

# Guild *at a* Glance

South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 4733 West Saanich Road, Victoria

Mar. 1, 2008

[www.mypottery.com](http://www.mypottery.com)

Volume 8, Issue 7

## Ester Galac

The February 2008 SVIPG presentation was given by Ester Galac, in which she demonstrated how she makes her signature oval pots. A bottomless ring is thrown on the wheel and ribbed, then allowed to harden to the right consistency. It is then bent into an oval and joined to a bottom. The joining takes place on a curved wooden support built by Ester's husband Bob. Care must be taken when adding feet and handles to avoid disappointment later.

Ester got her start at the Cedar Hill Rec Centre, and her first teacher was none other than Meira Matheson. From there it was on to MISSA and a summer course with Tom Coleman, and she hasn't looked back. Ester is a firm believer in MISSA, and she's always keen to learn more. It took a while for Ester to establish her own studio, including sharing Betty B's studio for a couple of years, but now Ester has her own studio pretty much as she wants it, with a throwing room, display area, spray booth and 2 kilns (the kitchen reno's will just have to wait).

The clay Ester uses is Aardvark's Vegas Buff smooth (available from Victoria Clay Art) and she fires at cone 8. Recently, Ester was a booth vendor at the Victoria Tea Festival and all went well. Lots of people, great exposure, and good sales. She is now getting ready for the Clayworks show in April, the Gordon Head studio tour and the Pacific Rim sale in May.



**Don't Forget The Raffle!**

Next Guild Meeting is  
Monday, April 14, 2008  
7:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Hall



Photos by Elaine White & Tony Mochizuki

For those of you who like to plan ahead:

**NCECA 2008** will be held in March in Pittsburgh, Penn.

**NCECA 2009** will be held in March in Phoenix, Arizona

### **Upcoming Guild Programs**

**March** — Meg Burgess and Laurie Davis

**April** — Andre Gogol/Tony Mochizuki - Glazes

**May** — Alana Nast - Sm. Business Accountant

**June** — Swap 'n Shop & Party



## LIBRARY CORNER

A new book for the Library! 500 TILES, another Lark book, chock full of colour photos and "wan-a-do" inspiration ideas, almost as good as a real exhibit on tiles.

We received four suggestions for Library purchases, in response to our request at January meeting. As a result, we have purchased one, and are shopping for the next one, leaving two to go. Thank you for the suggestions - keep them coming.

Joy



## Upcoming events

**Masters Series 2008** Arrowswith Potters Guild  
April 26, 2008. Parksville Conference & Community Centre.

The next **Saanich West Studio Tour** takes place on the 10th and 11th of May. We are always looking for artists to join in. Questions? phone Heidi at 479-6470.

### **June—Souper Bowls of Hope**

Phone Helen Hughes 361-0217 or email  
hhughes@victoria.ca

**MISSA 2008** June & July 2008. Lester B. Pearson College. 391-2412 or www.missa.ca..

### **KELOWNA CLAY FESTIVAL 2008**

August 8th - 12th, at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna, BC

## YOUR 2007-2008 EXECUTIVE

<b>President</b>	Nancy Wall	479-3524
<b>Vice-Pres</b>	Pam Wood	642-0638
<b>Secretary</b>	Rachel Coward	721-2976
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cindy Gibson	592-8257
<b>Archivist</b>	Roger Champagne	388-9642
<b>Library</b>	Joy Finlay	479-9833
	Judy Kranjc	642-5368
	Alice McLean	642-3522
	Kyoko Kusano	592-4638
	Elaine White	

<b>Membership</b>	Betty Burroughs	382-0974
-------------------	-----------------	----------

<b>Newsletter Committee</b>	Betty Burroughs	382-0974
	Roger Champagne	388-9642
	Jane McAllister	383-6240
	Tony Mochizuki	474-1532
	Jocelyn Steedman	920-0196
	Caryl Wilford	642-7169

**Program Coordinators:**  
**VACANT**

<b>Raffle</b>	Ester Galac	658-4523
	Tobias Tomlinson	383-3893

<b>Coffee</b>	Betty Fulton
---------------	--------------

**Directors:** Meira Mathison, Betty Burroughs, Betty Fulton



**Center Street Clay**  
218 West Center Street  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
[www.centerstreetclay.com](http://www.centerstreetclay.com)  
815-570-2030  
[gallery@centerstreetclay.com](mailto:gallery@centerstreetclay.com)

## **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steven Hill  
815-570-2030

### **Local clay artist participates in unique international workshop.**

Sandwich, Illinois February 26, 2008— Steven Hill announces the opening of “An Eight Month Journey” on March 15, 2008 in the Gallery at Center Street Clay. This show features the work of 10 clay artists from the United States and Canada.

