



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

I would like to thank David and Sarah Walters for hosting a Raku workshop in January, It was a very interesting and informative workshop and David and Sarah really guided us well through the process. The throwing demonstration was especially my favourite. To those who missed the workshop – shame on you! Please visit our website to view pictures of the workshop: www.capepotterysupplies.co.za

Our ceramist Elsabe has been working very hard to come up with some new decorating slip colours and she is also working on our Lazerglaze tile samples. At our Retreat branch we have the samples on display, please pop in anytime and give us some feedback.

Gare has discontinued their Velvet underglaze range and they are R 10.00 each for 59ml, we only have a limited range in stock so don't miss out on this opportunity.

If you are looking for a high fire metallic glaze, Chrysanthos has beautiful Bronze Metal and Gun Metal glazes that fire between cone 4-6. And if you are looking for a matte transparent glaze, they have a Low Sheen glaze that fires between cone 04 -06

A friend suggested that I read "250 Tips, Techniques and Trade Secrets for Potters" by Jacqui Atkin and it is just what a beginner like myself needs. The books are currently on order but we will keep you posted on our website as soon as they come in.

Happy potting in 2010!

From Greg in Montague Gardens Branch

Let me begin by wishing you all a truly great 2010. It will surely prove to be an interesting year.

A large number of CPS customers are not only potters but also glass artists and many of our products are suitable for glass slumping and fusing. Our glazer kilns are well known and very popular right across SA. It is with this in mind that I have researched a little general

information that may be of interest to those of you who are getting into this field.

Loading a kiln with glass: It is unadvisable to stack kiln shelves with glass projects in a kiln. This is why glass kilns get wider instead of taller when they get larger. Ideally, glass projects should be placed in the centre of a kiln shelf with the shelf placement as close as possible to the thermocouple in the kiln.

Fusible vs. "non-fusible glass: All glass can be melted. However, not all glass is designed for melting. Many of the gorgeous pieces of art glass lose their colouration when heated. Glass labelled as "fusible" is designed to be heated. The colours will hold through a firing and the glass has been tested to melt at a specific rate and return to a solid at a specific rate.

Thick and thin: The major manufacturers of glass produce a variety of thicknesses of glass. The most widely produced thickness of sheet glass are standard thickness, which is approximately 3mm thick, and thin which is approximately 1.5 – 1.8mm thick. Typically thin glass is best to use when working with many layers of glass or when the end product is most desirable lightweight. It is best to use thick glass when creating serving pieces or when a heavier and sturdier end product is desired.

Coefficient of expansion or "COE": In layman's terms this refers to the expansion and contraction rates of materials when subjected to heating and cooling. It is important to know what the COE of the glass that you're going to fuse is, because glass with different COE'S will expand and shrink at different rates when heated and when heated together, this will lead to stress cracks and fissures. The most common COE'S in the glass hobby market are 90 and 96. The lower the COE of glass the harder the glass is and the higher the temperature it will require to cause the glass to melt or begin to melt. A typical window glass has a COE of 82. If you attempt to fuse window glass with a piece of COE 90 or 96 glass, your project will crack during the cooling process.

Moulds: When using moulds, it is best to use ceramic moulds for slumping into. For draping over, it is often better to use stainless steel moulds. This is because of these materials relative thermal expansion to that of glass, and their willingness to release glass, instead of breaking it, as it cools. If your glass piece cracks during the firing cycle, check the edges. If round, it broke during temperature ramp up. If sharp, it broke during cooling down.

Fibre paper: You can use different thicknesses of fibre paper to cut out designs for relief patterns in your glass. Just place the glass on the cut-out paper shape and there will be a relief pattern after the glass has fired. You can also use fibre paper to make a through-hole in a glass project, for example should you want to thread a chain through a glass pendant. Just roll up some fibre paper into a tube, and place it between two sheets of glass. There will be a gap where the fibre paper tube was.

Play safely and be happy, Greg.

