



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

May 2000, Vol. 10

Tsinghua University-International Ceramic Art Exhibition,
One piece for two shows.

A brief introduction to Chinese Art History and Chinese Contemporary Ceramic Art
(Part 2 of 2)

CHINESE CLAYART

"Chinese Clayart" is a newsletter emailed monthly to professional ceramic artists who want to know about ceramic art in China and things related. This newsletter will be a bridge between China and Western countries for the ceramic arts. Comments and suggestions are very welcome. (Copyright 2000, The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA. All rights reserved)

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[TOP](#)

FEATURE ARTICLES

Brief Introduction to Chinese Art History and Chinese Contemporary Ceramic Art
by _ _ _ Guangzhen "Po" Zhou

(part 2) [Link to Part 1](#)

Decorative and stylized art - late 70's and early 80's. The political themes were so changeable. After the Cultural Revolution, the topic of art themes was discussed in the art magazines for a while. Chinese artists were looking for art themes that would last for a long time. What themes should they use as artists? Many of the Chinese artists were looking for "Permanent Themes." At the same time as the "Reform" and "Open Door" policies in the late 70's and early 80's, many Chinese artists tried to get rid of political elements in their art and create a kind of art separate from social content. They believed "Art is for art's sake only" (which might be called Aestheticism). If the artists had used themes from Socialist Realism, the artists would have had to deal with "Class hatreds and power struggles," but these artists liked themes of beautiful women, love couples, mother and child, birds and flowers, etc. These paintings were normally well balanced, colorful, decorative, and with sense of beauty. The artists wanted to create a kind of art that dealt with love, peace and harmony.

Painting, sculpture, murals, and arts and crafts were installed in many hotels, airport and train-station waiting rooms, and other public buildings. At that time, a kind of stylized decorative ceramic table sculpture was very popular in major cities. This kind of decorative art is still popular in Mainland China even today.

Western Influences and Globalization, Contemporary Ceramic Art in the mid 80's

Along with the development of international trade and economic globalization, the world became smaller and all cultures influenced each other more profoundly. Western countries not only exported their airplanes and high tech products, but their movies and life styles as well. The new Chinese generation of clay artists emerged; most of them were highly educated with very skillful and were teaching in schools. They were creating functional sculpture and regarded ceramics as an art medium instead of as a craft. They brought a lot of activities into the clay art field. The Problems of Ceramic Supplies, Education and Art Marketing In Mainland China, there still are not many clay supply companies. There are no commercial glazes available in the country. Many clay artists have difficulty buying clay materials in their local areas, and have difficulty accessing clay facilities. At universities, the instructors have to bring all their students to a ceramic production area, such as Yixing, and stay there for weeks to create their art works. Secondly, clay art education is still not as popular as it is in the States. In Mainland China, the university level of art classes is usually open to art major students only; other students are not allowed to take any art classes. The art gallery system is probably the third problem. The Chinese art gallery / market system is not as developed or as popular as it is in western countries. Many artists sell their art work at their homes or through art auctions, and most of the art patrons are overseas Chinese or foreigners. I believe that, along with the development of the Chinese economy, Chinese contemporary clay art will develop rapidly during the new century, and hopefully they will keep their own Oriental identities during the global cultural exchange age. (The End)

[TOP](#)

PROFILE

The Pottery Workshop Gallery, Hong Kong.

Address:

The Fringe, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: 852-2525-7949, Fax: 852-2525-7091,

The Pottery Workshop has played an important role over the last 15 years in the development of pottery making in Hong Kong. Mak Yee Fun started the Pottery Workshop in 1985 to revive the public's interest in the art of pottery making. She started with two classes and there were 15 students a class. Today, the Workshop has six resident potters, five of whom conduct 11 classes, teaching over 120 students nationalities and all walks of life. The Pottery Workshop has brought in many internationally renowned artists to conduct workshops and demonstrations, further enhancing the level at which the Hong Kong artists make ceramics.

"A Celebration of Ceramics" features an outstanding collection of ceramics made by 25 Hong Kong and overseas artists who, over the last 15 years, have been involved with the Pottery Workshop. Renowned local artists such as Rosanna Li Wei Han, Wong May Lee, Jackie Leung and Wu Wing Yee have utilized the PWS Gallery to show their work. Also featuring overseas artists such as Liz Cameron, Kasumi Katagiri, Jacqueline Li, Cassandra Ho and Alex Yeung who were at one time instructors, resident pottery or administrators. Today, under the direction of Caroline Cheng, the Pottery Workshop has come a long way from its humble beginnings, achieving international as well as commanding a tremendous local reputation. Works made by the Pottery Workshop artists are many local department stores and shops, indicating a growing interest in pottery. The works of many of the artists are recognized in Mainland China and overseas as outstanding and creative.

