



Work from The Agate Experience - John Dawson's residency exhibition in the Pool Room Gallery

Centre Report

Toby Twiss

Merry March and happy April everybody. This is my first Centre report for the year, thank you to Nadine and Suzy for writing the last two.

I would like to welcome Nadine and Pennie to the ASP - they are doing an amazing job around the place and I'm enjoying working with them. I'm pleased to still see Trien still around the place helping us with the changeover (thanks Trien).

The year has started and it's so incredibly busy, with our classes full, as a consequence we have a lot of people who still want to experiment with clay and are joining as members. To help these new members we are starting some "basics/ where things are at the Centre" classes and considering formal induction tours. This will hopefully make the new members feel at home, and allow things to run more smoothly. Nadine and Jo-Anne Raill have joined up to create members events throughout the year. Look out for them. So far we've had a DVD and travel night, with Peter Lange and me talking about our trips to New York and the ceramics and art seen while there, and a Valentine's Date Night, where both couples and singles came along to have a go on the

wheel, a glass of bubbly, and overall a fun night out.

The ASP was represented in the Onehunga Arts Festival a few weeks ago with the wonderful help of the Raku group and volunteers. We gave passersby the opportunity to glaze and witness Raku firings. Much fun and delight was had by those who found us. Some bad news is that the planned East-West Link will turn our quiet (if crowded) street into a four-lane thoroughfare. The changes are still a few years away, but are we are putting in a submission to express our concerns about possible parking issues.

Check out the website www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/east-west-link - it's hard to navigate and thin on the ground in regards to detail at Captain Springs Road, but it gives a general idea of what's going to be happening in the area. A more graphic representation can be seen here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRRKSmA0L6I&feature=em-share_video_user

Bowls by Michelle Bow, made in John Dawson's agateware class

CALENDAR

*Please send calendar items to
suzy@dunser.com*

Rahu Road Workshop: Making with a Meal in Mind (p6)

Saturday & Sunday 22-23 April
Rahu Road Pottery, Paeroa
www.rahuroadpottery.co.nz

ASP Term 2 Classes Begin

Week of 1 May

An Obsessive Pursuit (p3)

Until 3 May
Floor Talk Sunday 23 April, 3pm
Northart Gallery
Norman King Square, Northcote
www.northart.co.nz

Mother's Day High Tea

Saturday 14 May, time TBA
ASP Centre

Vanished Delft

including ceramic works from the Wallace Arts Trust Collection
Until 14 May
TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre
wallaceartstrust.org.nz

Faceted: Elena Renker (p2)

Opening Saturday 20 May, 2-5pm
Front Room Gallery
300 Pt Chevalier Rd, Pt Chevalier
www.badams.co.nz



Centre Notices and Events

Changes at the Centre

Morning Class Times

Thanks to the ever-worsening Auckland traffic, some students and tutors have been finding it hard to get to the Centre by 9:30am on weekdays. Therefore, as of Term 2 we will be running classes from **10am-1pm**. The Centre will still be open from 9:30am, and students are welcome to come then and work on their own until class starts.

Studio Use and Fees

Over the last couple of years, studio use by members has increased significantly. This has meant that the volunteers who mind the Centre on Saturdays have much less time to do their own work, and the demand on office staff has increased during the week. To compensate for this, we have added a part-time office assistant to our staff, and will also be offering \$30 firing charge credit per day to Saturday monitors. To accommodate these changes, the **hourly rate for studio use as of Term 2 will be \$4 per hour, to a maximum of \$12 per day.**

With so many people using the studio, it's also more important than ever to clean up well after yourself, and to be mindful of others while you are working - thank you for your efforts to do this!

"More is More"

Wednesday morning specialist class with Jo Raill

10 weeks, 3 May-15 July, 10am-1pm

This class is suitable for anyone who has learnt the basic skills of making and would like to learn some new techniques.

Tutor Jo Raill will be covering experimental wheel methods, hand building using flat coils, and an innovative pinching method. This class will also take you into the addictive world of addition: What happens when you add organic and inorganic materials to clay? How can you alter and combine clays to suit different ways of making? How can you successfully combine multiple textures and glazes into one piece? How can a wheel and hand built piece work together as one?

