



# CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

March 2001, Vol. 20

## FEATURE ARTICLES

[Qian-Shu Dragon Kiln, Yixing, China](#)

## PROFILES

[Liang Wen-Lun - Li Min - Ji Ye](#)

**ACTIVITY - The Chinese Delegation of Ceramic Artists**  
[Slides Presentation](#)

## OPPORTUNITY

[Ceramic Instructors Needed](#)

## TRAVEL

[Last Call to China 2001 - Conference](#)

## LETTER

[Letter From The Editor](#)

## 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 ARTICLE

Qian-Shu Dragon Kiln, Yixing, China

Located 3 km south east of Ding-Shu Town, Yixing, Jiangsu Province, the kiln is large, with a length of 45 m, width of 2.3 m, height of 1.3 m, and volume of 80 cubic m. Qian-Shu Dragon Kiln is the last dragon kiln left in this area. The kiln was built on a man-made hillock. There were over ten of these dragon kilns in the area before World War II. Local people believe this kiln dates back approximately 300 years, and it has been repaired and rebuilt many times.

Usually it takes 5,000 kg dry pinewood and 1,500 kg coal for each firing, and it takes 38 hours for preheating and firing. The kiln temperature can reach 1,200 c.

[TOP](#)

## PROFILES

Liang Wen-Lun - Li Min - Ji Ye

The Second Delegation of Chinese Ceramic Artists is coming to NCECA. We have already introduced two of them in the [January](#) and [February](#) newsletters, and we would like to introduce the other three artists at this time.

Liang Wen-Lun was born in Dalian, Liaonin Province, in an artist's family in 1956. He graduated from Hsinghua University's Academy of Arts and Design. He works in both functional vessel form and realistic sculpture, such as fishes, sea shells, skulls of animals, etc. His works have been exhibited and collected internationally.

Li Min is a female artist and works for the Fo-Shan Sculptural Institute. She was born in Jiangxi Province in 1962, and received her BFA from Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute as a sculpture major in 1990. Her works are primarily figurative sculpture.

Ji Ye is an assistant professor and director of the Fine Art Research Office of Guangzhou University. He was born in Hunan Province in 1963. Mr. Ji received his BFA from Hengyang Normal College in 1981, and received his MFA from Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in 1991. He works in two media: clay art and watercolor.

You can meet the Second Delegation of Chinese Ceramic Artists in the International Slide Forum and in the discussion group, as follows: Discussion group, March 30th from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, "Ceramic Cultural Exchanges Between Chinese and Western Artists".

There is a wealth of information and wisdom exemplified by several millennia of outstanding achievement in the ceramic arts in China. What is the best way to engage in a meaningful exchange between artists in our two cultures? How can we share equally to develop mutual respect and understanding? What are the pitfalls and stigmas we need to recognize and avoid?

[TOP](#)

## ACTIVITIES

Announcement:

The Chinese Delegation of Ceramic Artists Slides presentation at San Jose State University, California (Open to the public).

List of the Chinese Artists:

Xiu-Tang Xu, Yin-Xian Wang, Wen-Lun Liang, Min Li and Ye Ji.

Schedule: 7:15 - 8:30 pm. Monday, April 2, 2001

Location: Washington Square Hall, Room 109, San Jose State University.

Contact: Guangzhen "Po" Zhou, Tel. 408-777-8319, Fax. 408-777-8321 Email:

[pozhou@email.msn.com](mailto:pozhou@email.msn.com)

or The School of Art and Design at San Jose State University

Tel: 408 924 4320

Chinese Clay Artist Bai Ming is visiting the United States.

Born in Jiangxi Province, China, 1965, Bai Ming graduated from the Academy of Arts and Design, Beijing (now named the Academy of Arts and Design, Tsing-Hua University) with a BFA in 1994 and has been teaching in the school since that time.

Bei Ming originally worked on Chinese traditional vessel forms, such as blue and white porcelain

ware, and also abstract painting. Later on, he blended both forms into abstract ceramics. His works have been exhibited internationally and have received many prizes. His essays have been published in many Chinese magazines and three of his books have been published in China. The books are titled "International Contemporary Ceramics," "The World of Ceramic Art Today-Foreign Countries," and "The World of Ceramic Art Today-China."

