



Ceramics Southern Africa (Western Cape)

(Promoting, Marketing, Teaching Ceramics)

Chairman's Report

This is the final newsletter for 2011 and in it you will be able to read reports about the Regional Exhibition and the John Higgins workshop as well as prepare for next year's planned events.

The past month has been one of the busiest CSA has experienced in a long time. Three major events had to be organized and managed; the 2011 Regional Exhibition, John Higgins workshop and the November Potters Market. Thanks to the committee, dedicated helpers and members of CSA all were hugely successful.

John Higgins's workshop was inspiring and revealing. We got to know John the teacher and artist and John the potter. His innovative making methods were a breath of fresh air to tired minds and we all felt like running off to play with clay at the end of the session. John is a consummate professional who loves to play with clay and surface textures. His ease of making shows years of experience and dedication to his craft. This workshop was food for the soul. A full report on the workshop appears in the newsletter.

This year's Regional Exhibition exceeded all our expectations. A new venue is always a challenge but the venue, the Stephan Welz Great Cellar at the Alphen Hotel, was marvelous in that the space is sympathetic to the work.

Hennie Meyer did a wonderful job setting up almost 300 pieces ensuring every piece had its perfect spot. The opening was attended by about 300 people and praise for the venue and the work was unanimous, this was a winning exhibition. A full report will appear in the NCQ and an abridged version is in this newsletter.

Thanks to Lesley Porter who heads the exhibition portfolio, Jeanne Crook who did the uploads, Wiebke von Bismark who helped before, after and during the exhibition, Lillian Lloyds Ellis who managed the pot watchers and helped with the setting up and packing up of the exhibition. Thanks to Bronwyn and Lucy, Lesley Porter's daughters, who managed the selling at the opening and the committee for all their input.

Thanks to our selectors and award judges; Betsy Nield, Shona Robie and Yogi de Beer for their insight and judgment in choosing what goes on and what comes off. This is a difficult task and demands great sensitivity and objectivity.

Thanks to Shona Robie and her team at Stephan Welz for allowing us to use their space and invade their kitchen.

The Members Invitational proved to be a great success and we intend continuing with this in future Regional Exhibitions.

The November Potters market had a record 96 potters selling pots. Sales appear to have also been exceptionally good despite our fears that economic pessimism would impact negatively. A number of customers have noted that the quality of work at the market has improved over the years and that stall holders are improving the look and display of their pots. The old image of potters selling seconds, chipped and cracked ware has changed and we are educating the public about the quality, variety and value of handmade studio ceramics.

The 2012 Calendar of Events has been included. A highlight will be the visit to Cape Town of French potter Daphne Corregan who has been invited by the Gauteng Region to be their award judge for the 2012 National Exhibition which opens in Pretoria on the 7th October. Daphne will be presenting a workshop on September 15th in Cape Town. Please diarise this date as well as the other dates in the Calendar of Events.

In 2014 Cape Town will be the Design Capital of the world which is an incredible honour. We are planning a massive campaign to put CSA and our ceramics on the design agenda. We will need your help and expertise to make it a success. Just as this year has flown past the next will too. 2014 is not that far away.

Ceramics SA Western Cape may be a small group but our impact is being felt far and wide. Keep up the momentum, keep up your membership. **CSA is your passport to great opportunities.**

Wishing you and your families a Happy, Peaceful and Creative year ahead and a Glorious Festive Season.

Ralph Johnson

Prize Winners at the 2011 Regional Exhibition

New Signatures

1st prize CPS Sterling award - **Gavin Grieve**
Runner up The Potters Shop award - **Francois Korver**

Ceramics for Use

1st prize Cape Gallery award - **Christo Giles**
Runner up Reinders award - **Sarah Walters**

Ceramics for Expression

1st prize PKF International award - **Rae Goosen**
Runner up Rose Korber prize - **Alessandro Pappada**
Merits to **Hannes van Zyl & Dianne Heesom Green**

CPS Supa Porcelain prize

for best porcelain piece - **Christina Bryer**
CPS prize for best decorated piece - **Mervyn Gers**

Thanks to our sponsors of prizes

- Craig Lesley of CPS who in addition to the Sterling award for the New Signature category sponsored award for the Best Decorated work and the Supa Porcelain Prize for the best porcelain piece.
- Billy Nield for the PKF International award,
- Gail Dorje of the Cape Gallery,
- Rose Korber of Rose Korber Art Consultancy
- Marco and Fernando of Reinders Potters Supplies,
- Charley Pollard of the Potters Shop.
- Thanks to Boetie Rietoff for sponsoring the wine.

