SPRINGTIME AND RENEWAL
MARCIA SELSOR, POTTERS COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER

Maybe it’s the Winter doldrums or maybe it’s the isolation still existing from a major move across the country, or the anticipation of Spring and new beginnings, but I’m feeling the need to try something new. Being a retired ceramics teacher, I have kept my studio going previously in a coop in Montana and now in a lovely setting at my home in the tropics of Coastal Texas in Brownsville. Winter activities included writing an article for *Pottery Making Illustrated* and starting on yet another inspired by Bill Daley, my undergraduate teacher and mentor in Philadelphia in the 1960s.

Bill recently sent me a letter of appreciation for my article on *Islamic Tiles* in the NCECA Journal. It is really great to be acknowledged by one’s hero. I was lucky to work again with Bill at the Archie Bray in Montana in 2005 where he taught a workshop on tar paper molds. I picked him up at 6:45 am sharp, ate Cheerios at the studio and began an hour early with a yoga session with some of the workshop participants. Needless to say, this was a stimulating workshop. I love learning new things in clay whether it comes in isolation in one’s studio or by seeking out learning experiences in workshops or discussions with other clay people. There is always more to learn, and I say this after working in clay full time for the past forty one years. We all choose which direction in clay we will pursue.

I highly recommend residencies or any other method one can find to change the daily studio experience and keep stimulated. It is great for those who have the luxury of time to do it. Shake the repetition of a daily routine from the consciousness for a new insight; create a new perspective! Many may not need to experience this change, but I do. Not that repetition is a bad thing. I remember a statement by an art critic at NCECA/Supermud in the late 70s about “making the same mug over and over again.” My friend from Montana, Francis Senska responded to me that she “never made the same mug twice.” Truly, sitting at a wheel making mugs, no two are the same even if one tries. It is just my personal need to get out and experience different settings and situations. I find the solitude of my studio lonely at times. Maybe this comes from years of teaching. Other times I relish the peace in order to focus.

I am anticipating a short term residency at the Mary Anderson Center for the Arts immediately after NCECA in Pittsburgh. So I am preparing for the residency by constructing some large vessel forms using the tar paper molds to be fired in the soda kiln at MACArts. As much as I love throwing, I also love handbuilding. Smoothing/working the leather hard surface to accentuate the points created by the shape, like an edge. Soda firing is something I can’t do at home. I applied for this residency for the purpose because the joints are unrelated to the form. That is slabs cover the mold and are joined wherever they meet...usually not at stress points created by the shape, like an edge. Soda firing is something I can’t do at home. I applied for this residency for the purpose to experiment with soda-fired surfaces. I have fired soda often years ago and wanted a chance to do some more. Also the chance to experience Spring in the woodlands of Southern Indiana sounded like a beautiful event. My intent is to fire several times during my ten day residency. Therefore, I need to bring some work with me in order to fill the kiln several times during my stay. Spring, a new experience and gorgeous setting, what more could one have for a new year? So, off to the studio! I encourage all of you this Spring to find ways to renew yourself and work.

GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK, JUNE 27-29, 2008
ISLAND CLAY POTTERS COUNCIL REGIONAL WORKSHOP HOSTED BY ADELPHI UNIVERSITY

Pit, Salt, Saggar and Naked Raku – A Combustible Combination
A comprehensive conference filled with everything you need to know on alternative firing methods. Sign-up today for this one-of-a-kind event at www.potterscouncil.org/islandclay

Featured Artist: Anti Liu, Hugh McElroy, Mena Romano, Jeff Shapiro, and Bill Shillalies

Enjoy keynote presentations covering ceramic history and traditions with Arthur Goldberg, Judith Schwartz and Jeff Shapiro.

Register early and save at www.potterscouncil.org/islandclay
I’m just back from CENTERED IN CLAY, in St. Petersburg, Florida. It was a great conference! Not only were the presenters talented and inspiring (something I have come to expect from a Potters Council Conference) but the venue itself was fantastic. The St. Petersburg Clay Company (www.st.peteclay.com) facility is amazing! It’s a huge old train station with multiple kilns, studios and class areas. Everywhere you look there is strong, imaginative work of all descriptions. We got great support from everyone there, especially the members of the Artists in Residence program. St. Petersburg Clay also houses a branch of Highwater Clay (www.highwaterclays.com), one of the conference sponsors. All in all, it was a fantastic place for a conference like ours, and I plan to keep an eye on their future offerings.

