



CHATTER

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

RETREAT BRANCH :Kiln Contracts Building,
11 Celie Road, Retreat 7945
MONTAGUE GARDENS BRANCH : Claybright ® Building,
No 1 Stella Mews, 23 Stella Rd, Montague Gardens
SOMERSET WEST BRANCH : 3a Stuart Close
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From Sydné in Retreat Branch

Having attended David Walters Summer Workshop in Franschoek I realised how important it is for artists/ potters to share ideas and advice and that we also need each other's support. Jonathan Keep opened me up to the art world – "we didn't get into this business for money, it's all about passion!"

This year seems a bit uncertain for many people. Art seems like a luxury but is important. The Design Indaba is on from the 25th February until the 1st of March at the Convention Centre, I recommend that all artists/ potters take time out of their hectic schedules and support the arts. We wish you all a wonderful 2009!

Please note that Elsabe Harries is available from 10 am to 12pm Tuesdays and Thursdays to answer all your questions at the Retreat Branch.

From Greg in Montague Gardens Branch

"For everywhere we look there is work to be done. The state of the economy calls for action, bold, swift and we will act – not only to create jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will harness the sun, and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars, and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we will do. All this we will do." - excerpts from U.S President Obama's inaugural speech. Very well said, I thought, and something we should all bear in mind. Yet it is a sad state of affairs when we read in the latest National Ceramics no.86, that so many colleges and universities in S.A and worldwide are making ceramics courses obsolete! This is one particular field where many jobs can still be created and skills

learned and developed especially in our own country.

I firmly believe that work should entail a lot of fun in order for us to actually enjoy what we do. So here is a fun thing I found to do with wax resist:

Mix liquid wax with oxides and chill them into cubes in an old icetray. When they are firm, grate them with a kitchen grater or low mesh sieve. Add these shavings to your glaze. You can add several different coloured shavings and they will stay separated from each other. The wax pieces will float first, but after a few days can be mixed into the glaze. Now apply your glaze and wait for some unique results!

Some tips on caring for your dipping glaze:

- Store your clear glaze in a cool dry area. Storing it near a kiln or in excessive heat areas can cause evaporation and lead to a thicker glaze.
- Always keep your clear glaze covered when not in use to protect it from dust, contaminants and evaporation.
- Ensure that your bisque is clean, free of oils from hand lotions or food, and free of dust. Accumulated oils and dust can repel glazes, causing bare spots, pin holes and crawling in the fired finish. We recommend wiping your bisque with a damp sponge before applying colour.

Have fun!

From Aafke in Somerset West Branch

The road works on the N2, right at the turnoff into Somerset Business Park, can appear frustrating. Try to avoid the traffic jam by not driving through that point when locals are driving to work

(8/8.30am) or from work (4.30/5pm) or when its lunchtime. And if you do get stuck... turn off to come visit the Somerset West branch anyway - for a calm interlude.

NEW in our shops are:

Glass batt wash
Alumina Calcined local 200#
Grog 0.25 – 0.7mm
Frit FSB571
Transfers

Our earthenware clays have improved. We are now using a different Kaolin that likes water. The previous one seemed to repel it. Walford China White has also improved in plasticity.

And finally...some tips on Casting Slip:

- It is better to stir the slip slowly as this prevents air bubbles being trapped in the slip.
- Warm slip is better than cold as it pours easier. Cold slip is thicker and can't get into small areas, as well as trapping bubbles
- A good pouring consistency is indicated when a spread hand dipped in slip shows a web on the spread fingers.

10% of fettlings can be added to slip



OBITUARIES

Mr Hyme Rabinowitz passed away on 15 February 2009.

He was a legend and icon in South African ceramics who leaves behind a legacy of sharing, teaching, understanding and persistence of perfection.

Our sincere condolences to his family, friends, fellow potters and mentored students - he will be greatly missed and remembered.

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We also say goodbye to Joe Farragher who passed away 30th January 2009.

He was a friend, ex-colleague and community potter and will be sorely missed.

Joe was a founder member of The Clayman and, in fact, his know-how and love for clay was the inspiration behind the name The Clayman, which was established in his backyard in Rondebosch East before being moved to the present-day Retreat factory. Today Clayman clays and other products are household names respected countrywide and internationally. Thanks Joe.

Our sincere condolences to his family.

## **WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS IN SOMERSET WEST.**

### **TILES!**

Learn how to create beautiful brightly coloured Art Deco style tiles for your home. Start a frieze of tiles for your bathroom, make a set of coasters/pot holders, add them to a mosaic work, or frame them as beautiful pictures.

- **FREE** sample kit of brush-on coloured glazes will be provided.
- The **BEST** tea/coffee and cakes/muffins will be provided.
- The course will run over 2 weeks, every Wednesday, beginning to 18 March 2009 through to 25 March 2009.
- Times: 9.30am to 12pm
- Cost of the course is R450.00 (VAT inclusive).

### **SPRIGS & STAMPS**

Sprigs & stamps are useful tools to create quick & easy decorative patterned textures that personalize your pieces. They are not easily commercially available as they are individualized items, but they are easy to make and last a long time if looked after. Learn how to make these simple, yet amazing, tools – going home with a kit tailor-made to your needs.

- All materials provided.
- Tea/coffee and delicious cake/muffins will be provided.
- The course will run on Wednesday 1 April 2009.
- Times: 9.30am to 12pm
- Cost of the course is R 200-00 (VAT inclusive)

### **Brush 'n up...Basic Brushstrokes!**

A 3 day course in Somerset West with CPS. Brushes are amazing things – with a twist and turn you can create a library of decorating techniques. Use this as a starting point to create new and wonderful pieces in the future.

Pick up decorating tips. Learn about brush care, brush loading and basic brushstrokes. Find the secret to shading.

