

Guild at a Glance

September 2017

www.victoriapotters.ca

Volume 19 Issue 1

September Meeting

Tuesday 7:30 PM September 5, 2017 - Note Special Date

Submissions for Calendar and October Newsletter to helen.pedneault@shaw.ca by September 28, 2017

June Program in Review: We had a great meeting on June 12, 2017 which included treats and a show and tell of members' pots. Unfortunately the pictures I was provided from the meeting have gone 'walk about' – apologies from the editor.

Annual SVIP Guild Pottery Sale

As we heard at the June Guild meeting, the Annual SVIP Guild Pottery Show and Sale, held on June 3, 2017 adjacent to the Moss Street Market in the Oak Room, was another success. Here are a few pictures of our many members who participated. You will recognize them: clockwise, Muriel Sibley, Libby Wray, Adrienne Aikins and Irene Baker. A tentative booking for June 2, 2018 has been made for the same location and is expected to be confirmed shortly.

Nancy Fraser reminds us that she is looking for an assistant who is willing to take over next year. There are a number of parts to running the sale but the many volunteers help make light work of it. Those interested can contact Nancy at nancyfraser@gmail.com for more information.



MISSA 2017

As always, MISSA 2017 was well attended by guild members both as class participants and as volunteers. A big thank-you to Belle Leon whose helpful smiling face was seen for many hours at the registration table and a thank you to goodness know who all else also working hard behind the scenes.

VINCE PITELKA'S CLASS

Roger Champagne (see picture to the right) attended Vince Pitelka's "Tricks of the Trade Handbuilding" class course and answered some questions about his experience.

1. Why Vince Pitelka's handbuilding class?

I liked the work I saw on his website....and the title "Tricks of the Trade" appealed to me, promising something beyond learning a particular form. I asked around and was told that his teaching ability was tops, and he was a kind man and had a very good sense of humour.

2. Do you do a lot of handbuilding or is it the opposite and you were exploring something different?

A bit of both - I have been handbuilding large garden pots for a few years so I had a method, but was on the lookout for some tricks that might speed up the process. I do an equal amount of wheel work, but was happy to leave the wheel for a bit. Cleanup was a lot easier every day.

3. What was your big take away from Vince's class – inspiration or technique or???

Sort of hard to separate those two....lots of technique was new and exciting...making lidded slab containers...inspiration comes as energy that develops over the week from the immersion, and the collegial atmosphere.

4. What is he like as a teacher? (I was pretty impressed with the live music he was providing while you all worked).

He is a very solid teacher who is a professional in every way in the classroom. Worked hard, kept us focused, outlined the days plan and pretty much kept to it. Ran the class like a teacher too, direct and open, but kind and encouraging. Clear about methods and shared all his expertise very generously. also a solid musician with a good voice.

5. Have you worked with any of the concepts or technical take away since you took the class?

Yes, extensively, I have made several large pots, and smaller lidded containers, all following his process.

6. Has the piece you made been finished and/or bisqued and/or glazed or have any thoughts on next steps?



I have bisqued all the pieces and I am in the usual quandary now....none of my glazes will do these pieces justice. The strongly textured surface needs a more transparent glaze than I usually use. I WILL INVESTIGATE!!

7. Anything else you might think of?

Good to keep in mind that the courses are starting points and everyone will go off on their own tangent...and they should. No instructor wants the students to keep making the teacher's pots...we just copy to learn the technique...then we depart. This work has led me to buying a new book-The Complete Guide to Mid-Range Glazes by John Britt, while browsing around Powell's in Portland this summer.

Several other Guild members were in the course including Sally Manning and Linda Vigliotti.



Matt Long's Class

A number of guild members attended Matt's class. Matt is an Associate Professor of Art with the University of Mississippi as well as the Graduate Coordinator of Ceramics. There were two focuses to the class – cone 10- soda firing using pots students had bisqued prior to



the class and throwing a variety of drinking vessels with altered shapes using different techniques including slip and indenting with a tool. Matt also demonstrated throwing and altering a number of his other vessels including a whiskey jug and a particular style of 'dog bone' handle that included compression of the join to avoid cracking and to highlight the form (see pictures).



Here are a few more pictures from Matt's class including Daniel Casey showing one of his pots from the soda firing, the soda kiln after firing and the editor's pot from the soda firing.



