



CHATTER

CAPE POTTERY SUPPLIES - P O BOX 36, STEENBERG, 7966

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From Jana in Retreat Branch

Hello All

Hope you all had a restful holiday and are revved up for the New Year! Many of you have been spring-cleaning your studios, ready for the year ahead.

A little tip – mark your buckets as well as lids, lids get moved about and the only way of telling what's inside is by doing a firing. So don't get caught out!

Also a good idea is to sieve your glazes regularly to keep it free of contaminants. Keep an eye out for extra holes in your sieve – we have mesh pieces available to affect repairs.

Our popular Ann Price Speckle Clay is again available as well as Stoneware and Earthenware paper clay, come and get yours while stocks last.

Happy Potting in the year ahead.

From Greg in Montague Gardens Branch

The New Year brings to mind fresh beginnings and a new start full of promise or to quote the last two lines of Milton's "Lycidas":

*At last he rose and twitched his mantle
blue, tomorrow to fresh woods and
pastures new.*

Here's wishing you all the very best for 2006.

CPS has brought out two new porcelain casting slip bodies (see details in this newsletter). What I thought you might find useful is some information on the joining of porcelain taken from Jack Doherty's book "Porcelain", available at all our branches.

Clays that are extremely fine textured, containing no sand or grog can be difficult to join securely. Porcelain bodies are very tight and dense and do not absorb water very easily at leather hard stage, so extra effort must be made to make sure that the surfaces to be joined have been well scored and softened. The single most important factor is to ensure that the pieces to be joined are of equal consistency and therefore being in control of the drying process. (Try wrapping pieces gently with cling wrap to equalize the moisture content in the two pieces to be joined). Porcelain has a high shrinkage – 15% is common. This is a factor causing cracks where the clay has been joined. Uneven drying will also stress joints and cause cracking during firing. Where possible, drying should be done slowly and evenly, protecting work from draughts and excessive heat.

The most common method of joining clay is to scratch or score both of the surfaces to be joined, then apply water or slip and press the pieces together, manipulating them if possible to ensure a good joint. Remember that the joint is formed by "welding" the surface together with pressure, not relying on slip as glue. Some potters prefer using vinegar instead of water or slip; it will act quickly on the porcelain, dissolving and softening the clay. A joining paste may also be used:

Joining Paste :
Clay body 1kg
Feldspar 20 grams
Bentonite 20 grams
Gum Arabic 20 grams

Mix the dry materials, then measure 500 ml of water and add 5 ml of Alcosperse deflocculant. Stir the mixture into the water to make a slip. Re-flocculate with a small amount of Epsom salts in solution.

Greg

From Aafke in Somerset West Branch

Living consciously, respecting the world around one and lovingly creating and maintaining beauty are a way of living for many people. Paying attention to how one cooks, serves and eats food.... How one dresses.... How one spends one's time... builds, keeps and decorates one's house, all these mundane activities are acts of creativity when coming from of a place of "centredness". The smallest things give pleasure when thought is given to them.

Friends of mine covered their overflow pipe with a clay gargoyle. Now the water flows from an ever-dripping salivating tongue! All around their home an attention to detail is seen – from plant pots to sculptural lion dogs to their crockery to tiles – even decorated airbricks in the walls of their home.

Clay has been used as a medium for maintaining a healthy, soulful way of life. Each item took time and much care to make. Each is unique. May this year be one of playful creativity and clay-grounded soulfulness.

Whatever you do, if you do it joyfully, if you do it lovingly, if your act of doing it is not purely economic, then it is creative. – Osho, Creativity – Unleashing the Forces Within –p 93.

COURSES AT THE SOMERSET WEST BRANCH

Thursday Demo's Times: 9.30am to 11am
Cost: R60-00 per person per demonstration workshop.

Join Elsabe Nel-Harries while she gives these demonstration workshops, answers your questions and helps with ideas, inspiration and techniques on Thursday mornings.

Slabs 16 March 2006

Get to know your slabroller and see what can be done with it! Slabbing is a technique equally important to a potter/ceramist/sculptor as wheel throwing or hand building. Add it to your arsenal of pottery techniques to build quicker, better, easier...

Sculptural Texture 30 March 2006

Decoration is not only about colour. Texture appeals to the sense of touch as well as of sight. It is the extended fine detail of 3D form – decoration and part of the essential shape. Find out more about the endless possibilities in enhancing your work through the medium of sculptural texture.

Slip trailing & decorating slip 11 May 2006

Learn how to create colour pattern & design by using the techniques involved in slip trailing and with decorating slip. Let the colour be in the clay

Paperclay 25 May 2006

What is it made of? What is it good to use for? Why use it? What are its pros and cons? Find out how it can be used to broaden the scope of your work.

Marbling & Inset Work with Clay 1 June 2006

Techniques explored:- Marbling and blending of coloured clays

- Inlay work, the use of colour clay to make patterns and decoration.
- Inset work – carve into the clay and fill it up with contrasting coloured clay as decoration.

Porcelain 8 June 2006

We have NEW Porcelain in stock! New porcelain clay (1200) and new translucent 1220 porcelain casting slip have just been developed by CPS. Come to a "talk & demo" on our different porcelains and what can be done with them.