Calendar of Events for 2012

17 March 2012

AGM

Rust-en-Vrede

24 March 2012

Rondebosch
Potters' Market

This is a
members only market

25 August 2012

Winter
Workshop

Rust-en-Vrede

15 September 2012

Daphe Corregan
Workshop

Durban Presbyterian Church

7 October 2012

National
Exhibition

Pretoria

4 November 2012

Regional
Exhibition

TBC

17 November 2012

Rondebosch Potters' Market

This is a members only market

Western Cape Regional Exhibition - 13 to 26 november

Review by JOY SAVAGE

Photographs by GRAHAM THURTELL

Despite late spring rains and a Fun Run in the Constantia area, the Regional Ceramics Exhibition was opened to an enthusiastic crowd at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, 13th November. Ample snacks and prize-winning “Lord Somerset Wines” kindly donated by Boetie Ritoff added to the buoyant mood as those attending were treated to the stimulating display of the Region’s best ceramics.

The showroom of Stephan Welz Auctioneers of Decorative and Fine Arts, situated at the Great Cellar in the Alphen Hotel, Constantia, proved to be an outstanding venue, displaying the exhibits to very good effect.



**1st Prize CPS Sterling Award
Gavin Grieve**

Ralph Johnson, our Western Cape Chairman, introduced the opening speaker, well-reputed British potter, John Higgins, who had conducted a workshop in Durbanville the previous day, and who allocated the prizes. Ralph thanked Hannes van Zyl for designing the Invitations, as well as congratulating Hennie Meyer for his untiring efforts regarding the setting up of the exhibition itself – always a challenging task. Ralph also praised the selectors, Shona Robie, Head of Ceramics at Stephan Welz, Betsy Nield, and Yogi de Beer, for their “*terrible and onerous job*” of making the choices: Which piece deserves a place on a strategically arranged plinth? Which piece remains unchosen this time around? Selectors have to parenthesize

their personal feelings in order to choose as objectively as possible, in the full knowledge that their choices will sometimes be unpopular. With the best will in the world, some people will feel slighted. The selectors offered the owners of the unselected items an opportunity to receive constructive criticism of their pieces, in order to guide their efforts in the future. John further congratulated all the exhibitors for the “*heartache, passion and persistence*” required in being a ceramic artist, whose reward lay in the “*wonder of the exhibition at the end*”.

The exhibition was divided into two parts: A Juried Exhibition, which was eligible for prizes, and the Members Invitational Exhibition or “White” Exhibition, which as the name implies, required the items submitted to be only white in hue, but which was open to all paid-up members, and un-juried, thus giving aspirant amateurs an opportunity to exhibit, compete and be seen at Regional level.

The prizewinners of the Juried Exhibition were:

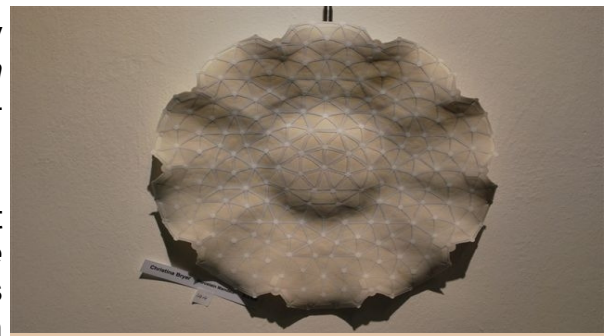
In the New Signatures Category, the Cape Pottery Supplies Sterling Award went to Gavin Grieve for a soda-fired tea caddy complete with raw bamboo lifter. Runner-up in this category, Francois Korver received The Potters

Shop (Kalk Bay) award for his ‘Set of 12 clay Oxen’. The gold lusted horns of the oxen recall how cattle are indeed regarded as wealth in many traditional societies. The flattened backs of the figures serve as blackboards for numerous witty aphorisms and figures of speech – “*Bull in a china shop*”, “*Hit the bull’s eye*”, “*Bulldozer*” and so on, reminding us just how much of our language and culture rests on the backs of these patient, long-suffering beasts.