MISSA - A few thoughts from the Editor:

From reports of those able to attend, 2017 MISSA classes were very well received. As always, courses are dependent on sufficient registration, and unfortunately a few of the clay courses had to be cancelled this year. Some have speculated this was likely because the dates offered by Pearson College for the event were a little earlier in the summer than some summers (June 24, 2017 to July 8, 2017). But getting facilities as appropriate as Pearson to hold clay classes must be an incredible challenge, and I have no idea the pressures that Pearson has regarding the use of their facilities and how they allocate time, so my only reason for writing about the topic is to affirm that if potters want to see the great courses offered by MISSA continue, it's important we support these offerings as much as we can.

The courses are necessarily expensive; there is no getting around that. Bringing in instructors of a high caliber means it has to be worth their while (and they are not buying a yacht on the proceeds) and there are significant travel costs. And, most importantly, don't forget about bursaries – nothing ventured, nothing gained. I am full of clichés this morning as I type. And lastly on the topic of costs, if your kids don't know what to get you for Christmas, tell them a contribution to your MISSA course will not go amiss.

I remember in years past, I was very hesitant to register for a class because I thought classes were only for professional level potters. I hesitated long enough (several years) that by the time I did screw up my courage, the very course I had wanted to take was no longer available (Robin Hopper's glazing workshop). Luckily, I was able to take a similar class with John Britt in 2010 and I've wondered since what the heck took me so long to register. Both the instructor and my fellow students could not have been more welcoming and encouraging. So if any of you are hesitating for the same reason, hesitate no more. Yes, on occasion some of the classes do have a pre-registration requirement of a portfolio or examples of work to confirm you are ready for the level of instruction, but this isn't the common theme and for most throwing classes, the skill level of potters participating is wide enough to accommodate anyone who can centre and throw a cylinder.

My other stumbling block to my choice of course is my addiction to the wheel – throwing is my thing – but every time I walk around the other classes and see the amazing things folks are doing with hand building, I wonder again – what’s taking me so long to consider branching out.

For me, MISSA has meant deepening my knowledge, affirming my love of clay, a special ‘me’ time that lets me really jump ahead and an amazing opportunity to link with other potters who I draw on all year long through email and Facebook as a source of inspiration and knowledge. In the meantime, if you want to be on the frontline for registration when it becomes available in the new year, now is the time to make sure you have your MISSA Friends membership in good standing. Contact MISSA at missa@missa.ca.

Tip of the Month – From Sally Manning

Have you ever had difficulty getting a decent photograph of a pot? We have been given much needed words of wisdom by others that are more fulsome than this tip, but if you are looking for something quick and easy, with no special setup, this is the trick.. Stretch a very long piece of parchment paper across the back of a stove and along the flat service, creating a uniform white background with no fold or horizon. I didn’t even rip the paper from the roll, so no waste of paper in the process. Hope it works for you.

Program Coordinator Needed

For the past few years, I have acted as coordinator for the Guild’s evening meeting programs. I am leaving that position as of September, and so far have been unable to find anyone to take over. So this is an appeal to someone to consider taking on that not-too-onerous task.

You won’t be alone. We have operated as a committee, with people coming up with program ideas and taking responsibility for doing one or more programs. We usually have one meeting in September to plan programs, then do all the rest by email or phone. And I am sure that the current committee members will be happy to continue, and other members will probably volunteer—or you can choose your own people.

There are 10 evening meetings in the year. September has traditionally been a “what I did last summer” meeting, with various members talking about their time at MISSA or other courses, and bringing examples of the pieces they worked on or the problems they encountered in the summer. December and June are potlucks, usually with a pottery “show and tell”. That leaves seven to be planned, usually with programs that appeal to various levels from beginner+ to very experienced, with outside presenters or presenters from within the Guild. We have a tentative presenter for November from up-island.

I am making up a list of previous programs, and a one-pager outlining the procedures, payments, audio-visual etc. I will still be around to offer aid and comfort as needed (but only as requested—no interference from me)

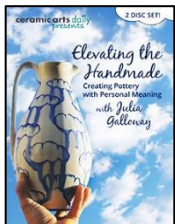
Let me know if you think you might be interested: not to overstress the point, but we really do need someone to take on this important post.

Cheers, and hope you had a fine summer,

Rosemary Neering
rneering@shaw.ca
250-477-7032

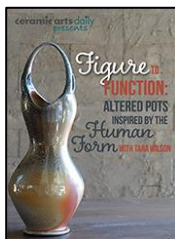
GUILD LIBRARY – By Nancy Wall

Enjoy our newest additions.



DVD - Elevating the Handmade with Julia Galloway

In this 2 disc set, Julia shares a wide variety of her inventive throwing and hand-building techniques as well as sharing how she creates beautiful surfaces. She demonstrates five of her signature forms, plus several approaches to creating narrative surfaces with text, imagery, slips and glaze.