The journey for these artists began with two weeks at the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts in Victoria, BC, Canada. At the end of their time there, each participant sat down with Hill and chose a course of work to pursue independently. A few days before the Opening, the artists will reconvene at Center Street Clay. This opening is a chance for the participants to share what they have done in the months since July 2007. It is also a chance for them to reconnect and celebrate. Hill says “This international two-part class just might be the first of its kind. The idea of working with students for two weeks and sending them off with a long-term assignment that will culminate in a gallery exhibition at Center Street Clay is the most exciting project I’ve ever been involved with.”

The public is invited to the opening on March 15, 2008 3-9. Exhibiting potters are Barbara Barrs of Alberta, Canada; Diane Burt of British Columbia, Canada; Evan Garber of Sonoma, California; Meira Mathison of British Columbia, Canada; Carol Smeraldo of Nova Scotia, Canada; May Wong of Stuart, Florida; Trezlie Brooks of British Columbia, Canada; JoAnn Peters of Ellensburg, Washington, Susan Martin of Chevy Chase, Maryland; and Tarra Wedman of Alberta, Canada.

This show will be open Saturday, March 15 10am-9pm and Sunday, 10am-4pm and by appointment.

For more information call Center Street Clay at 815-570-2030 or visit [centerstreetclay.com](http://centerstreetclay.com)



# **LOOK 2008**

Photos by Tobias Tomlinson



Priska Stabel



Faro Sullivan



Faro Annie Sullivan 153  
"Dirty Girl #2"  
Clay  
\$105  
Contact: 381-0770

Tobias Tomlinson



Flo-elle Watson





## **Martha James' Workshop**

### **February 22-23, 2008 at St. Michael's Church Hall**

Those attending Martha James' workshop Friday night were treated to a tasty supper of a variety of wraps and a huge veggie platter supplied by Evedar's Restaurant in Langford.

After coffee and goodies, Martha showed her slide presentation on a vintage slide projector. This provided us with a fascinating insight into the life and work of these ceramic artists.

Martha and Gordon James moved to Quadra Island on their honeymoon and lived in a relative's house there until, in 1976, they bought property with an ancient two-storey house that was only habitable on the second floor (the main floor was rotted through). Determined from the first to make their living with their pottery, they set about building their first kiln. They had purchased a load of hard brick .....at 10 cents per brick..... from a demolition in Alberta and had them shipped out to the island. On the first firing there were so many gaps between the bricks that the flames coming out of it made it look like a glowing bonfire!



Today they still live on the property but over the years have made many improvements to house and surroundings. They both work in their own styles as well as collaborating on many pieces and only sell now from their home gallery. Martha uses stoneware clay or Tom Coleman porcelain and also low fire earthenware for her numerous styles of pottery and sculpture. Gordon enjoys making items he can use as a canvas for his humorous artwork.



Saturday's workshop had Martha demonstrating throwing, altering, sprigging and forming a round handbuilt bowl from a plaster mold made from half a child's ball. To this she attached a thrown base and built up the sides with thin, textured slabs. She had lots of tips to offer and showed us her handmade tools such as a great texturing tool made from a coping saw blade, carved tongue depressors or popsicle sticks, and "permanent" calipers for lids so they are always the same size (she makes the pots fit the lids!) In this way, if a customer breaks a lid, Martha can replace it.

Here are comments from some of the attendees:

#### ESTER GALAC

The workshop was very inspiring and there were some new techniques and ideas that I could use in my work. I especially liked her octagonal plates and the technique she used to cut the rim, even the way she threw the plate was different from the way I saw it before. Her cup and saucer thrown off the hump were also unique. I might try and throw more off the hump myself.

