

Clay Notes

FEBRUARY 2009

Clay Notes, the monthly *Triangle Potters Guild* newsletter, and the TPG membership form are now available at www.trianglepotters.org. To get your announcements and news in the newsletter, send to: trianglepottersguild@yahoo.com or by the 15th of each month.

Our monthly meetings

are held on the first Tuesday of each month (no meetings June, July and August) at 7:30 pm. We will be meeting at the NCSU Craft Center, 516 Brickhaven Drive, Raleigh, NC.

Visitors are welcome!

TPG BOARD

President

Alice DeLisle
919-662-9310
wanderland@att.net

Vice President

Jo Ellen Westmoreland
jo_westmoreland@ncsu.edu

Corresponding

Secretary

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919-368-7319
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Treasurer

Carol Clark
cdebclark@msn.com

Recording Secretary

Jayne Cluggish
jaynecluggish@uno.com

Librarian

Nancy Schechter
schectern@mindspring.com



Gay Smith

NEXT TPG MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 3rd
Location: NCSU Craft Center,
516 Brickhaven Drive at 7:30pm.

TPG MEETING AGENDA

I. Welcome returning members,
new members, and visitors.

II. Old Business

- A. Dec meeting minutes
(newsletter): modifications /
approval: Jayne Cluggish
- B. Library report – Nancy
Schechter
- C. Finance Committee /
Treasurer's report,
membership - Carol Clark
**The Finance Committee will
review all budget requests
before presentation to the
board and the membership.**
- D. Urban Ministries Tile
Installation update: Donna
Kanich
- E. Sertoma Display update:
Alice DeLisle
- F. Requests for volunteer
demonstrations: Alice
DeLisle
- G. Hillsborough Street
Renaissance

III. New Business

- A. Planet Earth Celebration on
April 18th: Martin Stankus
- B. ClayFest 2009
- C. Nominating committee for
2009-2010 officers
- B. Feb. refreshments

**IV. Promptly at 8 pm: The
Main Event:**

GAY SMITH

Our guest presenter for the
February 3 meeting will be Gay
Smith. Gertrude Graham Smith,
nicknamed Gay, is a studio
potter single-firing porcelain
ware in a soda kiln near

Penland, NC. She is well known
for her distinctively altered
wheel-thrown pottery. At our
meeting, she will be
demonstrating ways that she
alters the surface of the clay
while it's wet on the wheel:
faceting, fluting, & impressing.
She will have a slideshow for us
as well. Gay has held artist-in-
residencies at the Archie Bray
Foundation in Helena, Montana
and at Penland School in
Penland, NC. Her teaching
credits include workshops at
Haystack Mountain School of
Crafts, Penland School, the
Harvard Ceramics Studio, and
the Findhorn Foundation in
Northern Scotland. Gay's work is
represented internationally, and
can be viewed in publications
including *Making Marks and
Functional Pottery* by Robin
Hopper, and *Working with Clay*
by Susan Peterson. Most
recently, she was selected as a
recipient of a North Carolina Arts
Council Visual Artist Fellowship
award for 2006-7, and her work
was featured on the cover of
Ceramics Monthly magazine,
April 2007. For more about Gay
Smith and her work, visit
<http://www.gertrudegrahamsmith.com/>.



Gay Smith



Gay Smith

MINUTES JAN MTG

I. JoEllen Westmoreland took over for Alice in welcoming new members, and visitors. Three people introduced themselves.

II. Old Business

A. Nov. meeting minutes were approved. December was the Raku Party, no minutes.

B. Library Report by Nancy Schecter. She purchased three new books – “500 Animals in Clay”, “From Clay to Bronze”, and “The Figure in Clay”.

C. Carol Clark gave the Treasurer’ report. She has compiled a membership list. She had information about part-time jobs with the US Census, and the ArtSplosure application brochure.

D. Jo Ellen gave a report on the December Raku Party. There were 25-30 people attending, with 4 firing. Pictures are on the website. She handed out door prizes from the party.

E. Sertoma Display Update by

Alice DeLisle. Dates will be March 26-April30, with a reception April 5, 2-4pm. The exhibit will be in the lobby display case, which is not large, and will likely require changing out the work at the beginning of April to accommodate all. Set-up will be either 3/24 or 25, and Alice requested members to help with that. Work can be left at the Crafts Center . One not-too-large piece per person, please. It can be for sale, or not for sale, with Sertoma taking a 25% commission on all sales. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in exhibiting.

F. Alice sent around a sign-up sheet for those interested in doing volunteer demos when requested by outside groups. We are trying to make the system more organized.

G. The Board felt the need to clarify fees for taking out TPG shelves for non-TPG functions. They proposed a \$50 deposit, with \$40 refunded if they are returned in good shape. This was voted yes.