LETTER FROM A MEMBER

JOYCE KIMBALL, SEDALIA, MO

Congratulations on another great Potters Council workshop CENTERED IN CLAY at St. Petersburg Clay Company in February. This was my second Potters Council workshop; I was fortunate to be able to attend the one in Port Hadlock, WA last September. All these new ideas—inspirational presenters, great keynoters, wonderful facilities, and fellow potters sharing their work—my mind is in a whirl. I think I hear clay calling!

I loved the saggar firing at PORT HADLOCK so much that I came back to Missouri and tried it, not with raku but firing my pots in their foil saggars in my gas kiln all at once. Joe Brecha was really helpful by answering questions that came up as I tried this new (to me) technique. I could not have been more pleased with the results. The pots exceeded my expectations and I am making more, trying other terra sigs, and different pot shapes.

My work has been very traditional, functional, high fired stoneware and/or porcelain or some combination of the two. I mostly glaze with copper reds and celdons. Due to several factors, I had decided that I would not do any more craft/art fairs or shows. I seemed stuck in a rut and somewhat discouraged. I suppose we’ve all been there. Anyway, I was ready for something different, and the Potters Council workshops were the perfect answer.

Now, to try some new throwing techniques a la Matt Long! Where will I go from here? A new gallery, perhaps... Submitting an entry to a challenging show? Well, whatever, the journey is renewed.

Joyce

P.S. I hope you like my new pots!
GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK, JUNE 27-29, 2008

ISLAND CLAY

Hosted by Adelphi University, www.adelphi.edu
www.potterscouncil/islandclay or 866.721.3322

We sent out a SNEEK PEEK of this combustible conference at the end of February. This red-hot conference focuses on alternative firing methods: pit, saggar, salt and naked raku, and will also include demonstrations and presentation covering ceramic history and its traditions. Potters Council and Adelphi University are pleased to have seven of the most engaging and influential artists and teachers from in and around the Long Island region: Arthur Goldberg, Anti Liu, Hugh McElroy, Mena Romano, Judith Schwartz, Jeff Shapiro and Bill Shillalies.

ISLAND CLAY will provide you with hands-on experience in preparing, loading and firing. In addition to firing methods, you’ll also learn about throwing, handbuilding and glazing techniques and how each forming method affects your firing results. Because this conference contains hands-on firing opportunities you are asked to bring some of your work with you to prepare, load and fire using various firing methods as time and space allows.

For more details on all activities and events with this workshop, visit the website at www.potterscouncil.org/islandclay

PORT HADLOCK, WASHINGTON, AUGUST 1-3, 2008

Hosted by The Art Mine Gallery, www.theartmine.com and Viva Jones
www.potterscouncil.org or 866.721.3322

Potters Council is coming back to Washington in August. The event, BREAKING THE SURFACE, was such a success last year and with overwhelming request from attendees, we will again have the event at The Inn at Port Hadlock. Mark the dates on your calendar, August 1-3. We are working through all the details and will have all the information available in April online and we will send an email notice when more information is available.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2008

SURFACE, FORM & SUBSTANCE

Hosted by AMACO/BRENT, www.amaco.com
www.potterscouncil.org or 866.721.3322

The last Potters Council Conference in 2008 will be held and hosted at the AMACO/Brent facility in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference will feature the following highly talented artist: Deb Fritts, Ovidio Giberga, Susan Kemenffy, Eva Kwong, Jeffrey Nichols and Lana Wilson.

By teaming up with AMACO this conference will offer attendees the space and the supplies necessary to hold a conference that is hands-on. Five of the six presenters will be doing hands-on sessions on Saturday and Sunday. We are finalizing all the details and will have all the information available in April online and we will send an email notice when more information is available.