DVD - Figure to Function with Tara Wilson

Tara demonstrates her techniques for making thrown-and-altered pottery with gentle curves and subtle details, inspired by the human form and the natural world. The video will inspire you to step out of your comfort zone and try something new! It is filled with tips on how to add movement and personality to wheel-thrown pots.



Sculpture Techniques - A Ceramic Art Handbook Series

Discover fresh ideas from over 30 artists, who share their unique approaches and insights. A collection of articles focusing on figurative and abstract works both large and small.

More details at <https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/shop/sculpture-techniques/>



Understanding Glazes

The First Workshop - How Glazes Work

We will explore:

- A basic intro to glaze chemistry
- Glass formers, fluxes and stiffeners - how they function and which materials fall into each category
- Why colourants react differently with different glazes
- How to determine if a recipe is suitable for functional ware
- Best studio practices for consistent results
- Test tile examples to illustrate all concepts
- Resources for recipes, material information and further learning

When: Sept 9, 2017 - 3:30-5:30pm

Where: 1481 Finlayson Pl

Price: \$40

ONLY 4 SPACES LEFT

To Sign Up: nancy.fraser@gmail.com

Workshop info: info@suemcleodceramics.com

More
Workshops
to Follow!

www.SueMcLeodCeramics.com

September 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Guild Meeting 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Church Hall	6	7	8	9 Glaze Workshop See Ad above
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
October 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving and Guild Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Heads Up November Meeting is November 6, 2017

ADVERTISING RATES

Business card size (2" x 3 1/2"):
\$10 per issue
or
\$75 for 10 issues

Quarter page ad (3 1/2" x 4 3/4")
\$20 per issue
or
\$150 for 10 issues

Sales announcements, events, classified ads:

FREE

Contact the *At a Glance* editor
helen.pedneault@shaw.ca

Guild at a Glance

... is the newsletter for the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild.

It is published monthly, September through June. It's distributed by email to all members and some copies are available at Guild meetings. The newsletter is also posted online at www.victoriapotters.ca

Articles and items of interest to members are welcome and will be included as space permits. Items for inclusion are best emailed to the editor
helen.pedneault@shaw.ca

**SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED BEFORE
THE FIRST OF THE MONTH**

The Executive

President:	Muriel S.	250.652.5434
Vice-Pres:	Pam T-W	250.474.5434
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Treasurer:	Linda V.	250.479.5966
Archivist:	Dawn K.	250.896.4373
Coffee:		
	Monika B.	778.351.3988
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	Kris J.	250.384.5344
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Raffle:		
	Ester G.	250.658.4523
	Tobias T.	250.383.3893
Webmaster:	Nancy Fraser	250 508-2053



**Victoria
Clay Art**

654 Burnside Road W.
Victoria BC V8Z 1M8

Here is a list of my favorite pottery tools, glazes and things. Dan

All available at Victoria Clay Art

Mud Tool Ribs
Amaco PC-20 Blue Rutile [cone 6]
Alphabet Stamp Set
2" Goat Hair Fan Brush
Magic Water
Stroke & Coat SC-74 Hot Tomale [cone 08-10]
MKM Finger Rollers
Xiem Telescoping Sponge on a Stick
Mud Tool Blue Sponge
Amaco Velvet Underglaze V-361 Jet Black
Aardvark Cone 5 BEE-Mix
Mud Tool Clay Cutting Wire [green handle]
MKM Wood Stamps
Paper Clay cone 06, 6, or 10

**Come in and look around, we're open
10:00am to 5:00pm Mon-Sat**

Vancouver Island Pottery Supply

Has Moved

Hello to all our valued customers, This is notice that VIPS has moved.

Our new address is:

515 Stanford Avenue E.
Parksville, BC
V9T 6V6

We have the same phone number and website address. We have a new email address.

Cheers, Donna

Ph: 1-250-248-2314

E-Mail: sales@vipottersupply.com
(new email address!!)

Web: www.vipottersupply.com

REMEMBER – among others, 2 great benefits to being in the South Vancouver Island Potters Guild are:

- 1) the library
- 2) access to the BC Potter's Guild newsletter online. Roger C. sends us the username and password each month.

So ... check them out! They're worth using!

*... When you shop – please
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that you learned about them
in the Guild Newsletter.*

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2017, November 18 - December 11
Registration Open
Save \$100 before March 30

MOROCCO 2018, April 9 - 30
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NEW SPAIN, Andalucia, November 2018

SICILY 2017, April 29 - May 18
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