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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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FEATURE ARTICLES

The National Academy of Chinese Fine Art

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The National Academy of Chinese Fine Art has long enjoyed a great reputation as one of the most comprehensive fine art academies in China with many disciplines and well-balanced in its development.

The Academy is located in Hangzhou, a cultural ancient city in China. For more than one thousand

years, the natural beauty of the West Lake in the heart of the city has been inspiring a great many artists. As early as the Southern Song Dynasty (1127 - 1279 A. D.), the Imperial Painting Academy, one of the oldest art institutions in the world was established. Artists like Ma Yuan and Xia Gui left behind their large quantities of famous landscape paintings of Hangzhou, which have been handed on from age to age. In Yuan (1271 - 1368 A. D.), Ming (1368 - 1644 A. D.) and Qing (1644 - 1911 A. D.) Dynasties, Hangzhou was the main art center of China, where unique talents and virtuous personages gathered. Hangzhou was worthy of the name of the capital of art in Chinese history. In 1928, the National Academy of Art was founded as the first comprehensive art academy in China on the bank of the West Lake in Hangzhou by Mr. Cai Yuanpei, a renowned Chinese educator, and Prof. Lin Fengmian, a distinguished artist. Its principal aim was to develop both Chinese and Western art, to create art of the day and to carry forward Chinese culture. Since its foundation, the name of the Academy has been changed several times: it was named the National Hangzhou Academy of Art in 1932; East-China Campus, Central Academy of Fine Art in 1950; Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts in 1958; and The Academy of Chinese Fine Art (the present name) in 1993. Since 1949, it has been one of the two key art academies directly under the Ministry of Culture. Prof. Lin was its first president, and among the presidents after him were Teng Gu, Lu Fengzi, Chen Zhifo, Pan Tianshou, Wang Rizhang, Liu Kaiqu, Mo Pu and Xiao Feng. The present president is Prof. Pan Gongkai. For about seventy years since its foundation, a large number of artists renowned at home and abroad have successively gathered at the Academy, and generations of talented artists have once studied here. Among them were Lin Fengmian, Huang Binhong, Pan Tianshou, Liu Kaiqu, Wu Dayu, Yua Wenliang, Ni Yide, Li Kuchuan, Li Keran, Ai Qing, Pang Xunqin, Xiao Chuanjiu, Dong Xiwen, Wang Shikuo, Guan Liang, Zhu Dequn, Wu Guangzhong, Zao Wou-Ki, Wang Chaowen, Chang Shuhong and Li Lincan. They sowed and cultivated the field of art here, making the Academy the most prestigious art education institution in Southern China.

The Academy consists of ten departments, which are the Department of Traditional Chinese Painting, the Department of Oil Painting, the Department of Print-Making, the Department of Sculpture, the Department of Environment Design, the Department of Visual Communication Design, the Department of Fashion and Textiles Design, the Department of Industrial Design and Ceramics, the Department of Art History and Theory, and Institute for Painting Studies. Under the Academy, there are also some programs, institutes and other subordinate units. These are the Center of International Exchange in Art, the Center for Further Education, the Attached Art School, Pan Tianshou Memorial Hall, the Library, the Art Gallery, the Publishing House, the Computer Art and Design Center, the Varbanov Tapestry Institute, the Institute for Color Studies, the Fresco Institute, the Chinese Calligraphy and Seal-cutting Institute, and the Folk Art Institute.

The Academy enrolls students from both home and abroad. It offers four-year undergraduate BA programs; MA and Ph.D. programs are also available. Now there are more than 200 teachers and more than 700 students. Good living facilities are available to both teacher and students.

The Academy, close to the West Lake, is tranquil and beautiful, with tree shades setting each other off. Inheriting thousands of years of artistic heritage and bathed in the natural beauty of the West Lake, it is an ideal place for the study and creation of art. Prof. Pan Gongkai, the president, is committed to the idea that the consistent enterprising spirit of the Academy will be carried on and that the Academy will be oriented to the future and to the outside world.

