



The Great Mugging 2016: muggers Tim Grocott, Maxine Mortensen, Richard Naylor and Nadine Spalter assist the very focused choosers of mugs

From the Centre

Trien Steverlynck

In the last few weeks Toby and I have fielded many calls from people. They say, "I know your website says that class applications are closed, but I was wondering if you still had a space left..." It's fantastic that there is such a huge interest in learning to pot. Unfortunately we haven't been able to please everyone. Our classes are all full; our membership is growing.

The website, Facebook and Instagram are a very good source of information on what is happening at ASP and in the world of ceramics. Maak and Michelle are keeping us up to date, thank you both.

No more queues at the glazing area. Thanks to Frank we now have a new spray booth - 2 people can now spray at the same time. However we don't want this to contribute to more fired work being left on the shelves!

The 'Mugging' has been and gone. Once again coffee lovers in Ponsonby Rd enjoyed a free mug made by ASP members. We hope it achieved the intention of highlighting the handmade and sustainable cup versus a throwaway. Thanks Nadine for organising this event. We still have many mugs for sale at the centre.

Janet De Boos, this year's judge of the Portage Ceramic Awards, came to the Centre on Tuesday 18th October. She talked about how ideas have developed in her practice over the years, where she finds inspiration, and how that manifests in the work. Janet is one of Australia's most respected ceramicists, and has been Head of Ceramics at the Canberra School of Art at the ANU over ten years. Currently in the Pool Room Carla Ruka and her class are showing what shapes can be achieved by the coiling technique. The show is on for 2 weeks, after which the Student Exhibition takes place.

In only 3 weeks time the 'Fire & Clay' Exhibition is opening at the TSB Wallace Arts Centre. Anna Miles is currently making her selection from the many digital entries we received for this annual exhibition. We need people to volunteer as guides at the gallery during the show. Please contact me at the office if you have a few spare hours.

And of course we are getting ready for the BIG CLAY DAY OUT, the biggest annual pottery sale and a fun community event. The date is set for Sunday 4th December.

CALENDAR

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

Fire and Clay - ASP Exhibition (p2)
Opening Tuesday, 8 November 6pm
TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre
www.tsbbankwallaceartscentre.org.nz

Isobel Thom: Ilk
Opening Saturday 5 Nov, 2:30pm
Malcolm Smith Gallery, Howick
www.uxbridge.co.nz

Portage Ceramic Awards
Opening event Thurs 11 Nov 6pm
Te Uru Gallery, Titirangi
www.teuru.org.nz

The Man Who Mistook ... (p6)
Opening Thurs 11 Nov 6pm
Upstairs Gallery, Titirangi
www.upstairs.org.nz

52 Teapots - Brendan Adams (p2)
Opening Saturday 12 Nov 2-5pm
Front Room Gallery, Pt Chevalier
www.badams.co.nz

Auckland Festival of Ceramics (p4)
www.ceramics.co.nz/events

Adrian Bevis and Margaret Bray - Studio Open Days (p6)
Sat-Sun 12-13 November
www.mottoarts.com

Cause and Effect: John Parker
Until Sunday 13 November
Te Uru Gallery, Titirangi
www.teuru.org.nz

Alchemy & New Voices
Until 16 November
Masterworks Gallery, Newton
www.masterworksgallery.co.nz

Mt Eden Open Days (p2)
Sat-Sun 19 & 20 Nov, 10am-4pm
Facebook: Mt Eden Open Days

Elena Renker Open Studio (p6)
Sunday 20 November, 10am-4pm
www.elenarenker.com

Handbuilt & Leanings
Until 26 November
Two Rooms Gallery, Arch Hill
www.tworooms.co.nz

Christmastime at Middlemore & like a little sphere of soapsud drifting
Until 11 December
Corban Estate Arts Centre
www.ceac.org.nz

Centre Notices and Events

Auckland Studio Potters: *FIRE AND CLAY* 2016



**9 November
to 11 December**
Long Gallery

Opening Celebration:
Tuesday 8 November, 6pm

Christine Thacker, *I spent some time in Germany as a Boy* (2015)

The Pah Homestead, TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre
72 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough, Auckland
enquiries@wallaceartstrust.org.nz
Open Tuesday to Friday 10am-3pm, Saturday & Sunday 8am-5pm
www.tsbbankwallaceartscentre.org.nz



Members - Your help is needed!

Our two biggest events of the year are coming up - *Fire and Clay* opens at the Pah Homestead next week, and the Big Clay Day Out is just around the corner on December 4th. If you have time to help with either of these - at the *Fire and Clay* opening on 8 November, as a gallery guide one morning at the exhibition, or in one of any number of ways at the BCDO - please contact the office to let Trien or Toby know.

