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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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PROFILE

Introduction to the Wuxi Institute of Arts and Technology

The Wuxi Institute of Arts and Technology (WIAT) is located in Yixing, the Capital of Pottery.

Situated on the west bank of Taihu Lake in the delta of the Yangtze River, the city traditionally has been called "fish and rice village." It is also known as a "hometown of professors" (many Yixing-born professors teach all over the world today).

The Institute covers an area of over 100 acres and its new campus building area amounts to approximately 150,000 square meters, which offers a perfect modern learning environment for more than 6,000 students. The Institute has six departments: arts and design, mechanics, electronics, ceramic design and sculpture, costume design, and commerce and trade.

The Institute is under the direct leadership of the Education Department of Jiangsu Province, and is nationally accredited with a long history of more than 50 years, mainly specializing in arts and crafts, mechanics, electronics, materials, engineering, optometry, modern information technology, business and trade.

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CONFERENCE AND EVENT

Question and Answer about the Jingdezhen Ceramic Fair and Yixing Ceramic Festival in China, October 2006:

Q: What will be happening during the events in Jingdezhen and Yixing?

A: Usually, there is a large opening ceremony with many of the invited foreign guests wearing flowers. Buses will take you from the hotel to the ceremony site with a police cars escort in front and back. Also, you will be invited to enjoy the local folk art performance after a banquet with the mayor.

Q: What are the differences between the two events?

A: The Ceramic Fair in Jingdezhen will have more commercial booths and the Pottery Festival will have more art related activities.

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TRAVEL

Tour of "Ceramic China," October tour itinerary update:

China Ceramics Tour, Oct. 11-30, 2006. Beijing, Xi'an, Jingdezhen, Yellow Mountain, Yixing and Shanghai. \$3,200 (\$2,950 if signed up before August 11th 2006).

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10/11, Depart from the west coast of the US for China.

10/12, Arrive in Beijing in the evening.

10/13, Visit Tsinghua University and hold exchanges with the faculty and students.

10/14, Visit Panjiayuan Antique Market in the morning and the Forbidden City in the afternoon.

10/15, Visit the Great Wall in the morning and the Liulichang Cultural Street in the afternoon. Take overnight train to Xi'an in the evening.

10/16, Arrive in Xian in the morning, and visit the ancient ceramic village of Chenlu.

10/17, Tour the Terra-cotta Warriors Museum in the morning, then fly to Nanchang and take the bus to Jingdezhen.

10/18-21, Participate in the Ceramic Fair. Tour Jingdezhen. Visit the Historical Ceramic Museum, the Ancient Kiln and Porcelain Factories, Yaoli Ancient Village, and the Relic Site of Gaoling (Kaolin) Mine.

10/21, Take the bus to Nanchang and an overnight train to Shanghai.

10/22, Tour Shanghai..

10/23, Visit the Yu Garden and Yu Market in the morning, and tour Fuzhou Road (the cultural and books street) in the afternoon. Cruise on the Huangpu River in the evening.

10/24, Visit the Shanghai Museum in the morning and have free shopping time in the afternoon.

10/25, Bus to Suzhou, tour the famous Southern China Style Gardens.

10/26, Take the bus to Yixing in the morning.

10/27-29, Enjoy the Yixing Ceramic Art Festival and tour the teapot studios of local masters, the dragon kiln, teapot markets, clay tool stores, and participate in a hands-on teapot workshop

10/29, Bus to Shanghai in the evening and stay one night near the airport.

10/30, Leave from Pudong airport for home and arrive on the same day (local time) on the west coast of the U.S.

Letter from Ellie Bartholomew, Southern California

Subject: Re: Back from China

Date: Mon, 03 Jul 2006 09:26:21 -0800

Hi Po,

I'm finally over jet lag and have got my pictures back. Not too many were good, but hopefully I'll have some to share when I get organized. But the pictures did bring back all the good memories of our trip and the great company we shared. I thoroughly enjoyed the China trip (but not the airplane trip! too long!).

You were a wonderful guide, very patient and informative.

Thank you for being so available to us. I know it must have been exhausting for you.

