

Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

October 2003 Newsletter

This newsletter for October is brought to you by the Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society. Things are almost back to normal after the show, however the holiday session is here. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years are just days away. What's your favorite ceramics project for each holiday this year? Feel free to share with pictures or better yet come to the next meeting and bring your pieces for show and tell.

We received a very interesting email from the folks at Creative Paradise last week. It came as follows :

“Captured on Film

Several summers ago while exploring the woods behind my grandmother's cabin; I came upon a trail of extremely large foot prints. Intrigued, I pulled out my camera and followed the trail of curious prints. It led to various patches of wildflowers: Columbine, Trillium, Meadow Rue and alike. I walked next to the track for several miles over the ridge and under the waterfall until the tracks disappeared into a rocky creek bed.

Exhausted, I sat on a stone and tried to envision the large footed maker of such a wandering flower collecting trail. As I adjusted my position on my granite stool, I heard the sound of breaking leaves and pine needles behind me. I readied my camera and cautiously turned hoping to capture on film the object of bewilderment.

Through my camera lens, amazingly, this is what I saw: A tall, furry, sweet smiled creature with surprising violet eyes and humorously big feet standing in the woods with a yoke on his back bearing 2 baskets full of wild flowers and ferns.”



This guy is adorable. He is similar to the abomadible snowmen that have already been released. I don't know when the mold will be ready for sale. Jerry of E&H is a local Creative Paradise distributor, check with her.

The winner of the Kala Brushes at the show was Ella Cassity. Congratulations Ella.

Local Events

Mary Lou's Ceramics is now a Mackey slip distributor. If you need some slip, give Robin a call at 281 998-9987.

Classes – upcoming at Brennan's Pride Enterprizes (281 585-8888) for sign up and information
Basic Ceramics Classes Tuesday evenings
Intermediate and Advanced Classes Thursday evenings.
Brush N Up October 26 Sunday with Courtney
Elza Reidell – Coming in November

Gene Thornton-Brennan of Brennans Pride Enterprizes is now a distributor for Doc Holliday and Made In Fire

Mold Mold Whose Got the Mold

We have several requests this month :

Cindy Cornick of BackYard Ceramics is still looking for a large bowl in the shape of Texas. If you have one, please contact her at 281 428-2651.

Gene Thornton-Brennan is looking for a Byron mold of an Eagle. She thinks the mold number is B7. The eagle appears to be in flight (wings up) either landing or taking off from a stump. If you can track down this mold for Gene, contact her at the shop (281) 585-8888.

Blanca of Garden Road Ceramics is looking for a Venus De Milo statue. Contact her at the shop (281) 485-1510. Garden Road Ceramics is located in Pearland off of Garden Road.

Cindy of BackYard Ceramics is also looking for an Arnel mold of a large frog that can be used as a toilet paper dispenser. The toilet paper roll is inside his body and the paper comes out his mouth. If you have the mold of the frog available, please contact Cindy at Back Yard Ceramics. 281 428-2651

NOT A MOLD, BUT STILL NEEDED!

Monica is looking for Scioto Paint number 110 Flesh. If you have any of this discontinued product available call Kelly. She will get you in touch with Monica.

Congratulations to Blanca and hubby on the new addition to their family. Sebastian attended the September meeting of the Gulf Coast Ceramics Society. He didn't have much to say, but as he grows, I'm sure he will be adding to the meetings.

Ever wanted to show off your great work to others? Here's what you need to do to get your piece published in Popular Ceramics!

“Get your project published in POPULAR CERAMICS!

Show us your ceramic talent
We'll help with the wording
Send a clear, color photo of the piece(s)
Note availability of molds & materials used
Write a brief description of project article including:

- Unique techniques
- Level of experience needed to create the project
- How piece stands out
- Function of the piece

Please don't submit projects considered by other magazines or those previously published.

**Mail photo and written description to:
Editor • Popular Ceramics • PO Box 5000 • Iola, WI 54945
Scotts@popularceramics.com”**

Let us know if you plan to do this or have ever published any of your work.