Your ideas of what is beautiful may be challenged as we delve into the world of contemporary ceramics in this class.

Participation in an exhibition at the end is encouraged. If you have never been involved in the exhibition process before this will provide a safe environment in which to learn. As a group we will explore alternatives to box and table plinths.

Auckland Studio Potters 2017

Our AGM was held on Sunday 9th April, and I'm happy to report that all is well with the ASP. Our finances are sound, our membership is steady, and we have a great committee for the coming year, along with enthusiastic and innovative Directors and staff for the Centre. John Parker, Brendan Adams, and Louise Rattenbury are stepping down from the Committee this year, as did Nadine Spalter as of January 2017, when she became Co-Director. Frank Checketts and Peter Lange are stepping down as Vice President and Treasurer, but remaining as committee members. Thank you to all of you for your contribution and commitment to the ASP.

- Suzy Dünser

ASP Committee for 2017

President: Suzy Dunser
Vice President: Elena Renker
Secretary: Margaret Bray
Treasurer: David Sullivan
Members: Maak Bow
Michelle Bow
Frank Checketts
Jill Duncalfe
Bruce Habershon
Peter Lange
Jo-Anne Raill
Catherine Spence

ASP Centre Staff

Co-Directors: Nadine Spalter
Toby Twiss
Office admin and Accounts:
Pennie Black
Technician: Tineke Walst
Centre cleaner: Rhonda Jameson

Faceted Elena Renker



Opening:
Saturday 20 May 2pm-5pm
Exhibition:
20May- 28May 2017
Wed- Sun 10am- 4pm
or by arrangement
300 Pt Chevalier Road
Auckland



CLASSIFIED

Ian Firth's Potter's Wheel:

Ian Firth's kick wheel, which he made himself, now needs a new home. Any genuine potter working professionally in the industry is welcome to come along and inspect this wheel, and with the right and proper agreement to respect its heritage is welcome to have it free of charge. Those interested should contact Grant Firth: Gfirth1955@gmail.com or 0210 267 3189

Cobcraft Octagon kiln for sale:

5 cu ft; 8 kW; 1, 2 or 3 phase. Top loading, stainless exterior, brick and fibre insulation. Has had approx. 10-12 firings. Includes 3 shelves, props, and an ECM programmable controller (value approx. \$1200). Price: \$5500. Contact Chris at wargies@xtra.co.nz

Diploma News

Joelle March

We're back after a nice summer's rest with renewed energy to get back into potting. We've been joined by four new enthusiastic students.

The first module of the year is throwing and is being tutored by Suzy Dünser. Suzy undertook the Diploma course completing it in 2011. She's had numerous exhibitions and been the recipient of many awards. She focuses on mainly functional vessels with an emphasis on structural form with the occasional delve into non-functional conceptual work. She is also currently the President of ASP.

Suzy has been giving thoughtful instruction with a running dialogue of each step, details as to how each finger is being held and where the pressure is applied. The group's throwing experience is varied and everyone

is learning so many new tips and techniques. Each lesson is followed up with comprehensive notes.

We had to throw 25 cylinders for our first homework assignment - it was about practice, practice, practice. We've all heard this before, because it works. Understanding this form led to the next lesson, jugs, with each week relating to the next... jars and teapots followed. We are learning how to pull a strap, how to throw a spout, assembly and more. Emphasis is on careful thought of the form, attention to detail and finishing with allowance for personal style to show through. The module will culminate with a wood/soda firing. We are all particularly excited about this as it will be a first for most in the group. Looking forward to seeing the results!



Top: Suzy with demo jug; Bottom: Joelle acs a 500g cylinder; Aidan buckles down for some repetition



Muddy hands, empty wine glasses, huge smiles - ASP's first Date Night was a great success!