H. There have been requests for use of the TPG education display board. The Board recommended that it be used only for TPG events and volunteer events. It will not be available or rented for other uses. Voted yes.

III. New Business

The Guild was approached to participate in a new event, The Hillsborough Street Renaissance. More information was needed before we could proceed. If it is to be a sales event, it needs a coordinator. Jo Ellen asked for a volunteer to provide February refreshments. The Guild pays expenses, the volunteer needs to organized and provide food and turn in receipts to Carol Clark. Lauren volunteered – Thanks! There is a new juried show in Hillsboro at the Visitor’s Center. Contact them for applications. Jo Ellen introduced the

evening’s presenter, Susan Farrar Parrish, a painter/ potter whose studio is at ArtSpace. She had a slide show of her work, and demonstrated construction techniques.

TPG DISPLAY AT SERTOMA

TPG members will have the opportunity to display one piece of their work in the display case in the foyer at Sertoma Arts Center. They may be for sale or not for sale. There will be a 25% commission on sales. Display dates are March 26-April 30. The reception will be April 5, 2-4 pm (please mark your calendar).

The display case is not very big. In order to accommodate as many pieces as possible, please choose something relatively small. If we cannot fit everything in the case, we will do two-week rotations.

In order to participate, you **must** complete a written agreement with Sertoma so they have all of the information they need for insurance coverage. **THE AGREEMENT WILL BE E-MAILED TO YOU SEPARATELY. A FEW HARD COPIES WILL BE AVAILBLE AT THE CRAFTS CENTER. PRINT AND COMPLETE THE LAST PAGE AND BRING IT ALONG WITH YOUR WORK TO THE CRAFTS CENTER before March 24. PUT A REMOVEABLE LABEL ON YOUR WORK WITH YOUR NAME ON IT.**

Price: If your work is for sale, remember that Sertoma will take a 25% commission. In addition, they will take 6.75% sales tax, so you will need to adjust your price to include the sales tax.

Not for sale: If you work is not for sale, you will still need to put the insurance value on the agreement.

Contact Alice DeLisle with questions: wanderland@att.net or 919-210-5299

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Hillsborough Arts Council Deadline for applications in January 30th.

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 10 to 3, on the lawn of the Visitors Center in downtown Hillsborough thirty vendors will offer their quality, hand made, original works for sale to the public.

For more information, please go to the Hillsborough Downtown web site

www.hillsboroughartscouncil.org/ArtsCraftsShow

Hillsborough Street Renaissance

To be discussed at the meeting.

Town of Cary Venues

Artists working in any medium are invited to submit an application for exhibition opportunities in Town of Cary venues.

DEADLINE: February 2, 2009

Application download:

<http://www.townofcary.org/depts/prdept/events/callforartists.pdf>

or pick up an application at Page-Walker Arts & History Center, Jordan Hall Arts Center, or contact Denise Dickens.

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Public Art Coordinator
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denise.dickens@townofcary.org*

Plant Earth Celebration

We received an invitation to participate in the Planet Earth Celebration on April 18th. We participated in the first annual event last year. I will make an announcement about the event at our February meeting and check on the level of interest in participating again this year.

Martin Stankus

Chicago Fine Art/Fine Craft Shows - Summer 2009

We are promoters of fine art and fine craft festivals in the Chicago area. We have 3 festivals this summer. Here's a brief description of our festivals:

Cuneo Gardens Art Fest - Sat. & Sun, May 23 & 24 10 – 5 Juried fine art/fine craft festival Approx. 75 artists representing most media. Held on the secure grounds of the historic Cuneo Mansion in Vernon Hills, IL Juried and judged - cash prizes awarded.

Deerfield Festival of Fine Arts - Sat & Sun, May 30 & 31 10 – 5 Approx. 150 artists representing most media. Held in downtown Deerfield, IL Juried and judged - cash prizes awarded - purchase award from Village of Deerfield.

Art in the Park - Northbrook - Sat., July 11, 10 - 5 & Sun. July 12, 11 – 5 Approx. 100 artists representing most media. Held in Village Green Park, downtown Northbrook, IL Juried and judged - cash prizes awarded. Community art project

All have great artist hospitality. Day and overnight security. Free day and overnight parking. Live music, free kids art activities. Website www.dwevents.org

WORKSHOPS

Pocosin Arts Cabin Fever Reliever

I am with Clayworks Pottery Guild in Durham. Wanted to let you know about a really great workshop coming up in February. Pocosin Arts Cabin Fever reliever. It is in eastern NC in Late Feb. Great venue, and really nice people! I went last year- due to poor advertising, there were 3 people in my class with Ken Sedbury. This year, Suze Lindsay and Dina Wilde-Ramsing are the instructors. There is also, jewelry making, photography, and more. Link to the website:

