julia Watson (both Monday morning). This inaugural award was a positive addition to our calendar and created a lot of interest among the 120 students who come through the Centre each week - there’s a bit of a risk in asking students to self-select, but the show turned out to be of a high standard ... maybe some of them talked to their tutors, and that would have been a useful exercise anyway; so thanks to Chris for the proposal and we



Fire and Clay

Helen Perrett

The 44th Annual Auckland Studio Potters Exhibition was an interesting and fun evening at Mairangi Arts Centre on Wednesday 3rd September, with a good crowd and great food, music and wine.

After an introduction by Michael Billington, our President and thank yous to the workers, Barbara Hockenhuill, the selector, a very successful potter who is well known for her gallery ‘The Smashed Pipi’ at Mangawhai, gave a short talk and presented the awards. She said she had chosen works she would be happy to live with and see or use on a daily basis. Elena Renker won the Premier Award, and I think it’s fascinating to see some of the same people winning; it shows they aren’t just flash-in-the-pan successes - there’s consistency and quality. Mike Donaldson collected a Merit, as did Steve Bailey and Grancy Fu, and Alex Whyte was given a Highly Commended for his work.

I did the note-taking for Barbara while she selected the work for the exhibition and learned a lot about the process of selecting; she said it’s part instinctive gut reaction and part analysis. What we can all learn is to be attentive to the finishing of the work (Campbell Hegan had the same sort of message last year too!). Check that the rims are appropriate to the work and smooth if they are for drinking from, make sure that bases are well sponged or sanded and won’t damage table tops etc. It’s not pleasant to handle something with little sharp bits on the bottom. Cracks in the work are another thing to be concerned about. Only occasionally are they appropriate.

There’s a wide range of styles of work as you would expect from a large group show. There were a few noticeable trends - lots of blue salted stuff, a lot more wall work, plenty of raku pieces too. It’s open until 27 September including Sundays (11-3pm).

look forward to next year’s Student Exhibition.

Weekend with Rick

Lorraine Barnett

AKA T pot 101

Rick’s Friday night viewing of his work and seaside garden (of National Significance) went down a treat. I think everyone was inspired by the garden as much as the pots. Built with flotsam and jetsam of the sea Rick has turned what would have been an ordinary beach front space into a work of art and plant conservation area. The Ministry of Works must be missing a few signs; maybe we should alert them to the fact they are up a garden path or two. I have always loved beach combing and the Wanganui beach at the bottom of Rick’s half acre garden sure does dish up a treat or two.

By the way, did you know that having a Garden of



National Significance does not come cheap... you'd think that they'd pay you for choosing to make your garden significant, but no, one pays \$450 per year to retain the title. Note to self, never complain again about the cost of visiting private gardens!

Onto the workshop and thanks firstly to Jo-Anne Raill who kindly made our support gear for the weekend. Please see photo above, modelled by Ginny; luckily we found before it was too late that they were to support our T pots as we made them, their uses could have been endless.

Saturday morning started well and Rick quickly realized that morning tea at ASP was a leisurely affair (as is lunch and afternoon tea), but we did make room for pots.

Rick's creative hand building techniques were passed on but we can't show you what we learned, he told us to tell you, you'll have to book in for the next workshop.

I think it is safe to say though that we learned a lot, with interesting methods being noted in the many demonstration spots. Rick certainly was not shy about sharing his knowledge and even the mathematical loop that he is known for was up for demonstration. Mathematics – clay, well I never????

Bits of information on submitting work for exhibitions may well help in the future, NOTE Rick hates Pit Fired pottery, but when selecting for exhibitions he looks at the merit of the individual pieces and rejects only if needed. To be fair the selection process must be a hard one, eanee meanie minie mo! (Just kidding). Oh, and a further note if he's selecting: don't make T Pots to suit his taste. He says creating pots to please the selector's eye can be mmmm dangerous AND definitely do not copy the selec-

tor's technique and expect to get in... the cheek of some people.

So, will the T Pots make the cut? Rick's did, being nicely wired through into quarters. Pinched to perfection.

Food warning: potters are good cooks and the usual array of food adorned the table, my husband generally complains when I come to ASP, he reckons I cook better food to take to other places, for other people; that really is not true, well maybe just a little.