RIMAS VISGIRDA WORKSHOPS

Color & Line; March 17-21 - San Marcos, TX; info@eyeofthedogartcenter.com
Decals & Screen Printing; June 16-21 - Indianapolis, IN; friesk@uindy.edu
Coils, Slabs, Wheel Work & More; August 4-8 -Okoboji, IA; Katie@lakesart.org

Fred and Rimas
INVITATION FROM THE WORKSHOP HOST...

Owing to the tremendous response and success of first Potters Council ceramic conference at Adelphi University in 2006, it is my pleasure to invite you on behalf of Adelphi University to participate in a conference featuring local ceramic artists and facilitate a dialogue through lectures, demonstrations and participation. The success of the conference truly lies on the ceramic enthusiasts, artists, teachers, students, and studio potters from the region, presenters and participants alike.

Our objective is to feature local artists and ceramic trends in New York via demonstrations and lectures by prominent ceramic artists. The two-day conference will begin Friday evening with an opening ceremony and keynote lecture by Jeff Shapiro. It will be followed by the artist’s reception for the ceramics exhibitions at the three university galleries situated in the Garden City campus. Saturday and Sunday will feature series of workshops to be spread throughout the day.

Saturday will include a lecture featuring “The Pottery of the Enslaved African-American Potter, Dave” by Arthur Goldberg, a collector and prominent member of ceramic organizations in New York. The Sunday session will include a lecture by Judith Schwartz “Confrontational Ceramics: The Clay Artist as Social Critic.” Participants will benefit from opportunity to network, exchange ideas and have dialogues with their contemporaries, along with the leaders in the field.

Adelphi University comprises a small liberal arts college and a cluster of professional schools that have grown up in close relationship to the needs of the region. The University prepares a broad spectrum of graduates and undergraduates for a wide range of life pursuits while fostering a passion for knowledge; an understanding and a questioning of cultural values; and a view of themselves as independent, life long learners, and contributors to knowledge and service in an ever-changing world. Adelphi University is the leading private university in the region for undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty who value excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship, creative activity, and service to one’s community.

In Patrick Geddes words, “By creating we think, by living we learn”. Let’s all live and learn together. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the conference.

Puneeta Mittal
Adelphi University
www.adelphi.edu
WELCOME NEW POTTERS COUNCIL MEMBERS
FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008!

Please be sure to review all of your Member Benefits located on the right side of this page, and for more details visit www.potterscouncil.org.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

ONLINE RESOURCES
• Online directory of Potters’ Marks
• Online gallery promoting members’ work to the public
• Online directory of members and member studios
• Online discussions at ClayArt
• Potters’ Pages, a membership newsletter
• One free ad in Potters’ Pages newsletter (restrictions apply)

MEMBERSHIP SAVINGS
• Discount on all Potters Council regional workshops
• 20% discount on one-year subscription to Ceramics Monthly
• Free online classified advertisement on Ceramics Monthly website ($50 value, 30 word max) plus 20% off any subsequent print and online advertisements
• 20% discount on one-year subscription to Pottery Making Illustrated
• 20% discount on Ceramic Art Books - A growing collection that includes more than 35 titles

GROUP DISCOUNT PROGRAMS
• Discount shipping program, realtor network, credit card processing, and car rentals
• Group vision care, hearing, dental, chiropractic and prescription drug programs

Group discount programs and benefits are provided through agreement with third party corporations. Members will receive these benefits directly from the third party corporations upon proof of Potters Council membership.

I S L A N D C L A Y

Potters Council Regional Conference
Garden City, New York • June 27-29, 2008

Raku, Saggar, Pit and Salt — A Combustible Combination
A comprehensive conference filled with everything you need to know on alternative firing methods.
Featurable Artists:
Derek Green, Hugh McBryde, Mena Romano, Denis Licul, Hugh McElroy, Jeff Shapiro, and Bill Shillalies.