We had a very interesting speaker at the October meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society. Lucille of Hope Village came and talked about Hope Village. Hope Foundation for Retarded Children was created in 1967 . Hope Village was opened in 1970 and is located in Friendswood, Tx.

They have a very nice ceramics program for the residents. There is also a gift shop and tea room located on the premises.

If you have any old molds, bisque or even greenware that you would like to donate, please contact them at 281 482-7926 or email at hopevlg@aol.com. The address is Hope Village, 15403 Hope Village Road, Friendswood, Tx 77546.

LIKE IT OR SPIKE IT

Nancy at Beulah's tried the Jade technique described in the show brochure.

Jade

Select greenware and clean.

Apply 3 good coats of unfired

- (1) Mayco - PT380 - Acrylic stain
24 Carat Gold
-OR-
- (2) Duncan - UM951 - Solid Gold

Let each coat dry thoroughly. Fire to Cone 04.

This will be the worst looking piece you have seen.

DO NOT THROW IT AWAY!!

Apply 3 good coats of Clear Glaze

- (1) Mayco - C105 - Crystal Clear
-OR-
- (2) Duncan - GL612 - Diamond Clear

Let each coat dry thoroughly. Fire to Cone 06

SURPRISE!! (Reprinted from IADCCT Website Techniques)

Nancy was pleasantly surprised at the result. Of course, not to be outdone, the ladies of Cactus Bend tried the technique as well. Kelly brought the results to the October meeting. It's really surprising how closely the finished result resembles jade. This is a definite "LIKE IT" from all that have tried it.

If you like a smooth color application with your glaze and no streaking, this would probably not work for you.

We also noticed that the glaze is hard to apply. Apparently the gold stain, once fired, seals the bisque so the glaze doesn't have any way to "get it's feet" into the piece. It's almost like glazing over a fired glaze.

Ever wonder who discovered how clay changes when fired? There's was an interesting guest editorial in the September/October Popular Ceramics written by Linda Charbonneau titled "Where is the industry going next?" In it she speculates that the discovery of ceramics firing of clay was done by the caveman. This could have been very helpful in moving our species from a hunter / killer society to a farmer / tiller society.

Linda's suggestion at the end of the article is to "pass on to others what you have learned and share knowledge freely and openly. The person your are sharing with may be responsible for the next phase of evolution of our craft."

Has anyone tried the new Duncan clear glaze? If so and you have any comments, please let Kelly at Cactus Bend Ceramics know. (281) 534-3325 or cactuskelly57@sol.com

Gene and Jim Brennan attended the Fort Worth Ceramic show this month. She said

it was a very nice show and, of course, they bought lots of new molds.

Julie and Glenn Pourteau also attended the show. James formally of JayKay is working on a new line of molds. He will try to debut the new molds in Houston 2004.

There were various make and takes in several booths.

Among the vendors were Boothe Molds, Teddy Bear, Doc Holiday, C&L, Hershey's Molds, Nowell Molds, Shiloh Molds, and Riverview Molds just to name a few.

Casco molds is for sale. If you are interested please call 940 325-1195. They are located in Mineral Wells Texas. Email is cascomolds@yahoo.com

They would like to retire and travel to places other than ceramic shows.

The holiday session is here. Gare has some interesting pieces for Christmas shown in this flyer. Also chek out the teapots with different lids, it's not really a new idea, but they sure are cute

Sent by Ohio Ceramic Supply
New Teapot & 4 Season Lids
along with adorable
Christmas Pieces!

Featuring FUN strokes!

3999 Animated Tree Candy Jar
7" H (18 cm)
\$55.00

4000 Collectible Animated Gifts
(3 in mold)
3" H (8 cm)
\$30.00

4001 Santa's Chimney Candy Jar
6" H (15 cm)
\$49.00

3996 Round Teapot w/Lid
9" L (23 cm)
\$54.00

3998 Spring & Summer Lids to 3996
3" H (8 cm)
\$25.00

3997 Fall & Winter Lids to 3996
3" H (8 cm)
\$25.00

Technique Sheet #341

See all of our Holiday Molds on-line at www.gare.com.
Click on Molds Catalog & follow the links to our various sections.