The good things about the trip:- the opportunity to see China changing right before our eyes. We saw the old and new China. The trip to Chen Lu was long but we all loved the small village and its dedication to its clay arts. I know that type of living will be soon disappearing and I think that was why it was so valuable to see.

- the hands-on pottery experience in Yixing. I had lots of fun and learned a lot. The man who worked with me was probably going crazy with my strange design. Thank you for showing him the picture. It made all the difference. I hope I get my chicken back someday.

- the hotels were very nice. Even Jingdezhen was not too bad.

- the group was very cohesive and friendly. I have made many new friends and I am sure we will always stay in touch and inspire each other with our clay ideas. Robert was especially inspirational in his dedication and expertise. My roommate, Miggi, was great and she is coming over tomorrow to share pictures.

- John was a very patient and good guide. He was very knowledgeable in history and culture. He often went out of his way to solve our problems.

The not so good things about the trip:

- there was too much food and the food had too much salt in it. My ankles blew up to twice their size and the capillaries in the skin broke. This has never happened to me before. Miggi and I decided to be very selective after that in what we ate and our ankles went back to normal. Perhaps you should warn people about that. But, I guess there is not much you can do. I hope the Chinese don't eat like we did. I fear for their blood pressure.

- although the bus trip was long and bumpy (my back really hurt, but is back to normal now) we did see so much of the countryside that I think most of us really enjoyed it in the long run. I think if you OVER estimate the times it will take to get somewhere, then people will not have unrealistic expectations and will be happier.

- everything else was ok. Even the factories (I learned a lot about carpet weaving, silk making and pearls) were bearable. But perhaps there were 2 too many factories on our itinerary.

So Po, thank you so much again. I had a great time and will cherish the memories and the friendships I made.

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ACTIVITIES

IAC Assembly at Riga, Latvia, August 14-18, 2006

Organized by the Chinese National Ceramic Association, there will be about thirty five Chinese ceramic artists and educators in the assembly of IAC (International Academy of Ceramics) in Latvia August this year.

The IAC assembly hosts an assembly every two years, and the assembly of 2008 will be hosted in Xi'an, China.

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LETTERS

Childhood under the Red Flag (section one: click [here](#) for the story)

This is a true story of my life, which I wrote in the late 1980's to early 1990's with three sections. The first is my childhood; the second section is my life as a jobless young man who is struggling with asthma attacks; and the third is my study and survival in the U.S. Only the first section has been translated into English so far. I maybe able to spend more time to continue to work on this project and complete it as a book in the future.

I was born in a "black family" of Red China in 1953, and right after my 6th grade the Cultural Revolution started, that was 1966. I didn't go to the countryside for re-education, but stayed at home and jobless for four years, when all jobs have to be assigned by the government.

I was very poor and hopeless before the end of the 1970's. I arrived at Los Angeles International Airport with two heavy suitcases of Chinese art books and \$200 US dollars in my pocket in August 18, 1989.

At the 40th anniversary of the Cultural Revolution in China, I would like to present and share my story with others for the memorial of my family members and many other Chinese who died in the misfortune during that time.

I am so glad the nightmare is over. Today, I am pretty happy with how China has been developed during the past twenty eight years. I believe that the Chinese people will receive more freedoms, both economically and democratically soon.

-- by Guangzhen Zhou, Northern California, July, 2006.

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CLAY TOOL and BOOK STORE

Four Kinds of Wheels for Clay Work

Yixing-Style Wheels. The traditional Yixing-style wheel functions similarly to a western banding wheel. The Yixing-style wheel is normally a piece of rounded wood with a one side flat and one side curved.

Double-sided Western Banding Wheels. We have imported cast iron western banding wheels with both sides flat, which means you can use the smaller side or larger side for working.

Lazy Susan (aluminum spin-able ring, thin and light-weight). Can be used to spin your art for working or exhibition. Three diameter sizes of 8", 10", and 12".

Caster Wheels: After attaching the four wheels to a board, you can set your work on top, and it will be very easy to push around. It is a good idea for heavy and large floor pieces.

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