[TOP](#)

TRAVEL

The best way to communicate with different language speakers over a long distance.

Many people say that the NCECA conference is just like a large, international party, and clay artists are just like a big family. You can make new friends or find hospitality everywhere in the world. But there are still some language difficulties in between different people. When you need to

contact someone in another country, what should you do? Email is not as popular in other countries as it is in the States. The best way to contact non-English speakers is by fax. Then the recipient can have someone translate a letter into her or his own language. (To call from the US to China, you have to dial 011-86 plus the city code and phone number. Check with your long distance carrier for phone rates to Asian countries.)

[TOP](#)

CALL FOR ENTRY

One clay piece for two exhibitions. The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, is pleased to announce that with one piece you can participate in two shows in China: in October at the Tsinghua University-International Ceramic Art Exhibition at the National Art Museum in Beijing, and in November at the Shanghai Art Fair. The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, will forward all entry slides to the Tsinghua University exhibition committee for entry.

After the jurying, all accepted works for the Tsinghua University-International Ceramic Art Exhibition (all pieces should not be for sale) will be shipped to Beijing first. After the Beijing exhibition, the pieces will be shipped to Shanghai for the second show. The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, will be responsible for shipping back the unsold works at no cost to the artists. (Please see the Beijing show information below, and check out the Shanghai show information at bottom of ["March Newsletter"](#).

For further information about "one piece for two shows," please contact Po Zhou, Tel. 408-777-8319, Fax. 408-777-8321, [Email](#)

2000 Beijing, Tsinghua University-International Ceramic Art Exhibition.

Hosts: Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.

Introduction: The Central Academy of Arts and Design at Beijing has merged with Tsinghua University. The new name of the school is Tsinghua University, Academy of Arts and Design. The Central Academy of Arts and Design was one of the best ceramic schools, and with Beijing University at Beijing and Fudan University at Shanghai, Tsinghua University is ranked as one of the top three schools in Mainland China. The exhibition will be located at the National Art Museum gallery, which is the number one fine art museum in mainland China.

Dates and Location:

October 2 - 8, 2000

National Art Museum gallery, Beijing, China.

Fees and Entry rules:

No entry fee, but the participants must pay their own round-trip shipping costs, or donate the piece to the school for no return shipping cost.

All pieces will be marked "Not For Sale". (If you participate in the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA - Shanghai Art Fair 2000, your piece can be marked For Sale in Shanghai, and there will be no return international shipping cost for the artist).

Eligibility:

International ceramic artists and the faculty and former graduates from the school. All forms, vessel or sculpture, functional or non-functional, are welcome. All works must be made primarily of ceramic materials and there is no size limitation. Please send your slides, application form and biography to the exhibition committee.

Jury:

Exhibition committee.

Slide requirements:

Slides must be 35mm color, standard mount, and should be identified with the artist's name, title of piece and dimensions, and indicate top of slide. Slides will not be returned and artists retain the copyrights for all works that are accepted by the show.

Calendar:

July 15, 2000. Entry form and slides to be received.

August 15, Notifications mailed out.

Sept. 25, All accepted works must be received in Beijing, China.

Oct. 2, Opening reception.

Contact:

Ceramic Design Department,

Academy of Arts and Design,
Tsinghua University.
34 Dong San Huan Zhong Lu, Beijing, 100020, P. R. China
Tel. 86-10-6561-9739, Fax. 86-10-6561-9826.
Ms. Wang Junxia, Mr. Zheng Quan-sheng

To receive a prospectus in the US, please send the entry form with slides and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA
Po Box 64392, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-4392, USA

[TOP](#)

LETTER FROM CHIEF EDITOR

We will be gone for the Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel to Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, May 20 - June 14, 2000. I cannot reply to any emails until we get back to the States. Have a good summer!

LETTER FROM ENGLISH EDITOR

Please let me introduce myself. I am Deborah Bouchette, an artist in several media, and partner in a small company called Aleatoric Art in Oregon, USA. For the next year I will be helping the Chief Editor by editing the English grammar and spelling in this newsletter.

[TOP](#)