Other ways you can help:

- Making small bisqued bowls or cups for the paint-a-pot stall
 - Baking a cake or slice to sell in the BCDO Tearoom
- And don't forget to book a table if you'd like to sell your work in the marketplace!

Rex Morse

It was with sadness that we have learnt recently of the death of Rex Morse. He was associated with the ASP for many years, not as a practitioner but through being the husband of the very active and talented Tui Morse. As a builder, and more recently a retired builder, he was a very useful person to have within our Society. He was a practical man, and combined with his generosity and energy that made for a welcome combination at the many working bees and events we held at the Centre through the 70s and 80s. We are very sad to hear of his passing and send our love and sympathy to Tui and family.

CLASSIFIED

Wanted: Volunteer tutor to teach and guide a weekly Wednesday morning class at the Auckland City Mission, initially until the end of the year. Time: 9.30 - 12.30, 7 students max. Parking and good morning tea provided. Rewarding work with a motivated group, always interesting and creative. Firings can be arranged separately. At this stage hand-built and mould-based options.
Phone Peter 0210537504 or 6306942

Mt Eden Open Days Pottery Sale

Sat - Sun 19 & 20 November 2016
10am - 4pm

16 Carrick Place
09 630 6942

Peter Lange Nadine Spalter Suzy Dünser
Renton Murray Rosie Murray Joelle March

109 Grange Road
09 630 5119

Helen Perrett Chris Southern Margaret Bray
Peter Scott Margaret Sumich Richard Naylor
Bec Plowman Mervyn Aitchison

Mt Eden Open Days

52 TEAPOTS

by **Brendan Adams**

Saturday 12th November

Exhibition Opening 2pm-5pm



**Exhibition runs till
Sun 20th November**

300 Pt Chevalier Rd
Point Chevalier
Open Wed-Sun 10am-5pm
badams.co.nz



The Great Mugging

Margaret Bray

October has been a very damp month – but on the morning of this year's Ponsonby mugging, the sun was shining and the mood was upbeat as the Mugging crew donned their aprons and loaded their trays with an assortment of beautiful handmade mugs.

Ten different potters supplied 10 mugs each for the mugging – part of Auckland's Art Week. We were positioned outside Mekong Baby and as morning walkers approached with their disposable cups of coffee, we were at the ready to mug them. Groups of muggers also made their way up and down the length of Ponsonby road in search of hot drink consumers to mug. Most were delighted to be given a mug – and there were those who had come specifically for the mugging. We explained to each about Auckland Studio Potters, the value of hand made, and encouraged them along to our upcoming events. Of course there were adverse reactions – sceptical of our dubious intent - they missed out on a fabulous freebie!

The café next door to where we were stationed got an added bonus, since to be mugged the target needed a takeaway coffee, many rushed in to fulfil the mugging requirement, the staff came out to get their free mug too.

With the mugs all gone we retired for a coffee of our own, and I went to see the display of mugs at Whitespace, Crummer Road, Ponsonby. Our mugs are available there as well as in the Auckland Studio Pool Room.



Photo: Margaret Bray



Photo: Michelle Bow

For the third year in a row ASP has participated in Auckland Artweek by holding 'The Great Mugging'. For those not in the know, The Great Mugging is all about engaging people in a discussion about handmade vs mass-produced, by mugging them. Not all mugges like to chat of course, and some said an outright "NO!" to the question 'Would you like to be mugged?' Fair enough. But what they didn't understand was that we were swapping their disposable, landfilling, toxic, unbiodegradable cups for beautiful, handmade, long-lasting, eco-friendly (did I say handmade?) mugs made by our very own ASP potters. For the most part, people were thrilled. They chatted about the role of handmade in their lives, they chose their mugs with all the attentiveness the mugs deserved, they tested handles, weight – it was poetry in motion. They thanked us, they joined our mailing list, and they went away very happy. Even the little girl who kept repeating 'bird' when her Dad asked what kind of mug she wanted. She eventually chose a Carol Stewart mug – no tantrum even! Ponsonby Business Association has sponsored our potters for the last two years, and they love this event so much (the highlight of Auckland Artweek for some!) that they would like us to run it twice next year – at the start and the end of Artweek. Those discussions will be underway at committee I'm sure, but it is lovely to feel the love, and all for mugs.

Many thanks to our volunteers who gave freely of their time, and did a wonderful job mugging people. New career perhaps? Our potters also did a fantastic job making beautiful mugs, and we also have many for sale now in the main room at the Centre.

It was definitely the friendliest mugging in town.