From Aafke in Somerset West Branch

The mould making division of The Clay Man, which is housed at the Somerset West branch, is going from strength to strength.

When we bought Mercury Moulds, the master moulds arrived in disarray, and many parts were broken. It has taken us a long time to sort through the pieces to find out what we have in stock (a bit of a giant jigsaw puzzle!) and to classify, catalogue and photograph them. The process is ongoing, but we have ironed out most of the wrinkles, and hope to have a more comprehensive catalogue available at a later date.

Our product has improved, and we are working on improving our turnaround time. As the branches become fully stocked, customers will hopefully not have to wait for moulds to be made to order - unless the order is a large one.

Developing the mould making division is exciting and has expanded our depth of homegrown products.

NEW in our branches:

Rub 'n Buff

- the original wax metallic finish -
4 exciting colours!

Low Firing & Burnishing by Sumi von Dassow
Featuring our own Ian Garrett!



WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS IN SOMERSET WEST.

Slip into some Colour!

Using our delicious Chocolate Clay to enhance colour contrast in the finished item, Elsabe Nel-Harries will take you on a journey exploring the versatility of

decorating slip. She will explore 3 separate techniques over 3 workshops. Join her for all 3, or just 1 or 2 of the morning workshops.

Slip 1

Learn how to inlay vibrant coloured decorating slips into a bowl, provided by us, made out of our yummy chocolate clay.

YOURS TO TAKE HOME:

5 piece Aluminium sculpture set
Metal kidney

Slip 2

Start afresh with a slab built bowl provided by us, or add another layer of decoration onto your **slip 1** bowl using more decorating slip and the resist techniques Elsabe will teach you.

YOURS TO TAKE HOME: Brushes

Slip 3

Join the slip team anew with a slab built bowl provided by us, or add yet another layer of decoration onto your **slip 1** or **2** bowl! Elsabe will guide you along the exciting "sliptrail" of this exciting adventure.

YOURS TO TAKE HOME:

Set of Funwriter nibs
3D bottles

All materials provided.

The courses will run over the following dates :

Slip 1 : Wednesday 10 March 2010

Slip 2 : Wednesday 17 March 2010

Slip 3 : Wednesday 24 March 2010

Times: 9.30am to 12.30pm

Cost of **each** course : R200.00 (VAT inclusive)

Book now with Aafke - tel: 021-8523548

SLIPCASTING!

Join Elsabe Nel-Harries at the **Retreat** branch for a morning workshop on slipcasting.

She will show you:

- how we make and test our slips
- what makes a good slip
- how to cast slip
- when to remove a cast item from it's mould
- how to fettle
- how to dry out and care for moulds

Everything you could possibly want to know about slipcasting - and more!

YOURS TO TAKE HOME: a fettling tool and fettling sponge

The course will run on Wednesday 14 April 2010.
Times: 10am to 12pm
Cost of the course is R200.00 (VAT inclusive)

A minimum of 10 participants is required to run this workshop.
Book now with Sydne - tel: 021-701 1320

AUTUMN PLATTER

Using a palette of rich autumn colours from our Claybright underglaze range, learn how to create a decorative image out of layers of colour.

YOURS TO TAKE HOME: various brushes and a palette

The course will run on three consecutive Wednesdays: 21 April – 5 May 2010.
Times: 10am to 12pm
Cost of the course is R650.00 (VAT inclusive)
Book now with Aafke : 021 8523548

CLAY WHISTLES!

Making Clay Whistles (Ocarina) is an activity that is fun for all ages. An unlimited variety of shapes can be made – birds, flowers, animals, abstracts...

Make clay whistles alongside Elsabe Nel-Harries using our Walford China White, and decorating with oxide patterns.