I really enjoyed meeting "the others", however I think you'll find that if you participate in the next one, you'll not want to leave your chair... it is very relaxing and addictive. Thanks Rick for being a right Bastard (self admitted) inspiration sought, inspiration got, enjoyed the weekend a whole lot!

Peace of Green

Suzy Dunser

The show "Peace of Green" has been on at Lopdell House for three weeks now (it runs until 5 October), and I've been to see it three times so far. This retrospective of John Green's work is not only a celebration of his life as a potter, it also sets one's imagination loose in a world of real and imagined creatures. "Real" people fly next to fairies of all sorts; witches cast spells while fishermen fish; and hippos, dogs, and sheep share the stage with unnamed, equally credible Beasts and Things.

The easy, caricature-like expressiveness of the figures' faces and bodies belies the skill required to physically make them, and a video running in the gallery shows John at work – as he makes it look easy (to anyone who's never tried to make a realistic figure) to imbue a lump of clay with motion, exaggeration, opinion and suggestion.

Whether you contemplate this aspect or not, this is a show that is very easy for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy. Along with the individual figures, there is a display of John's 1980 Ground-level Calendar, which combines photos of his characters set into the "real" world with Jabberwocky-like poems for each month describing the scenes.

My personal favourites in the exhibition were the "Sets," three works that place the characters – a potter, a wizard,

and a blacksmith – into detailed scenes that use clay as well as other materials to create contexts for the characters. As with all John's work, it is his incredible attention to detail that lends these pieces their magic.

In this age of children's television, where the toys come first and the show is written around them, I find myself suddenly imagining Terry Pratchett hired to write the script of "Greenland" ...until then, I encourage everyone to go and have a look at this show, and lose yourself in a story of your own fantasy, in the wonderful world of John Green.

Capital Clay:

Check out Jeroen's new work! I hope a lot of you Aucklanders will be coming to watch him (and the others) at Capital Clay 2009. Cheers, Aimée

From Jeroen: Hello - I'm still alive and kicking. Just finished a swell new series of works and next week a solo show opens at St Joseph gallery in Leeuwarden the Netherlands: www.sjgalerie.nl

I'd like to share my new works with you: the new catalogue will be on my website: www.jeroenbechtold.nl Click on "recent works" then "catalogue".

Birdbath

To Mike Donaldson: Thank-you so much for supporting the Kiwanis create an amazing outdoor space for our children. Your donation of the glazed pottery bird feeder to the "Children's Reflective Garden", is really appreciated.

We are envisaging that as the plants become more established, and the birds get used to having a place to swim and eat, we will entice more birdlife into the area for the children.

The birds and the children are enjoying your handiwork, should you ever be in the vicinity, we welcome you to drop in and see the "Children's Reflective Garden".

Old potters never die.
They just slip away.

Diploma Class Update

Suzy Dunser

Our studio with Toby Twiss wound up mid-August, and I think even the more shell-shocked among us (such as yours truly) would admit we learned a huge amount. It was a lot to cover in 10 weeks, but exposure to new things is one of the strengths of the diploma course, and it was good to have had this experience. Toby was a great teacher, shared a

Jo-Anne Raill's work at the exhibition



lot of knowledge and technique with us, and was very patient and encouraging.

This term we are very lucky to have Marilyn Wiseman as our tutor. As an introduction to the studio, last week we saw a slide show of her work over the last number of years - fantastic. But it wasn't just to show us what she's done, it was also to show how processes develop out of the desire to make things, and how forms evolve over time and with reflection on past work. Over the course of the term we will be experimenting with different ways of making and altering, as well as playing with colour and texture in glazes. We are all buzzing!

Interesting web-sites

Go to Youtube and search: "Balloon dog beat the time" it's great.

Go to www.nzherald.co.nz and type in "pottery feud" ... when good potters turn bad. Sample quote: "In the past few weeks, things have only

got worse. Morgan said someone fired a gunshot into his shop on N.C. 705 - known as "Pottery Highway". Two other potters accused each other of assault."

A Bright Idea

Graham Collings

All of us encounter difficulties and problems from time to time from which we learn. Some things we do turn out well because we are experienced in this field.

How would you feel if ASP were to make a register of people who were experienced and willing to help other members from time to time in particular aspects of the work? How would other members who were having difficulties feel about being able to contact another member and hopefully be helped over that hurdle? This may be initially by email or phone.

I have no idea how this would work but if members are interested I am sure we can find a way. Please contact ASP if you are interested in looking into this.