Gotta Get Gare
Visit us at www.gare.com

PURPOSE of the Texas Gulf Coast Ceramics Society

- a. To promote good will and fellowship among all ceramists in the Texas Gulf Coast area.
- b. To organize and hold an annual exhibit by ceramists, china painters and other related fields of kiln fired arts and crafts with such exhibits to be conducted for educational purposes.
- c. To promote the education of the public generally in the use of ceramics and ceramic materials.
- d. To endeavor to improve the quality of ceramic art generally through educational programs.

Anyone interested in helping us with our Purpose, please join us at the next meeting. November 3, 2003 at Mt Olive Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

Anybody been to a new shop lately? Or does the shop you like have something special we can highlight in this newsletter? Please contact Kelly at (281) 534-3325.

News from Katy Country
Courtney will be teaching a slip trailing class on November 1. The class piece is "Harvest Pumpkins". Contact Linda at 281 391-9555. Katy Country is located at 5823 Hiway Blvd, Katy, Tx.
They handle Doc Holiday, Kimple / Creative Paradise, Gare, Mayco and CSI slip.



New flyer from TNT. Is this the mold you're looking for Blanca?????????

The society would like to send a big hello and hope you're feeling better to both Dorothy Baldon and Julie Young. Both are battling some serious health issues. You are in our thoughts and we wish you both a speedy recovery.

Check out our website, www.houstonceramics.org for pictures of the 2003 Houston Ceramics show. Glenn has recently published pictures of the show including competition pieces, booths, awards, and almost everything that went on. If you missed him at the show, he was the fellow with the camera.

Past copies of the newsletters are also available on the website in pdf format. So if there is something you missed or would just like to review the newsletters and comment on the improvements, our web site is the place to go.



Creative Paradise new snow luv. If you are going to get this new mold and have greenware available, please contact Cactus Bend Ceramics (281) 534-3325.

Excerpts from "Ceramics in the 21st Century" from Jones Publishing.

This article has been around for awhile, but the information is valid.

"It has been said, "When you're through changing, you're through" and our industry is approaching that critical stage. In order to remain viable, we must appeal to what people want, not spend our time trying to convince people to change to be what we are. We must develop a renewed industry, a new image and an optimistic outlook.

We must be able to provide customers with the same elements that attract them to the other crafts they are now purchasing in those craft mega-stores.

We must bring back the creative process in full force. Encourage new fired artists to work with clay, to mold their own pieces, to combine their greenware or bisque with other crafts to develop desirable, useful and/or attractive pieces that will appeal to a new generation.

The fired industry of tomorrow must be upscale, appealing to younger artists and upcoming baby boomers alike, home-based, able to be blended with other crafts, simple enough to be performed at entry levels without a teacher and broad based enough to encourage increased knowledge and proficiency."

This is reprinted from an editorial from 'Fired Arts and Crafts' written by Joe Jones.

You may not agree with his ideas, but you must admit that they are something to make you think about how you do business in this industry.

Check out the message board on Duncan if you have access to computers and the internet.

There is a discussion about flocking / suede. This brings back memories from the late seventies. This used to be a very popular technique especially for Santa's clothes. It's similar to applying a loose glitter but messier. An adhesive is applied on the area that will be treated with the flocking or suede, then the actual material is blown onto the piece. It sticks to the adhesive and gives the appearance of suede material. Of course, when you blow the flocking on the piece it gets on everything (just like the glitter).

The effect is great but not water resistant. It can flake off just like glitter.

Does anyone in our area handle the flocking?

Comments, information and suggestions for the newsletter are greatly appreciated. Please contact Kelly at 281 534-3325 (Tuesday through Saturday) or e-mail cactuskelly57@aol.com

Next meeting at Mt Olive Lutheran Church on Scarsdale will be November 3, 2003.

See you there!

Check out the web page for new information.

www.houstonceramics.org

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Dickinson, Tx 77539