The course will run on Wednesday 12 May 2010.
Times: 10am to 12.30pm
Cost of the course is R180.00 (VAT inclusive)
Book now with Aafke - tel: 021-8523548

For all workshops :

- Your full payment secures your position.
- 10% discount for payment one month prior to commencement of course.
- In the unavoidable event of the course being cancelled, a full refund will be given.
- We understand that circumstances can change therefore cancellations received one week prior to commencement of course will be refunded in full. Thereafter a 50 % refund will apply.
- No refunds given for cancellations on the day of the workshop or after.



NEW PRODUCTS/ NEWS/SPECIALS

Annual Element Special - less 15 % on our standard element prices for the month of March 2010.

BOOK SALE LESS 15% for the month of June off our standard price - this will help with winter blues!



CSA – POTTERS MARKET COMPETITION !

Winner of the CPS Voucher for R 500.00 is:

Lynette van Niekerk

2nd Prize : The Steve Tool goes to
Yvonne Martin
Congratulations!



CSA – Cape Region - Regional

CPS STERLING AWARD :

Congratulations Greta from the CPS team!



From Craig's desk

Fluidity, thixotropy and specific gravity are some of the standard components that need to be checked when making casting slips.

Fluidity is that property that allows the slip to flow and

penetrate the nooks and crannies in the mould.

Thixotropy is the character of the slip that helps to keep all the particles in suspension. If the thixotropy is too low, the particles drop to the bottom of the bucket. If too high, it causes the slip to be "jelly" like in the mould and does not pour out when the mould needs emptying.

Specific gravity determines the amount of material in suspension. The specific gravity of water is 1 kg per 1 litre and typical clay particles +/- 2,5 kgs per litre. From this it can be understood that the higher the litre weight of slip the more clay there is in the slip.

A good slip would have a specific gravity (litre weight) of 1,8 kg +.

A good thixotropy would be evident by the slip thickening overnight but once stirred releasing quickly to the texture of a good pancake mix.

At The Clay Man we check for all these things prior to packing, including consistency of casting thickness and fired colour.



Ceramics Southern Africa

Calendar of Events

Annual General Meeting	13 March at 9am
Cape Town Castle	
Rondebosch Potters Market	20 March
Rondebosch Park	
Autumn Workshop	17 April
Rust-en-Vrede	
Jeff Oestreich Workshop	9 October
Rust-en-Vrede	
Opening of National Exhibition	10 October
Grande Provence Franschoek	
Rondebosch Potters Market	20 November
Rondebosch Park	

Jeffrey Oestreich visits South Africa

Jeff Oestreich, American Master Potter, will visit South Africa in September / October 2010 as the guest of CSA. Jeff will be the award judge and opening speaker at the 2010 National Ceramics Exhibition which will open on Sunday 10 October 2010 at the Grande Provence Gallery in Franschoek. Jeff will be presenting a workshop at Rust-en-Vrede on Saturday 9 October 2010. Please see your newsletters for venues and times. Visit www.oestreichpottery.com to see Jeff's ceramics as well as the many sites that cover his biography and ceramics.



HINTS & TIPS

Fire earthenware clay higher than 1060°C, if you're going to be putting the item outside with no glaze on it to seal the item. Otherwise water will eventually breakdown/corrode the clay.

If you're painting oxides onto clay using water – "key" in the oxide so it doesn't brush off easily by using a miniscule amount of clear glaze in the mixture. A small amount of glaze will not make it gloss/shiny but will make the oxide "stick".

Did you know? - The citric acid in coca-cola removes stains from vitreous china.



The Potter's Association of Namibia

March 2010

13.03.10 AGM 15:00 in Swakopmund

May 2010

07 - 09.05.10 John Hunter Workshop @ Plot, Brakwater

June 2010

04.06.10 Fill a Bowl Evening in Swakopmund

July 2010

Workshop presented by a South African Potter

Date to be confirmed

September 2010

18 & 19.09.10 Kidz Fun Fair in Windhoek

October 2010

29.10.10 Opening of the Theme Exhibition

Happy potting!!!

* Please note that planned events may change unexpectedly, so always phone a committee member for confirmation *

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