Register Today!
Register at www.potterscouncil.org/isleclay
Or Call: 888.721.3322

www.potterscouncil.org
We are dedicated to meeting the needs of studio potters and ceramic artists by providing forums for knowledge exchange and professional enhancement.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Denise Wilz
Green Lane, PA
Member Since 2004

Denise, a Potters Council member since January 2004, is featured on the cover of March’s Pottery Making Illustrated magazine. Her article entitled “Pennsylvania Redware” is located on page 24. Pennsylvania Redware is one of the oldest pottery techniques in the U.S. Denise shows how you can get the same timeless results our ancestors did by using up-to-date materials and techniques. For more information about Denise, visit www.wiltzpottery.com.

DID YOU KNOW as a Potters Council Member you can receive 20% discount on yearly subscriptions to Pottery Making Illustrated?
Regular Price $24.95 – Member Price $19.96

To subscribe today click here: https://www.kable.com/pub/pmil/subAll.asp

NEW RELEASES

Order online for FREE Shipping (US only)
www.ceramicartsdaily.org/books

Chic Lotz – Nevada City, CA
Glaze Workshops for Beginners
www.PotteryPoet.com

EXPLORE THE SURFACE – BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA – JANUARY 2008

The Berkeley Potters Guild (www.berkeleypotters.com), host of EXPLORE THE SURFACE, hit another home run conference. Seven creative, captivating and engaging presenters came to this workshop to teach and inspire, and they did not disappoint. Virginia Cartwright, Sam Chung, David Hendley, Gerald Hong, Kelly Hong, Willie Hulce, and Julia Kirillova said that the attendees were amazing, asking imperative questions and participating fully in all discussions.

The event opened with a reception at Leslie Ceramics Supply Co. (www.leslieceramics.com). This was a great networking event filled with fabulous food and lively music. Everyone left pumped and ready to attend demos on Saturday and Sunday. One attendee had this to say, “Thoroughly enjoyed Willie Hulce’s ‘thinking while working’ workshop – it made us think about the bigger things affecting the making of pottery/art.”

Be sure to congratulate George Dymesich from Aptos, CA on winning the Top 16/R kiln donated by Nabertherm (www.nabertherm.com). The drawing raised more $1,200 for Potters Council.

CENTERED IN CLAY – ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA – FEBRUARY 2008

The weather was perfect, presenters were inspiring, and the attendees were top-notch. The energy created by all three was just about enough to blow the roof off The St. Petersburg Clay Company (www.stpeteclay.com). The conference started with the opening reception and registration. Everywhere you turned was artwork in every shape, size and style. You could spend hours looking and not see it all. Clay connections were made while attendees enjoyed viewing the Presenters’ exhibit and socializing with the presenters, attendees and other special guests.

After such a relaxing evening everyone was ready to get started on Saturday learning many techniques from the following artists: John Balistreri, Matt Long, Steve Loucks, McKenzie Smith and Don Reitz. Attendees were learning about everything from paper clay, throwing large forms, using thick slip and so much more. Don Reitz was inspiring during his keynote presentation on Saturday. It was amazing to hear his life journey and what role clay played throughout his life.

It was amazing to watch friendships build over the weekend among everyone. Even the presenters were making plans to meet again. It is important to build a strong clay community and attending conferences is a great way to do that. Be sure to make plans to attend a Potters Council Regional Conference or other local workshops in your area.

OXIDES | A POEM BY CHIC LOTZ | POTTERS COUNCIL MEMBER | www.potterypoet.com

Our universe comes from wonderful things.
Over 100 elements from which it all springs.
The atom of course is the smallest part
of an element they say so that’s where we’ll start.

When atoms combine, a molecule they make.
How many of each?
What will it take?

One atom of silicon always likes to find
Two atoms of ox-y-gen and so they combine.

When atoms of elements + oxygen combine, it’s an oxide molecule that you will find.

12 major oxides that you will need to learn all about them and you can succeed.

Most of the elements that make up a glaze turn into oxides in the firing phase.

Bonding oxygen only with an element forms an “oxide.”

It is quite an event!

When atoms combine, a molecule they make.
How many of each?
What will it take?

One sil-i-con plus two ox-y-gen makes Si-O-2 (SIO.)
That’s where glazes begin.

When atoms combine, a molecule they make.
How many of each?
What will it take?