<http://www.pocosinarts.org/retreat.html>

*Martha Sue Carraway
Co-President Clayworks Pottery
Guild*

"It's a Family Affair"

There is a special encore presentation of the "It's a Family Affair" workshop to be given by **Dan Finch Pottery**. Dan, Justin and Kathryn have agreed to do a one day follow up workshop with a morning of wheel demonstration and an afternoon of hands on Raku. The registration fee is \$50.00. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009. For more information, call Dan at (252) 235-4664 dan.finch@earthlink.net

REQUESTS

Hunger Crisis Conference

The Franciscan Coalition at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community on Leesville Road is holding a Hunger Crisis Conference on Feb. 27 & 28 called 'Hunger No More'. (For more info go to www.franciscancoalition.org) On that Friday evening all participants will be a part of an Oxfam dinner (see www.oxfamamerica.org). We are requesting that each participant bring an ordinary bowl to use at this dinner & throughout this conference. There will be prayer services where the bowls will be symbolic. We expect that we will need 50 or 60 bowls for those people who forget to bring one. We expect approximately 300 participants in all, from all areas of NC.

I am asking for simple, ordinary bowls that we would use for the 'forgetful' participants!nothing fancy, even "seconds" would work fine, since 2/3 of the participants will be served rice & beans, or only white rice, just as that ratio of poor & hungry throughout the world have as their staple diet.

If anyone is interested in donating a bowl to the Hunger Crisis Conference please let Laurie Knopp know. You can make arrangements to donate bowls by emailing her or giving her a call at 880-1326 or 376-1873. lknopp@mindspring.com

NEWS

Joyce and Bill Newton

attended the reception for Arts and Cultural Alliance 2008 National Juried Show in Knoxville. Joyce took a shot (the good kind) of me and my totem. Best news was when we returned, someone had called and said they had purchased it. It was a good weekend.



Recent TPG presenter Gillian Parke was featured in Ceramic Arts Daily. The article follows. www.CeramicArtsDaily.org

Gillian Parke's work may look familiar to many of you. She was featured in Ceramics Monthly's 2008 Emerging Artist showcase and then in Emerging Ceramic Artists to Watch, one of Ceramic Arts Daily's free downloads. Gillian's work will make another appearance in the February 2009 issue of Ceramics Monthly. Today, as a sneak peek, Gillian shares her technique for getting a very coarse surface texture from a clay body typically chosen for its creamy smooth



consistency. Have a look at this promising ceramic artist's work and techniques, and stay tuned for the upcoming article in CM.

Texture from Within: Mixing Coarse Materials into a Smooth Clay Body

by Gillian Parke

I usually work in stages on a set of pieces using Highwater Clay's Helios porcelain with coarse Custer feldspar (1 - 10 mesh, Seattle Pottery Supply) and 50 - 80 mesh molochite wedged in.



Throwing with the inclusions requires using a substantial amount of water to provide sufficient slip for lubrication. This helps prevent both finger cuts and tears in the turning clay. However, the piece will lose its strength and collapse due to the low plasticity of porcelain if too much water is used.

Each stage is thrown on the wheel and allowed to dry. Before removing the piece from the wheel, the feldspar and molochite matrix is exposed with a metal rib or trimming tool. This also serves to remove the surface slip. After assembling the piece, it is completely dried and wax resist is painted onto areas that will eventually be glazed. Underglaze is then applied to the unwaxed clay areas. The underglaze is removed from the surface with a damp sponge, leaving an underglaze patina that accentuates the feldspar and throwing lines.

Wax resist is again applied to the dry surface. Using a needle tool, lines are etched through the wax, revealing the clay below. After wiping clean with a damp

sponge, black underglaze is applied to the inlaid line. After bisque firing to cone 07, wax resist is applied to black inlay lines so that glaze will not cover the line and affect the color. Glazes are applied by pouring, dipping and/or brushing. The resulting piece is then fired in a gas kiln to cone 10 in reduction. Feldspar inclusions result in pearl-like eruptions covering the surface of the vessel. This surface is painted with various luster overglazes and fired in an electric kiln to cone 017 multiple times per layer of surface treatment.

To see more images of Gillian Parke's work, visit www.gillianparke.com.

LINKS

The Crafts Center

www.ncsu.edu/crafts

(919) 515-2457

Sertoma Arts Center

www.raleighnc.gov

(919) 420-2329

Pullen Arts Center

www.raleighnc.gov

(919) 831-6126

Claymakers

www.claymakers.com

(919) 530-8355

Durham Arts Council

www.durhamarts.org

(919) 560-2726

Jordan Hall Arts Center

www.townofcary.org

(919) 469-4069

Central Carolina Community College (CCCC)

www.cccc.edu

Finch Pottery

www.danfinch.com

(252) 235-4664

(919) 742-4156

Litmus Gallery

www.litmusgallery.com

(919) 571-3605