An Obsessive Pursuit North Shore Ceramics

Until 3 May
Floor talk/meet the artists:
3pm Sunday 23 April

The North Shore's impressive ceramic tradition is highlighted in a fascinating survey exhibition that explores the local studio pottery movement from its beginnings in early 1950s, through the enormously productive 1970s – during which potters could barely keep up with the popular demand for domestic ware – to the present day as ceramics enjoys a resurgence.

Northart
www.northart.co.nz



Defying Gravity - James Greig at the Dowse

Elena Renker

I recently flew down to Wellington for the day to visit James Greig's exhibition 'Defying Gravity' at the Dowse museum in Lower Hutt. I had no idea who James Greig was but was told by friends that it was a must see exhibition. And they were right, the exhibition was outstanding.

James Greig was born in Stratford, Taranaki in 1936. He studied architecture in Wellington and Auckland in the 1950s when he saw a pot by Len Castle in a shop window that deeply touched him. He visited Len and started taking private pottery lessons. In 1962 he married Rhonda Gilles and started working as a full time potter in Northland, one of the first in New Zealand to try and solely live of the sales of his work. But it was a hard life so in 1965 he moved to Palmerston North to accept a position as resident potter at Massey University. He later



moved to the Manawatu where he bought an old farmhouse and set up his studio.

James Greig's work was inspired by his architectural studies, his interest in philosophy and the landscape around him. He was very interested the natural environment and geography and had a large collection of rock and marine specimens. His interest in ballooning gave him a unique bird's eye view of the land and he soon incorporated these impressions into sculptural pieces. His overseas trips to the USA, India, Nepal, Korea and Thailand were another major influence on his work. But it was his first trip to Japan in 1978 that had the biggest impact on him. In 1982 he went to Kyoto on a year-long fellowship to study the works of Kawai Kanjiro, a founding member of the Mingei craft movement. Looking at some of Kanjiro's later pieces it is easy to see the influence this amazing potter had



on Greig. Greig formed close ties with Japan and exhibited there successfully several times. He was appointed cultural ambassador to Japan by the NZ government in 1986. He died later that year of a heart attack in his Kyoto hotel room, the day before the opening of his major exhibition there.

His work at the Dowse gallery was exhibited in 2 rooms. The first one showed his earlier domestic ware pots, some work of his Japanese friend Kawai Kanjiro, and various maquettes of his larger pieces. A very interesting documentary about his life and work by Peter Coates was also shown.

The second room showed his later sculptural pieces. It is easy to see the strong architectural influences here.

The larger pieces are built with slabs and then joined together when stiff enough to stand up. His wife Rhonda was there when I visited and she described the techniques he used. She often had to help him maneuver the big slabs of leatherhard clay. Some of the smaller vases were built in a bisque fired mould that could be reused multiple times.

I found the work in this exhibition fascinating. I loved the way Greig combined very clean geometric forms with the uneven surface texture of the grogged clay body, the use of oxides and glaze to emphasize the shape of the pot. One can only wonder how his work would have developed if he had lived longer!



Class Firing of the Barry

Peter Lange

The Big Barry wood-soda kiln was fired this month by students from Peter Lange's Monday morning and Suzy Dünser's Tuesday evening classes. It's a lot of work and a real commitment, but the 17 students involved formed a really hard-working and positive group, all of them keen to learn and have a good time as well.

There are aspects of this way of firing that involve slightly tedious tasks - wood cutting is not that exciting, tidying up a post-salting kiln is sometimes pretty messy, but everyone pitched in and while the firing wasn't perfect, it was a good one - the firers were all rewarded with some tasty pots. It was a hot firing and it produced plenty of fruity soda flashing - the only unexpected effect was that about 20% of the stack had carbon trap to a greater or lesser degree. Carbon trap is a matter of taste... if a porcelain pot comes out with areas of grey it can be disappointing for the maker, but it is always surprising how the same pot can be a work of great beauty to the buyer who has no prior expectations. In the States particularly, carbon trap is often regarded as a highly-valued effect. Having said that it will be more convenient for everyone if these little surprises were less common, so the next firing will be a lot more oxidised in the early stages as an experiment.