#### RACHEL COWARD

"The Friday evening of the Guild workshop and getting to know Martha and Gordon James were a delight for me. Martha told the story of hers and Gordon's life together in slides, starting with their move from Calgary to Quadra Island on their honeymoon and gradually working hard to building their home and studio over the years. The slides of her pottery and a few of Gordon's taken from 1970 till present time, gave us a real insight into the development of her beautiful and unique style. It was the story of their devotion to each other that touched my heart, as we read between the stories of how they became the "Perfect Team", building, working and developing their life and art together."

#### JOY FINLAY

- It is always interesting to see the journey involved, i.e. Friday evening slide show.
- Watching Martha forming pears on newly thrown pots was mesmerising.
- The simplicity of her tools (popsicle sticks, etc) appealed to me.
- The display of her work was inspiring.

#### PENNY JONES

I guess the most important idea from the workshop is her use of everyday items for use as tools, i.e. poker, tongue depressor, popsicle sticks, etc. Was refreshing to hear that it is ok to have more than one style or glaze - something the purists need to remember!

#### CINDY GIBSON

What I enjoyed most about Martha's workshop was hearing about their life on Quadra, and how their pottery has evolved. We got a bonus having Gordon there, too, and it made sense, as their daily lives and pot-





tery-making activities have been closely intertwined for so many years. I liked that their work remains individual and that they do so many different things.

I could relate to the desire to "loosen up" and will probably try more immediate cutting and altering while throwing. I especially liked the fresh faceted plates.

## NANCY WALL

At our recent guild workshop, Martha James and her husband Gordon proved very generous with their combined knowledge and range of ceramic experience. It was once again

brought home to me, what a diverse group of people there are working with clay throughout the Island(s) ~ and to find such supportive, humble, professionals as the James', renewed my determination to seek out opportunities to meet more local potters. Beyond the gleaned 'new techniques' and 'information' provided ~ for me, the larger picture of a contented couple committed to 'making their living with clay' (for over 30 years) was heart-warming and food for the soul. It is, through workshops, networking and similar collaborative ventures that we get a chance to learn of and from others within the ceramics community.

"James Pottery operates year-round and visitors are invited to drop by or call ahead".

They are located at 120 Joyce Road, Quadra Island. Phone: (250) 285-3101

E-mail: [info@jamespottery.com](mailto:info@jamespottery.com)



Text by Betty Burroughs

Photos by Nancy Wall and Rachel Coward



First I'd like to say that I'm so glad I finally joined the guild. Everyone there has made me feel very welcome, all of you are such really nice people! I am finding just being there in itself is a wealth of information. Being a bit 'green' as a potter, I feel I learn a little tidbit from every potter. Ester's demonstration was wonderful! I thank her for that!

The Martha James' workshop was absolutely invaluable! To watch a Master at work is probably highest on my list of exciting things to do. I could have sat and watched her for all day Sunday as well! She and Gordon are a great couple who obviously love what they do.

Thanks again for the experience!  
Kris Jeffrey



# For Sale...

## **COMPLETE STARTER CERAMIC STUDIO**

### **\$4000**

1 environvent Skutt kiln  
1 large extruder (custom made) with dies  
1 small extruder (Brent) with dies  
1 tiger torch (large)  
many plaster molds  
1 large adjustable drying shelf  
2 work tables  
1 5-drawer cupboard  
many glaze chemicals  
many commercial glazes  
mask, glaze sieve, brushes, tools, etc  
and MORE...

**Contact: Linda in Victoria**

**(250) 472-3970**

## **DANGER! DUST IN THE STUDIO Toxic Dust – Always Avoid Breathing Dust**

Although there are some pieces of equipment that can cause immediate and possibly catastrophic injury, the greatest long-term hazard in the clay studio is dust. All ceramic materials that come in powdered form present an inhalation risk, and you must always protect yourself from the dust. The primary concern is silica (quartz, flint) dust, which is composed of very fine sharp-edged particles. Fine particulate free silica (pure silica particles that are not chemically combined to other materials) is contained in some of the component materials we use in clay bodies. Most secondary clays (those that have been transported by wind or water) contain very little free silica, as this material is heavy and tends to settle out. Primary clays like kaolins often contain small percentages of free silica as an impurity. The greatest danger is in mixing high-fire stoneware and porcelain bodies where flint (silica flour) is a major ingredient. Sand and grog often contain significant percentages of free silica dust.