Becoming an oxide can change its name, silicon becomes silica....
they aren’t quite the same.

Alumina is Al2-O-3 (Al,0.) an oxide molecule as you can see.

Most of the elements that make up a glaze turn into oxides in the firing phase.

Bonding oxygen only with an element forms an “oxide.”

It is quite an event!
2008 EVENTS/EXHIBITIONS

ROSEWELL, GA - FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 28

Merrie Wright: Urban Wildlife and Mark Knott: New Work will be on display at Roswell Art Center West, 1355 Woodstock Rd. For more information, visit: www.roswellclaycollective.com/gallery.html

ENCINITAS, CA - APRIL 12-13, 2008

Handmade Tile – Two day workshop with Stephanie Stephenson $200. Primarily demo-style workshop will include some hands-on participation. Topics include design, relief, modeling/carving, making field tile and trim, molding, extruding, pressing and forming techniques; drying, firing, clays and glazing. Limit 18. For more information contact: workshops@revivaltileworks.com; www.revivaltileworks.com; (760) 730-9141.

PORTLAND, OR – APRIL 25-27, 2008

The Oregon Potters Association presents the 26th Annual Ceramic Showcase 2008. The nation’s largest show and sale of handmade clay art with over 225 Oregon and SW Washington clay artists. Location: Oregon Convention Center; 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; Portland, Oregon. For more information, visit: www.ceramicshowcase.com


Handmade Tile – Four day workshop with Stephanie Stephenson $450. Intensive, comprehensive hands-on tilemaking workshop. Includes design, relief modeling/carving, making field tile, trim, molding, extruding, pressing and forming techniques; drying, firing, clays, surface, and glazing. Participants will make a relief tile and mold. Materials included. Stephenson is a full time tilemaker and sculptor. She brings a sense of both history and exploration, experience and high energy to her workshops. Limit 12. For more information contact: workshops@revivaltileworks.com; www.revivaltileworks.com; (760) 730-9141.

FEATS OF CLAY – APRIL 30-MAY 25, 2008

Feats of Clay – 21st Annual International Art Competition. For more information call (800) 773-0522 or visit, www.placetourism.com

PORT WASHINGTON, OH – MAY 17-18, 2008

This 2-day workshop, Large Platters & Saggar Firing, will feature Tom Radca teaching techniques on “Throwing Large Platters” and Brenda McMahon teaching “Saggar Firing.” Tom will show how to center and throw up to 30 lbs. of clay into 30” diameter platters and Brenda will give a comprehensive overview of saggar firing technique, process and kiln building. Participants should bring at least one bisque pot for the saggar firing. Location Radca/McMahon Ceramic Studio; Cost: $275 www.tomradca.com or www.bluemoonclay.com or call 740.498.5303 or 518.796.4207

TUSCANY, ITALY – MAY 11-24, 2008

Marcia Selsor will be teaching an architectural ceramics workshop in Tuscany at La Meridiana, an international School for Ceramics. This course will include design and construction of a free standing archway, continuation of a serpentine tile bench, and possible additional projects depending on the size of the group. These will be fired in the wood kiln. Attention will be devoted to clay properties, and appropriate form/design for public sites. Side trips to San Gimignano, Volterra, wine tasting and gourmet luncheons are included. The new fixed cost for the course is $2900. There are other workshops in their program for the Spring and Summer as well. http://www.lameridiana.fi.it/ For further information contact: Claudia@lameridiana.fi.it

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE, VA – MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2008


GARDEN CITY, NY – JUNE 27-29, 2008

Presented by Potters Council, Adelphi University

Interested in alternative firing methods—wood, saggar, pit and salt? Then join us in for ISLAND CLAY workshop hosted by Adelphi University that will celebrate ceramic artists from New York. This workshop will not only focus on firing techniques, but will include how to get the best firing results utilizing throwing, handbuilding, glazes, etc. Register www.potterscouncil.org/islandclay or by calling 866.721.3322.

PORT HADLOCK, WA – AUGUST 1-3, 2008


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Presented by Potters Council, AMACO/BRENT www.amaco.com

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