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PROFILE

Department of Industrial Design and Ceramics

The Department of Industrial Design and Ceramics was founded in 1996, combining ceramic design from the arts and crafts, and industrial design from the environment arts. The major of ceramics was initially developed 36 years ago by Prof. Deng Bai, the distinguished theoretician of ceramic art. Many ceramic artists have been trained. The Department of has achieved recognition in winning the National Technology Prize for the restoration of "The Official Kiln in Southern Song Dynasty (1127 - 1279 A.D.)" Ceramic works of this standard have been internationally

recognized. The teaching staff in this major are well-qualified in both theory and practice, with rich experience to draw from. The Department also has a fully-equipped ceramics atelier.

Industrial design is a new major established to satisfy the domestic economy. Although it is still in its early stages of development, it is a strong and vibrant area with excellent future potential and prospects.

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ACTIVITY

"Chinese ceramic cultural sites and information - Foreign travelers' hand book" - Looking for a publisher.

Since 1999 and the founding of "the Clay Art China E-newsletter," we have received many emails and phone calls with a similar question: "I plan to visit China soon, would you tell me any places I can visit and see Chinese ceramics, or meet some Chinese ceramic artists?" I feel so sorry that I did not get to reply to everyone (sometimes I may have lost email return addresses).

I moved to the United States in 1989, and I have been back to China many times. I have taken thousands of photos and now I am compiling a book "Chinese ceramic cultural site and information - Foreign travelers' hand book."

The book contains cities or places with Chinese ceramic cultural sites, such as Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Yixing, Jingdezhen, Foshan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan; villages and kiln sites, ceramic schools, organizations, studios and factories, museums and galleries, ceramic magazines, a glossary, and things to do and to know; plus many helpful English-version web sites.

Also included are the Chinese characters of each title and address, so people can easily use them to show and ask any Chinese for directions when she or he is in China.

I am looking for a publisher in the United States who can help me to edit, publish, and distribute the book in this country.

Since much of the information already has been included in our "China Clayart" newsletters, I would like to express my thanks to our English editor Deborah Bouchette.

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EXHIBITION

The full-color 6"x8" postcards of "The American Clay Art in Shanghai Art Fair 2000" have been printed. On the front there are images of Richard Show, Marilyn Levine, and Chris Gustin's work. You may have one postcard for free. To request a postcard, please send your mailing address to: editor@chinaclayart.com.

I am leaving October 22, 2000 for the Shanghai Art Fair, and will be back about the middle of November. Dennis Parks is going to make his third trip to China with me.

See article in Sept, Newsletter [Shanghai Art Fair](#)

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LETTERS

Letter from Chief Editor Guangzhen "Po" Zhou:

International Ceramic Art - Teapot Symposium, Yixing, 2001--- American ceramic artist and

educator Richard Notkin was invited to speak by Professor Stan Welsh of San Jose State University, California. The talk was sponsored by the Natalie Thompson Endowment. Richard presented a great slide lecture at the university on October 10, which described the development of his clay art from its beginning to his current work, and also the relationship of Yixing teapot styles. For a few months Richard and I have been organizing the "International Ceramic Art - Teapot Symposium, Yixing, China 2001" (which will be held near the end of May 2001). Detailed information will be in our newsletter in December.

Letter from Taiwan:

Date: October 17th, 2000 Announcement Of Postpone the Awards Ceremony and the Exhibition of the Sixth Taiwan Golden Ceramics Awards

Dear all,

Please be informed the Museum has made a difficult decision that the Awards Ceremony and Exhibition shall be postponed for a month. It was based on the consideration of Museum's construction, which is away from completed status.

New schedule:

- *Opening Ceremony on Nov 26 at 10:00
- * Awards Ceremony on Nov 27 at 10:00
- * Exhibition Dates: 27 November, 2000 to 11 February, 2001.

On behalf of the Museum, again, I am deeply sorry for this and for any inconvenience caused.

Sincerely,
Hung-chi Miao
Project Coordinator of the Exhibition
Curator, Exhibition Division

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