Nadine Spalter - Mugging Leader

Ruth Castle at Masterworks

Peter Lange

The exhibition of basketry by Ruth Castle which sits alongside the other displays at Masterworks (see p5) was a great treat to spend time with and a wonderful connection to an earlier time when Ruth's basketwork was so sought-after and treasured. In her mid-eighties now she shows that she has lost none of her skills either with the material which she handles so cleverly, or the ability to create the most complex of forms. They sit in space or against the wall in very intricate patterns which are uniquely hers, and feel both nostalgic and thoroughly contemporary at the same time.



Janet DeBoos's Inspirational Talk at ASP

Michelle Bow

We were so privileged to have Janet DeBoos, judge of the 2016 *Portage Ceramic Awards*, give an absolutely fabulous talk with slide show at the ASP Centre this month. Janet's wealth of knowledge and experience was so inspiring to us all. This was certainly an "AH HA" moment in my life.

Janet took us on a fascinating audio visual journey, explaining how her ideas have developed in her practice over the years, where she has found inspiration, and how that influences her work today.

Janet was the Head of Ceramics at the Australian National University School of Art in Canberra, has authored and co-authored three books on glazes, been invited to speak at national and international conferences, and conducted workshops and demonstrations in Australia, the USA, China and New Zealand. She is represented in many major permanent public collections around the world.

Beginning as a production potter, Janet ran a successful pottery for 20 years, producing functional ware, which she loves, before moving into the non-functional work... "because you can charge more for non-functional work". She was fascinated "by the mystery that if an object loses function it gains in importance".

During this time Janet realised that she made 'teapot' or she made 'cup'. Singular objects, repeated many times. She actually made lots of teapots, all based on one teapot, but depending on the time of day she made each piece, and her energy levels, all pieces were slightly different... but the same. Therefore she refers to this as "I made teapot".

Janet learnt early on "that you have to make what you love, irrespective of what the prevailing fashions are, because if you don't do that you are dead in the water... you lose interest and you are serving someone else's needs. So always make your work for yourself... and remember to HAVE FUN!"

Janet has spent a lifetime collecting ideas, borrowing and "stealing" ideas. While attending a symposium in Hawaii, they were supposed to make a collaborative work. Janet pinched ideas and pieces from her surroundings. She was influenced by the rocks on the beach and took decals from a fellow potter to make a "collaborative" work.



In 1996 Janet attended a symposium in China. She was then engaged by the Huaguang Bone China Factory to design tea sets for the Chinese market. Her simple clean unadorned work was then decorated by a local Chinese designer to make it more appealing to the Chinese market..

Janet had never been a decorator of pots, but decided to give it a try her way. She collected out of copyright floral patterned decals and began experimenting. Applying a little to start with... a few flowers here and there... adding... adding... more... and more.

Janet has more recently moved towards a highly decorative 'hybrid' style which utilises many ideas collected over her years of experiences and practice, mixing the traditional floral decals she found in China with her own hand-drawn terra sigillata sgraffito designs.

Thank you Janet for inspiring us to think outside the square. It was certainly an illuminating talk which has encouraged me to move out of the corner, to explore, to grow and to have fun.

Auckland Festival of Ceramics 2016

The Auckland Festival of Ceramics is a celebration across Tamaki Makarau of work in clay, presented with support from Creative New Zealand and the Blumhardt Foundation. Now in its third year, the festival is a significant event in the Auckland arts calendar. This year festival managers Robyn Mason and Suzy Dünser are proud to announce that there are more events than ever under the festival umbrella, in a programme that will appeal to everyone from collectors to kids. It provides an opportunity to engage in a variety of ceramic-related events: exhibitions, artists' and curators' talks, visits to studios, guided walks, a Crown Lynn and NZ pottery clinic, demonstrations, a chance to have a go on a potter's wheel, see a kiln being unpacked, or buy some ceramics to enjoy.

Beginning with the opening to the public of the prestigious national Portage Ceramic Awards on 11th November, the Festival runs until December 4th and includes:

- **Two days of Clayathon coach tours** of ceramic exhibitions at public and dealer galleries from Titirangi to Hillsborough, the Central City, the North Shore, Matakana and Albany on 12 & 13 November

- **A weekend of open studios** on 19-20 November



- **Clay Out West weekend** on 26-27 November, including a firing with members of Nga Kaihanga Uku
- **The Big Clay Day Out** at Auckland Studio Potters on 4 December

For more information please visit: ceramics.co.nz/events/2016/11/11/auckland-festival-of-ceramics-2016/ or e-mail festivalofceramics@gmail.com for bookings

Spilled Light

Peter Lange

The recent exhibition of ceramic work by Suzy Dünser, *Spilled Light*, at The Front Room Gallery in Pt Chevalier was too late for a review in this newsletter last month so here is a taste of what you missed if you didn't make it. It was a show in three parts each linked to the others by a Victorian sensibility.

