



CHINESE CLAYART NEWSLETTER

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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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FEATURES

Founding of the Chinese Clay Art Corporation Both the Clayground and the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA were founded in 1999, and it is the time to celebrate their fifth year anniversary. In the last two years, the products, service, and working team of the Chinese Clay Art, USA has rapidly expanded. To provide better products and services to the world of ceramics, we decided to found the Chinese Clay Art Corporation. This company combines these three businesses together: the Chinese Clay Art, USA, the Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA, and the Clayground.

Our president is Guangzhen Zhou, who is also a ceramic artist and writer. He received an MA from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and an MFA from San Jose State University. A new office manager, Ms. Peiwei Chen, just joined our team. She has many years of engineering experience in the field of high technology, and also she holds a certificate of financial accounting.

Profiles of the three departments under the Corporation The Chinese Clay Art, USA is a web store of Chinese clay tools, brushes, materials and books. Founded near the end of 2001, the web store offers patented and newly invented clay tools, Chinese traditional and hand-made items, all kinds of brushes, Chinese-origin ceramic materials, and Chinese ceramic art-related books.

The Chinese Ceramic Art Council, USA is a E-Newsletters, Chinese Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange Founded in 1999, the "Chinese Clay Art News" is a newsletter emailed bi-monthly to professional artists, curators, collectors, writers, experts, educators and students in the ceramic field, who want to know about ceramic art in China and things related. This newsletter is a bridge between China and Western countries for the ceramic arts. Comments and suggestions are very welcome. For a free subscription, send email to: ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com. You can find more information on East and West ceramic cultural exchange programs on our website, www.chineseclayart.com.

The Clayground is a Ceramic Art School and Studio Founded in 1999, the Clayground is a ceramic art studio and school in the Silicon Valley of California. We offer clay classes and birthday parties for children and adults, plus we hold ceramic summer camps for the YMCA. Our students range from housewives to high-tech engineers, from native-born Americans to new immigrants from China, India, Japan, Korea, and many other nations.

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CALENDAR

CALENDAR of 2004

January 30, founding of the Chinese Clay Art Corporation.

February 23-March 31, DaYuXiaoHu: International Small Teapot Exhibition at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, California, juror: Guangzhen Zhou, <http://gallery.saddleback.edu>.

March 9-28, Yixing Ceramic Art Delegation visits the US and participates in the NCECA conference.

March 17-20, Conference Sale of up to 50% off at NCECA, please visit our booth at #219 for a free catalog.

June 2-19 (18 days), China Ceramic Cultural Travel and Exchange. For detailed information on the China tour, please visit our website, www.chineseclayart.com.

June 24-August 16, Yixing Ceramic Art Traveling Exhibition, USA, 2003-2008, Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, www.c-c-c.org.

August 1-September 30, Back-To-School Sale of clay tools, brushes and books at www.chineseclayart.com, for a school or educator discount, please contact us at chineseclayart@hotmail.com.

November 15-December 31, Holiday Gift Sale at www.chineseclayart.com.

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TRAVEL

CHINESE CERAMIC CULTURAL TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

Letter from Richard Notkin

I highly recommend Guangzhen "Po" Zhou, of Chinese Clay Art, USA, as a guide for touring the many ceramic arts related sites in China. Of all of the tours offered each year to China, I trust Po the most to guarantee a safe and informative journey, one that will forever be regarded with fond memories.

In the late spring of 2001, I joined a dozen ceramic artists and educators traveling under Mr. Zhou's guidance. We visited many of the great ceramics collections in museums throughout China, including the phenomenal Shanghai Museum of Art. Several days were spent in other ceramics producing cities, including Yixing and Jingdezhen and the mountaintop village of Chenlu. We visited the terra cotta army in Xian, and spent a day at the Forbidden City in Beijing. All along the way, we visited ceramic artists in their studios and in the schools where they teach. There was much to share with these remarkable artists, and Po's friendships and connections made these visits as enjoyable as they were informative.

I will not mince words -- China is not an easy place to travel. Many of the journeys from place to place are on undeveloped rural roads. The lack of sanitation in some of the more remote areas can be quite daunting. Po is aware of these difficulties for the Western traveler. He has found numerous accommodations where are generally quite good, and the food was always good. All of the hotels were three stars or better, and all were air-conditioned and clean, an important consideration in the more southern areas of China, where mosquitos may be a problem. Even the overnight train rides were first class, on new trains with air-conditioned semi-private cabins with four soft bunks each. In three-plus weeks, our dozen fellow travelers fared very well, with no illnesses or serious digestive problems. This is a testament to Po's good care of his guests.

Before you travel to China, make sure that you see your doctor to bring your immunizations up to date. You should be protected from tetanus, hepatitis, and other diseases. Make sure to pack general first aid items, including aspirin, antibiotic ointments and bandages, as you should when traveling anywhere out of the country. You may take a vial of pills of a general antibiotic, but I wouldn't take daily antibiotics unless I actually developed some sort of an infection. Antibiotics may play havoc with your digestive system, and that will certainly make traveling difficult.

There are many considerations to ponder when planning a trip to China, but the journey will make any difficulties worth the experience. One thing that I will absolutely guarantee: Po will take the best care of you. He is truly a decent and caring man, who makes every effort to see that all of the travelers in his charge are well taken care of. I would trust him more than anyone else currently taking ceramic tours to China. I encourage you to go to China, and enjoy the splendor of this vast country, and the depth and breadth of its ancient cultural treasures and contemporary arts.

Sincerely,

Richard Notkin

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ACTIVITIES

About fifteen Chinese artists are going to come to the U.S., and two of them are National Crafts Masters. We would like to work with schools and organizations to promote the art of Yixing. For details, please contact us at chineseclayart@hotmail.com.

March 8, Arrive at the San Francisco Airport, and visit Barbara Brown's house to see her Yixing collection and have dinner together.

March 9, San Francisco galleries, museums, and sightseeing.

March 10-14, bus to Southern California, including paying a visit to the DaYuXiaoHu International Small Teapot Exhibition at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, California.

March 15, sightseeing in South San Francisco Bay Area, teapot workshop and slide show at San Jose State University.

March 16-20, participate in NCECA conference at Indianapolis.

March 21-25, New York and east coast sightseeing.

March 26, 1 pm, teapot workshop at Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

March 27, Yixing teapot workshop and slide show hosted by the Chinese Clay Art Corp.

March 28, depart San Francisco and home flight to Shanghai.

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OPPORTUNITIES

The Chinese Clay Art Corporation web store has an opening in customer service, full-time.
Job description: Customer service and sales representative position. Take orders, answer phone calls and create invoices.

Location: West San Jose, California.

Requirements: English written and oral communication skills, customer service or related experience and ceramic art education background.

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STORE

NEW ITEMS AT THE CLAY ART STORE

*Assorted Tile Cutters: the set includes 6 shapes, circles, ovals, squares, stars, hearts and hexagons, with 4 sizes of each shape from 3cm to 12cm, for 24 pieces in total.

*Brass Double-Ended Square Cutters: 90 degree angle cutter. Ideal for making square holes.

*Zip-able Apron: Newly designed apron with adjustable button for the length around the neck and a zipper on the lower portion, easily converted to a split-leg apron to protect your legs for wheel throwing.

Many other new items have just arrived. For the most updated information, please visit our website at www.chineseclayart.com. For a free catalog dated January 2004, please send email to: Chineseclayart@hotmail.com.

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