The first 50 years

An application has been made to the ASB for a grant to cover the costs of this booklent. The archiving of videos and old film is also included in the applica-



Alex Whyte - Merit Award

tion. Fingers crossed.

ASP Website:

The exhibition page has been updated with photos and guest exhibitor details

Festival:

The traditional Parnell Rose Festival will be held at Parnell Rose Gardens on the weekend of 8-9 November ...

www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/events/roses/default.asp.

For advance booking at this popular event phone Gus 021 23 23 739

The festival is growing every year and this year we will have some major changes. Instead of one, we will have two big entertainment stages including a huge outdoor cinema. This will mean people staying much later in the gardens and we will have extended trading hours.

All of this shouldn't greatly affect the way the market stall are organised, although due to the

expanded entertainment area we will lose some space allocated to stalls in previous years ... so expect to have fewer stalls and more customers. I will send out more detailed information to those of you that sign-up.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2nd SURPRISE GUY FAWKES EVENT

see October newsletter

Steve Bailey - Merit Award



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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.

For sale:

The "Passion for Fire" DVD that we saw in Christchurch, is now out and being sold by Driving Creek Railway. Cost is \$30 + \$5 for postage.

Contact DCR:
railway@drivingcreek.co.nz

Wanted

Fire bricks suitable for building a wood-fired kiln. Phone Elena at 473 8834 or e-mail erenker@gmx.net.

Volume

Volume will explore and challenge the position of the craft/object maker in New Zealand today. Presenters from both contemporary art and craft camps will come together and question the function, position and future of the crafted object in New Zealand.

Saturday 18th October, 9am – 5pm:
Keynote Presentations by Justin Paton and Douglas Lloyd Jenkins

Object Curators Panel Discussion
8 Presentations on Who's Hot in the Object Making World

Symposium Drinks and Dinner
Sunday 17th October, 10am – 2pm:
Bring, Buy and Swap - Contemporary Craft Market

"Raising Boys" Gallery Talk

Who are the hottest young kiwi craft artists? Where does craft fit in the 21st Century? Is the handmade still relevant? What are public galleries offering object art? Where to from here in craft education?

With presentations designed to excite makers, students, curators, writers, collectors and enthusiasts, this event

promises to invigorate, stimulate and entertain. Add to that an excuse to spend a weekend in sunny Hawke's Bay catching up with people you haven't seen for years, and Volume promises to be an unmissable event.

This event is being held in conjunction with the exhibition "Raising Boys" - Ceramics by Andy Kingston, Paul Maseyk, Ross Mitchell-Anyon, Richard Parker and Martin Poppelwell.

Cost: \$50 per person (Students \$35). First 50 paid registrations get a free copy of the Raising Boys exhibition publication Upstarts – Knowledge and Change in Clay

To register please contact info@hbmag.co.nz, or Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery PO Box 248, Napier

Party Invitation

The Quarry Arts Centre is celebrating!!! It's been 25 years and we would like to invite you to the great 'Quarter Century Bash' being held on 4th Oct from 5pm on. Three course dinner and entertainment.

Book your ticket now - phone us on 09 438 1215 or email: admin@quarryarts.org

Work wanted:

From: Julia Beyer:
julia_beyer@t-online.de

I would be very grateful if you could arrange or make some contacts for me with potters (well, one would be enough) in Auckland or Northland. It is actually rather difficult to get through to people over the internet. I would be very happy to spend October "pottering about" in the north. Thank you very much for your help!

ASP exhibition stats:

68 members entered
147 pots submitted
105 selected

exhibitions

Corbans Estate Arts Centre

"Western Gothic" - various artists explore the NZ Gothic theme. 12th Sept - 12th October

Objectspace:

Lisa Walker: "Unwearable" to 4th October. "Unwearable" promises to be an exciting and innovative installation for Objectspace. The title of this exhibition pulls in two directions. Some of the most recent works strain at the limits of wearability in size and intention. They bring to mind earlier European jewellery experiments which prodded function and the relationship to the body in order to liberate jewellery and align it with investigations taking centre stage in other art practices. Being unwearable, though, as Walker's work yet again demonstrates, doesn't mean leaving behind the realm of jewellery.

Lopdell House:

"A Peace of Green" - see page 2

Remuera Gallery:

John Nicol "New Works" paintings by our Diploma drawing teacher
October 17 - 31



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