Firstly, a strong group of beautifully crafted semi-functional stoneware containers based on vintage railway lanterns and fired in various unpredictable and risky kilns, predominantly diesel-salt or wood-soda, that imbued the works with a metallic antiquity that resonated with those whose grandparents kept old tin containers and pourers in the depths of the shelves of their back sheds. These were the dented, rusting vessels that a young fossicker played with when faced with a boring Sunday afternoon at Grandma's house. Evocative and technically complex works. Then there was a group of similar but simpler works, mainly domesticware and more functional; delicate forms with a green-black copper patina and again a hint of hand-crafted metal-ware. Cups, jugs and billy-can teapots that would be uplifting when put to use everyday. The third, and to me most stunning, group,



was a collection of white porcelain vases, bottles, plates and bowls that hosted sprigs of camellia in pale cream and green, perched precariously on rims and around shoulders, or spilled onto the table surface. These pieces record sadness and are reminders of fragility, mortality and loss, but at the same time their beautiful gem-like qualities provide a positive counterpoint.

Suzy has given herself the freedom to explore the world away from the utilitarian discipline for which she is highly regarded, and has taken a step

which is still closely linked to that most honourable ceramic tradition, but which goes far enough, especially with the camellia works, to make the point that there is a lot of room for sculptural exploration within that fertile territory. To capitalise on one's hard-earned skill set is becoming more unfashionable as the new "wave of wobbly" moves through the ceramic scene, but this is how it should be done.

For those who missed the show, some of the camellia works will be on display at *NZ Sculpture OnShore* in November.

Alchemy and New Voices

Two exhibitions at Masterworks

Suzy Dünser

The exhibitions currently showing at Masterworks Gallery, *Alchemy* and *New Voices*, provide an interesting juxtaposition of works by two generations of ceramic artists.

Chester Nealie has been working in clay and firing wood kilns for over 50 years. His work, familiar to many, shows a mastery of form and composition - seemingly random lines or marks on the pots are actually a result of considered gestures while throwing, impressions of carefully placed leaves and shells, and decisions about location in the kiln. The distortions of form, flashing, and ash



Kate McIntyre

runs on the pots are as much a result of intimately knowing his material and his kiln as they are "haphazard" results often attributed to this type of firing. The pieces in *New Voices* inspire a different range of thoughts and questions - which was perhaps part of the intention behind this show.

Kate McIntyre's precise sculptural forms are beautiful and impressive, and in some ways have more in common with Chester's work than with that of the other two exhibitors in *New Voices*. Although her work is made of different material (bone china) and formed by different processes (computer design, slipcasting, electric firing), it shows deep consideration of form and an understanding of her material and process. There is intentionality to the work and evidence of skill in its execution: viewers can feel confident

that the result in front of them is what the artist set out to achieve.

However, art these days is not only about the end result, but also about the process and the concept, and ceramic art is not exempt from these influences. The effectiveness of Eloise Worrall-Bader's work, *Eighty Hump Thrown Tea Bowls*, relies on the composition of the individual pieces on the plinth for its impact, and her inclusion of cups where she's cut through the bottom relates to the title - this is a fault that can easily occur when throwing on the hump. I suspect that she has thrown exactly 80 cups, and not discarded any - the piece is a record of her process, and meant to be interesting for that reason. I did hear a few harsh reactions to this work, but I am willing to give it credit for what it is, rather than what it isn't, and will reserve judgement until we see more from this young artist.

Eloise Worrall-Bader



Chester Nealie



Pottery Studio Open Days.

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th November

Come visit the Studio's of Local potters;
Adrian Bevis and Margaret Bray



Adrian Bevis Pottery
13 Coles Road,
Tuakau. (09) 237 8204



Margaret Bray
61 Coulston Road,
Ramarama. (09) 238 1993
www.mottoarts.com

Studio's open from 10am - 4pm 12th and 13th November

Find event on @Coulston Road Studio



The Man who Mistook a Picasso for his Pot

Illustrated pottery by the artists of A Supported Life
& ceramic plates by Anna Crichton

Lopdell House, Level 1
418 Titirangi Road, Titirangi
Thursday 10th November 6 - 7.30pm
Refreshments & music by The Mutes (from Mars)
Exhibition open 10th Nov to 4th Dec 2016

www.lisa-sturges.co.nz

Elena Renker Open Studio / Pottery Sale

Sunday, 20th of November 2016, 10 am - 4 pm



248 Okura River Road, Albany, Auckland, tel. 09 4738834, 0224388344
erenker@gmx.net www.elenarenker.com



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Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday:
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Friday: 12.30pm - 4pm

Saturday: 10am - 4pm

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

Centre Directors:

Trien Steverlynck and Toby Twiss

Phone 09 634 3622

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Suzy Dünser, 09 817 2364

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