Invited by Executive Director Jimmy Clark, Mr. Bei has been visiting the Clay studio in Philadelphia for two months, and, invited by Wayne Higby, is going to visit Alfred University in New York and Kansas. After the NCECA conference, Susan Peterson will bring him to Arizona for a few days. Bei Ming plans to visit the west coast in May and will return to China in early June 2001.

[TOP](#)

## **EXHIBITION**

East meets West - International Clay Art Invitational. The exhibition is hosted by the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, and the [Clayground](#), a ceramic art studio. The exhibition is a combination of East and West, traditional and contemporary, which features the Second Delegation of Chinese Clay Artists and the American clay artists in the southern San Francisco Bay Area.

The participating artists are as follows: from China, Xiu-Tang Xu, Yin-Xian Wang, Wen-Lun Liang, Min Li, Ye Ji; and from America, Robert Milnes, Stan Welsh, Bill Geisinger, [Barbara Brown](#), Una Mjurka, Cathy Chang and [Guangzhen Zhou](#).

The exhibition will be March 24 - April 4, with a reception is on Sunday, April 1, 2001, 2-5 pm, at the [Clayground Ceramic Art Studio](#), 1253 Kentwood Ave. San Jose, CA 95129, Tel. (408) 343-3919, Email: [clayground@chineseclayart.com](mailto:clayground@chineseclayart.com).

[TOP](#)

## **WANTED - Ceramic art instructor(s)**

Multi-cultural ceramic art studio is looking for one or more part-time instructors.

Position requires a ceramic art background, demonstrated responsibility, and must enjoy working with children.

Working hours and salary:

Summer camps, 10 am - 12 noon, Monday - Friday,  
June 25 - August 17, 2001. \$25 per hour.

Location:

The Clayground Ceramic Art Studio  
1253 Kentwood Ave. San Jose, CA 95129  
(near Cupertino, Highway 85 and De Anza Blvd.)  
Tel. 408-777-8319

Email [clayground@chineseclayart.com](mailto:clayground@chineseclayart.com) Web [www.chineseclay.com/studio](http://www.chineseclay.com/studio) To inquire, please fax your resume to 408-777-8321, attn: Guangzhen "Po" Zhou.

[TOP](#)

## **CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL IN CHINA**

Last Call for The International Ceramic Art Symposium, Yixing, China 2001 and Chinese Ceramic Cultural Exchange and Travel

May 25 - June 14, 2001. Fee: US \$3,750

International Ceramic Art -Teapot Symposium, Yixing 2001 is sponsored by the Municipality of Yixing City, and hosted by the Ceramic Art Branch of the Arts and Crafts Association of Jiangsu Province and the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA. The event will include international clay art

exhibitions, lectures and workshops by Yixing master artists and internationally known western ceramists, tours of Yixing artists' studios, and sightseeing.

The Symposium and Clay Art Exhibition will be hosted from May 29 to June 2, 2001.

Prior to the symposium the trip will include Shanghai, and after the symposium the trip will include Jingdezhen, Xi'an, Chenlu and Beijing. The whole trip will be May 25 - June 14, 2001. Fee: US \$3,750 includes international round-trip air fair, domestic transportation, tickets, three meals a day, lodging, interpreter and tour guide.

A question and answer about the trip to China:

Q: How good are the accommodations during the China trip?

A: This trip will be lead by both Richard Notkin and I, Po Zhou. Richard Notkin has been in China three times and he knows China very well. I (Po Zhou) was born in Shanghai, China, and I have lived in the US since 1989, and have traveled back to China frequently, often leading groups of artists. I am not only a clay artist myself, but worked for AT&T customer service for five years as well. To ensure high quality service, we limit the tour to one group of a maximum of 20 artists. Our trip is handled by a Chinese travel agency, and throughout the trip accommodations are at least 3-star hotel rooms and only first class train cabins.

[TOP](#)

### **LETTER from the editor**

LETTER from the editor, Guangzhen Po Zhou

Some one has said that all clay artists in the world are just like a big family, and the NCECA conference is just like a big party.

Jun Kaneko and Ree joined our China ceramic tour of 2000; we were together during the trip for over twenty days. This past February 27, I got a chance to meet Jun and Ree at San Jose State University again. Jun was invited to give a slide lecture there about the development of his ceramic works from the 1960's through the present. Hopefully, we will meet again with many of you who toured China with us, maybe at Charlotte at the NCECA conference, or somewhere else in the near future.

[TOP](#)