WEDNESDAY COURSES-

Times : 9.30 am TO 12 pm

Tea/coffee, biscuits/muffins will be provided.

Brush 'n up...Basic Brushstrokes!

- a 3 day course in Somerset West.

Come and pick up decorating tips. Find out how easy it is to decorate with brushstrokes. Learn about brush care, brush loading and basic brushstrokes. Create petals and leaves and patterns in colours of various hues. Find the secret to shading.

Go home with a Salad bowl decorated by you. All materials and tools provided.

The course will run over 3 weeks, 31 May 2006 through to 14 June 2006 .

Cost of the course is R400 -00 (VAT inclusive)

TILES! TILES! TILES!

A 6-day course in Somerset West with CPS

Tiles! Big ones, small ones. Matt ones, glossy ones. Smooth ones, textured ones. Fat, thin, varying shapes. Relief and inlay. Slab rolling, sprigging, slip cast moulds and press moulds. Slips, underglazes and glazes. Learn the different techniques of tile making and decorating with Elsabe Nel-Harries.

She will also teach you how to pack and fire a kiln.

Go home with your own set of tiles, made, decorated and glazed by you. All materials are provided.

Wednesdays : 19 April 2006 to 24 May 2006.

Cost of the course is R750.00 (VAT inclusive).

Seats are limited to 10 only – so, based on first come, first served. Your payment secures your position. Refunds will be given if cancellations are received prior to the start of the course: 50% deposit if a week or less notice given, otherwise full refund.

Book now with Aafke - tel: 021-8523548



NEW PRODUCTS

New stocks of Hollow Extruded Shelves now available.



ANNUAL ELEMENT MADNESS SALE

15% discount allowed on all standard listed elements for the month of March 2006!



HINTS & TIPS

Are you frustrated with the too thick lines using Claybright 3D and now looking for a thinner line – Try this bright new idea.

Ingredients : 1 x old or new clutch pencil off which the tip can be unscrewed. All you need is the tip.

Screw the tip onto your 3D nozzle – Voila! There you go – a nice thin line of 3D!

Always remember to clean these tips immediately after use else it will clog up.

Here is another tip – 3D's always work better on a damp layer of Claybright underglaze.

This Tip from a Montague Gardens customer:

To re-constitute a bottle of colour – add two marbles into the bottle (same concept as balls in nail polish)!

Thank You

This Tip also from Montague Gardens!

Mix oxides with milk for a smooth easy application (won't dry to a chalky finish). Apply to greenware and fire to your normal bisque temperature before glazing.



CRAIG'S HELPLINE.....

Batts or shelves are a common sight in all potteries and if handled correctly can give good life. When not in use they should be stored end on the ground leaning against a suitable support, one next to the other. Preferably out of the traffic zone. When a new batt is purchased it is a good idea to battwash it to protect it against glaze ware adhesion. It is essential after battwashing to carefully dry the batt prior to use, in fact sintering on the battwash without a load in a bisque firing is good idea.

The first coat of battwash should be thin to penetrate the porous surface of the shelf, applying additional thicker layers thereafter.

When loading into a kiln, ensure that the batt is properly supported, typically 3 or 4 points. Ideally the same make of batt should be used in a stack as different manufacturers may have different expansion rates which could cause the batts to crack.

Also, please note: if you have purchased our new hollow core batts, due to their lightness, it may be necessary to adjust your final temperature to allow for the faster rate of firing. The same is true when new elements have been fitted into your kiln.

Happy pottingCRAIG



THE POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

For the calendar of events:

Event: 2006 Bank Windhoek Arts Festival / Potters' Association of Namibia National Ceramics Biennale
Date: 22.09.06 - 07.10.06
Venue: National Art Gallery in Windhoek, Namibia

All Namibian potters are welcome to enter this exhibition. Betsy Nield will be guest potter, judge and workshop host.

For more information please contact the Potters' Association of Namibia (P.A.N) P.O. Box 2585, Swakopmund, Namibia
email:- pan@iway.na www.pan.iway.na
Telephone & fax: Sharon Flewelen at (09264) 64-402875



CERAMICS SA

18 th March	Rondebosch Potters Market
*25 th March	AGM Rust-en-Vrede
27 April to 1 May	Decorex CTICC
7 – 9 July	Art for All
August	Winter Workshop Rust-en-Vrede
8 th October	Opening National Exhibition
*18 November	Rondebosch Potters Market

* dates to be confirmed in February CSA newsletter

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FOR SALE

Reinders Kiln (front load) 4.4 cubic foot
In good condition. R 5 500-00
Please phone Judith : 083 324 5758

Rarely used Clayman 5.1 Kiln top loader with all accessories and type 3 controller, plus contents of pottery studio i.e. bisque, paint and moulds etc. Bargain at R 15 000.00.
Call Anton : 083 790 4161 or 021- 712 7557.

Adverts are charged at a minimum of R50-00 per advert for 25 words and R5-00 per word thereafter, to a maximum of 50 words. Adverts are entered on a first come first served basis, as space is limited.

THE NEXT CPS CHATTER IS DUE OUT IN June 2006 – Please submit your articles/adverts before 15 May 2006.