A healthy non-smoker's lungs can expel clay dust, but do not have the ability to expel fine silica particles. Instead, they build up nodules of scar tissue around each particle. The effect is cumulative, and long term inhalation of significant quantities of silica dust results in silicosis (potter's rot, black lung, etc.), which is ultimately fatal. For more information, go to the [fact sheet on silicosis](#) at the Centers for Disease Control website.

Avoid making dust! Don't leave clay scraps on the floor. Don't leave ware-boards where they might fall over and raise a cloud of dust. Confine all dust-producing processes to the spray booth with fan turned on or take the work outside. When you need to sweep or scrape up dry clay residue from the floor, use a spray bottle and spray a little water over it first - this will keep down the dust. Always wear your respirator when any dust is present. See the section below on purchasing a respirator. If you do not have a respirator, leave the area when there is any dust in the air and do not return until all dust has cleared. As a general practice, you should always avoid breathing dust of any kind. All of it is harmful. Whenever working with dry ceramic materials anywhere (except in the spray-booth with the exhaust fan on) always wear an approved twin element respirator with appropriate cartridges or filters for ultra-fine dust, and with a resilient rubber face piece that seals effectively against your face. *See the section below on purchasing a respirator.*

***NOTE: Disposable paper-element dust masks should never be used in the clay studio. Do not ever put yourself in any situation where there is dust in the air unless you are wearing an appropriate respirator.***

### ***Purchasing a Respirator***

Efficient respirators are available at most good hardware stores and home improvement centers, but generally only in a size that fits the "average" face. Always make sure that you get a twin-element "half-mask" respirator with a resilient rubber face piece, equipped with P-100 HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) cartridges or filters designed to protect you from very fine dust. "Half-mask" means that it covers your mouth and nose, but not your eyes, as compared to a full-mask respirator with oxygen supply such as firemen wear.

A respirator appropriate for the ceramic studio does not need to have a cartridge for organic vapours from solvents, paints, etc., unless you specifically need that. Many of the respirators sold in hardware stores and home improvement centers are equipped with cartridges for organic vapours, and those are of no use to you unless they also have a P-100 HEPA rating or have additional P-100 dust filters attached to the cartridges. Also, it is important to be aware that all respirators equipped with organic vapour cartridges must always be stored in a sealed plastic bag when not in use. If left out, the cartridges are constantly absorbing organic vapours from the atmosphere, and quickly exhaust their usefulness. Don't get a respirator equipped with cartridges for paint and solvent fumes unless you specifically need protection from those fumes.

Go to the [Lab Safety Supply website](#) for an extensive assortment of high-quality half-mask respirators that come in different sizes to fit your face. Enter "half mask respirator" in the search box. They sell the most popular brands used by professionals in industry, including Scott, 3M, MSA, North, Moldex, AOSafety, Survivair, plus their own Lab Safety Supply brand. Note that some of the masks are available either in standard rubber or in hypoallergenic silicone rubber. Note also that the mask and the cartridges or filters are sold separately.

Select a small, medium, or large mask depending on the estimated size and shape of your face, and purchase a set of P100 HEPA-rated dust cartridges or filters. Click on the little orange icon in the upper right that says "quick-view selection guides" to select the appropriate cartridges and filters, and make sure that you get all the required parts. In some cases you must buy a package of dust filters plus a set of retainer caps to hold the filters on the mask.

When you receive your respirator, test the face piece for sealing efficiency. Strap it on your face snugly, hold both hands over the cartridge ports, and try to breathe in. If there is any leakage around the edges of the mask, then it is a poor fit. Determine whether it is too large or too small, send it back, and exchange it for the right one.

From Vince Pitelka  
Appalachian Center for Craft  
Tennessee Tech University  
[vpitelka@dtccom.net](mailto:vpitelka@dtccom.net); [wpitelka@tntech.edu](mailto:wpitelka@tntech.edu)  
<http://iweb.tntech.edu/wpitelka>

Submitted by Betty Burroughs



## **ARROWSMITH POTTERS GUILD**

**'Naked Raku' Workshop by Wally Asselberghs**, April 24-25, 2008 - 9-5 each day

Two day Hands-on Workshop sponsored by Arrowsmith Potters Guild at Station Gallery & Studios, Parksville, B.C.