There were some real beauties unloaded from the kiln and handed to the excited, but very wet, students, standing in the dark in the middle of one of Cyclone Debbie's rainstorms. They deserved success after putting in a lot of time (and a bit of money too), good humour and good food - they asked a lot of questions and got a rare hands-on experience of attempting to control a large rumbling flaming brick beast that devoured wood greedily for 15 hours. It was gratifying to the tutors that the most common remark that night after all the oohs and aahs was "when can we do it again?". Well done you guys!



Clockwise from top: Tamzin clams; Anabelle puts the embers to good use; Jason sodas while Bruce pumps; the results!

Rahu Road Workshops 2017

Hosted by Rahu Road Pottery, these workshops will be an immersive experience, teaching a combination of both the how and the why of making.

Times: 10am to 5pm each day
Saturday pot luck dinner
Costs: \$300 per workshop
Tutor: Duncan Shearer

Making with a Meal in Mind

Dates: Sat-Sun 22 & 23 April 2017

Release your inner gourmet and create for a banquet. This workshop will focus on the vessel and how to make it come alive when used. We'll examine how edges, textures and forms are combined. We'll explore techniques that respond to the wood fired kiln, but are also useful when combined with suitable glazes. Throwing and hand-building skills are useful, bring your own clay and tools, other materials provided. Maximum 6 people.

Taming of the Kiln

Dates: Sat-Sun 8 & 9 July 2017

A workshop that is all about heat and how to control it. Based around loading and firing of the wood kiln for a soda firing we will also be covering the principles at work in wood and gas kilns. Work for the firing will need to be bisque fired and glazed with suitable stoneware glazes (firing to cone 11), loading on Saturday and firing on Sunday. The kiln will be unloaded on Saturday 15th July and culminate with a shared lunch - showing off the new pots in a banquet of delight. A limited range of glazes and flashing slips available. Maximum 6 people.

Wild Clay and How to Use It

Dates: Sat-Sun 7 & 8 October

Ever wondered if the sticky stuff at the bottom of the garden is any good? Bring it along as we explore how found materials can be incorporated into your clay work. We look at the technical possibilities and how to respond to the unpredictable. Throwing and hand-building skills are useful, bring your own clay and tools, other materials provided. Maximum 6 people.

Contact Duncan at info@rahuroadpottery.co.nz or 07 8626974 for more information or to reserve your spot. www.rahuroadpottery.co.nz

Nearby accomodation options: bookabach.co.nz, airbnb.co.nz, paeroa.org.nz/places-to-stay/



...a potters' party

Smoke on the Water

June 28 – July 1, 2017

**Australian Woodfire Ceramics Conference
Cooroy, Sunshine Coast, Queensland**

The Australian Woodfire Ceramics Conference is an international event for woodfired and other ceramic arts that will celebrate the triennial gathering of the tribe - its stalwarts and its newcomers - under balmy Sunshine Coast skies.

Come and enjoy a progressive potters' party and conference, hosted by an energetic team of Queensland wood firers and the Ceramic Centre for Excellence, featuring clay, music, food and fire.

There will be big fires and small fires, presentation and party, featured artists from the new wave of woodfirers and exhibition events honouring the first wave woodfirers.

Activities on offer range from presentations to panel discussions, artist projects, demonstrations, PECHA KUCHA talks, maker space, firings in the hills, exhibitions and networking opportunities.

Pre-conference events will offer a hands on, one on one experience with invited guest artists.

The venues include the woodfire kilns in the Cooroy Belli Creek valley and the iconic Cooroy Butter Factory Arts Centre and precinct, and the small halls in charming Cooroy township. Next door is Noosa, famous for its natural landscape, arts, surf culture and is an international holiday destination.

Make your own holiday. Organisers will take no responsibility for when the party begins and ends.



ASP CENTRE

Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday:

12.30pm - 5.30pm

Friday: 12.30pm - 4pm

Saturday: 10am - 4pm

\$3 per hour (includes after class time)
up to a maximum of \$9 per session

Centre Directors:

Nadine Spalter and Toby Twiss

Phone 09 634 3622

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Suzy Dünser, 021 383 932

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