A Full kit of 6 Claybright colours and 5 brushes will be given to you. With this create a designer platter for yourself.

Tea/coffee and biscuits/muffins will be provided.

The course will run over 3 weeks, every Wednesday, beginning 29 April 2009 through to 13 May 2009. Times: 9.30am to 12pm

Cost of the course is R600-00 (VAT inclusive)

## MUGS 'N JUGS

Handmade articles take on their own characters, with results that can't be repeated. This can be a lot of fun! Make your own unique set of colourful, freeform, hand crafted mugs 'n jugs, using porcelain, oxides and stains.

Take home, too, memories of a fun & creativity!

A three-day workshop. All materials and tools provided.

Free set of stains and tools.

An exceptional spread of tea/coffee & delicious cake will be provided !

The course will run over 3 weeks, every Wednesday, beginning 20 May 2009 through to 3 June 2009 .  
Times: 9.30am to 12pm

Cost of the course is R540.00 (VAT inclusive)

## **ONGLAZE & LUSTRE**

Onglaze decoration is an art often forgotten. The living translucency and immediacy of brushstroke in this technique makes for beautiful ceramic ware. Being that one can choose already glaze-fired items to work on, one's options of shape variety are broadened. The cost of firing is also less than in bisqueware painting, as only one firing is involved and at a lower firing temperature as well. Finishing one's work off with lustre is an added luxury, that often just highlights the piece.

Paint a bowl provided by us free of charge, and take home a starter kit of onglaze colours.

Tea/coffee and delicious cake/muffins will be provided.

The course will run over weeks, every Wednesday, beginning 10 June 2009 through to 24 June 2009.  
Times: 9.30am to 12pm

Cost of the course is R550-00 (VAT inclusive)



## NEW PRODUCTS/ NEWS/SPECIALS

Annual Element Special - less 15 % on our standard element prices for the month of April.

## BOOK SALE LESS 15 %

for the month of June off our standard price - this will help with winter blues!

**Glass Batt Wash** packaged in 1kg bags is now available at all branches of CPS.

*Note:* If batt wash (shelf primer) is applied unevenly or bare patches are left, glass may stick to the shelf as it expands during the firing process. When this happens, the glass can pull itself apart and break. Batt wash should be cleaned off and reapplied in a thin even coating to prevent this occurring. Take care not to use too much batt wash as it may require sandblasting to remove it from the bottom of the fired piece!



## CSA – POTTERS MARKET COMPETITION !

Winner of the CPS Voucher for R 500.00 is:

Ms Merrill Meier

**Congratulations!**



## CSA – Cape Region - Regional CPS STERLING AWARD :

GRETA DE SUTTER - New Signature  
Congratulations Greta from the CPS team!

*From Craig's desk .....*

Our website is now two years old and we are currently going through the process of upgrading and improving our content. Please bear with us through this process. Some of the changes incorporate a wider page. This allows for additional columns for news and events. We invite you to submit information relating to planned exhibitions and workshops along with promotional pictures etc. We will do our best to load these up and help promote you.

We have an improved search engine for products and are

continuing to upload information and pictures throughout our extensive range. Have a look at our new Claybright content.

Our newsletter is increasingly being moved over to email. Apart from the fact that it will save valuable trees and carbon footprint we are able to provide additional information like colour photos. We encourage all our readers to submit their email address to assist us in this regard.

NB : Website colour variation between CRT and flat screens exacerbate the reflection of true colour displayed e.g glazes and underglazes.

Happy potting!



## Ceramics Southern Africa

### Events for 2009

**AGM** Saturday 7 March at 10am at Rust-en-Vrede Durbanville Preceded by breakfast at 9am.

**Rondebosch Potters Market** Saturday 21 March and Saturday 21 November

**Winter Workshop** Saturday 22 August at Rust-en-Vrede, Durbanville

**Regional Exhibition** opens Sunday 15 November at Rust-en-Vrede and runs until 14 December

Details of the above will appear in future e-mails and the February newsletter

### What's On

Members and galleries are encouraged to send in news of their exhibitions to be included in our "What's On" column. Please send the information in good time so that CSA members can be kept informed about forthcoming events.

### Teachers

We often get queries and requests for teachers. We will be compiling a database of teachers in our region. If you are teaching and would like to be included in the database please send all your details to Letitia at [info@ceramics-sa-cape.co.za](mailto:info@ceramics-sa-cape.co.za) or call 0219793537



**THE NEXT CPS CHATTER ISSUE :  
June 2009**

## The Potter's Association of Namibia

2009 P.A.N. NATIONAL NAMIBIAN CERAMICS BIENNALE

**from 25 September to 10 October** in Omba Gallery and Studio 77 Gallery at the Namibian Crafts Centre, Old Breweries Complex, Windhoek.

Guest selector & workshop presenter: South African ceramist Michelle Legg

### CALL FOR ENTRIES:

**Closing date for entry registration is**

**Monday 21 September 2009.**

**For further information email: [pan@iway.na](mailto:pan@iway.na)**

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### **REDUCTION WOODFIRED WORKSHOP**

**To be held in Noordhoek in May 2009.**

**For more information contact:**

**Catherina Pagani** 021 789 1033 [www.catherina-pagani.co.za](http://www.catherina-pagani.co.za)

**Lorette Espi** 021 7891151 082 376 3289

### **FOR SALE**

Refractory pottery kiln bricks, used.

Total about 400 @ R5 each.

Phone 021- 689 1449

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MINOR BURNER glass bead making torch for sale. Enquiries Phone 021 8516166.

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Model KTL051 – 5,1 cubic foot kiln. Very good condition and in working order. R 4000.00

Contact Susan Tel 028-3162978 cell: 082 835 4392

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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.