Earlybird Fee: \$170 before March 7th  
Workshop is limited to 15 participants  
Further information: (Events)  
[www.arrowsmithpottersguild.bc.ca](http://www.arrowsmithpottersguild.bc.ca)  
Contact: Al Bubnys 250-951-1815



Wally Asselberghs, ceramicist from Flanders, Belgium, has specialized since 1995 in the technique of "Naked Raku". This method uses sacrificial layers of slip and glaze as catalysts to create patterns and surface textures left behind by smoke and fire. See Wally Asselberghs info. on line: [www.wallyasselberghs.be](http://www.wallyasselberghs.be)

**MASTER SERIES 2008** (presented by Arrowsmith Potters' Guild)

APRIL 26, 2008 9:00am to 5:00pm  
at the PARKSVILLE CONFERENCE & COMMUNITY CENTRE, 132 East Jensen Avenue, Parksville

Presenters are:

Paul Lewing (Seattle, WA)  
Wally Asselberghs (Flanders, Belgium)  
Carol Ann Michaelson (Ontario)  
Graham Sheehan (Gabriola Island, BC)  
John Robertson (Cobble Hill, BC)  
Mary Fox (Ladysmith, BC)

This is the 4th Masters Series event sponsored by the Arrowsmith Potters' Guild. It is held on alternate years of the Ceramics Symposium in Burnaby.



Cost: After March 7th \$100. Student After March 7th \$70.  
Lunch is included in the fees. Registration ends APRIL 12th.  
Registration form may be found at [www.arrowsmithpottersguild.bc.ca](http://www.arrowsmithpottersguild.bc.ca)

**MASTERS SERIES 2008 - it is looking like there may be a guild carpool driving up on the Friday afternoon (staying overnight- approx. \$50 ea.) Please contact Nancy Wall or Betty Burroughs.**



Ever Wonder why Coin Banks are Shaped Like Pigs???

The pig's role as a child's first savings account is a visual pun, even though the animal is known more for being muddy than thrifty.

A dense orange clay called 'pygg' was once used extensively in Europe for pottery. The clay was cheap, abundant, and useful for household goods such as dishes and jars. The earthenware made from this clay also came to be known as pygg ware.

Before the days of banking for common folk, spare cash was hidden in pygg jars. By the 18th century, the jars in which money was stored were made of a number of substances but the jars continued to be called pygg jars, often spelled p-i-g.

Potters with an eye for a pun made pygg jars by casting them in the form of pigs.

Submitted by Betty Burroughs

**When you shop.....**

**PLEASE MENTION  
TO OUR ADVERTISERS  
that you saw their ad  
in the Guild newsletter.**

South Vancouver Island Potters Guild's newsletter  
**Guild at a Glance**

is ONLINE!

go to

[www.mypottery.com](http://www.mypottery.com)

and : [www.qobc.ca/SVIPG](http://www.qobc.ca/SVIPG)

## **Vancouver Island Potters Supply**

**'Under New Management'**

**Friendly Service  
Expert Advice  
Service and Savings  
Quality products  
Great Prices**

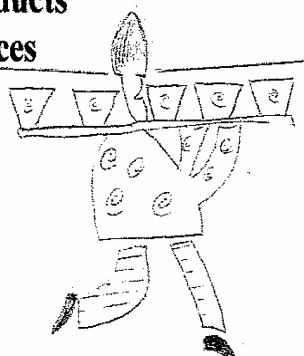
**#2 1009 Herring Gull Way  
Parksville, B.C.  
V9P 2N1**

**Ph: 250.248.2314**

**Toll free 877.248.2307**

**Fax: 250.248.2318**

**Email: [supplies@vanpotterywarehouse.com](mailto:supplies@vanpotterywarehouse.com)**



**Victoria  
Clay Art**

933 Ellery St  
Victoria BC  
V9A 4R9  
250 384-3831

Lloyd-El Ceramics has changed its name to  
**Victoria Clay Art**

We still carry all your favourite supplies but also  
have many new items that will help you  
bring a new dimension to your art.

**Come in to see the new Shimpo VL Lite  
Potters Wheel only \$770**

You will also find an excellent selection of in store  
pottery and sculpting tools.

We also carry fully posable sculpting armatures.

Have a look at our Gare glazes now at 20% off

We also have a number of quality molds for sale.