**New Signatures - The Potters Shop Award -
Francois Korver - "Set of 12 Clay Oxen".**

The Best Porcelain Piece, also sponsored by Cape Pottery Supplies, was awarded to Christina's Bryer's '*Porcelain Mandala*', the delicate airy thinness of which pushes this medium to its outer limits of physical expression.



**Best Porcelain Piece - Christina Bryer
"Porcelain Mandala"**

Cape Pottery Supplies also generously sponsored the Best Decorated Award, which went to Mervyn Gers, for his '*Blue Willow Koi Set*', a series of plates patterned in decals recalling the familiar Willow Pattern designs and the Koi fish of the East. The vibrant blue and red colours recall the well-loved Imari ware from Japan, which decorates many a home, worldwide.



**Best Decorated Award—Mervyn Gers
"Blue Willow Koi Set"**



Cape Gallery Award for Best Functional Piece Christo Giles

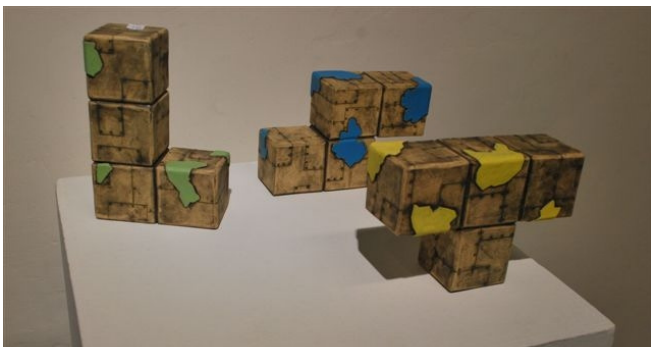
In the Ceramics for Use Division, Christo Giles received the Cape Gallery award for best functional piece. Runner-up Sarah Walters won the Reinders Award for her '*Still Life*' – a creamy, white, matte-glazed tea-set whose classic lines were punctuated by little modeled birds, added as a feature.



**First Prize - Ceramics for Expression
Rae Goosen**



**Reinders Award - Sarah Walters
"Still Life"**



**Second Prize - Ceramics for Expression - Rose
Korber Award - Alessandro Papada
"Tetris Blocks"**

In the Ceramics for Expression Division, the First Prize, sponsored by PKF Chartered Accountants, was awarded to Rae Goosen for her row of smoke-fired Kewpie Dolls. The method of firing, recalling things long-buried, together with the legends and decals half-erased and flaking, give these figures a forlorn air of toys and memories of yesteryear.

The Second Prize in this division, the Rose Korber Award, went to Alessandro Pappada for his '*Tetris Blocks*' where he explores the relationships and contrasts between clay slabs and sheet metal. The combination of modeled zips, rivets and the lustres associated with metal are increasingly becoming a signature of this young artist.

Di Heesom-Green's *'Process Fish'*, recalling the fishing trophies of huntsmen, as well as the preserved specimens viewed in museums, won a Merit Award, as did Hannes van Zyl for his whimsical *'Wind Farm'*.



Merit Award - Hannes van Zyl
"Wind Farm"



Merit Award - Di Heesom-Green
"Process Fish"

A Regional Exhibition, like a National, is intended to showcase a cross-section of the very best that a province or country has to offer - to the public, fellow craftsmen, artists and interested amateurs. It is a rich smorgasbord intended to titillate the intellectual appetite, and which by its very structure, renders it difficult to review, especially in a periodical such as the Western Cape Newsletter, where space is limited. Each and every work on display, by the very fact that it was selected in the first place, is deserving of praise.

So, like the song *"In an English Country Garden"*, I shall have to: *"....tell you now of some that I know, and those I miss, you'll surely pardon!"*

Suffices it to say that at this banquet of ceramic creations, jaded would be the appetite of the viewer, who cannot say to himself at least once: "Now, I really must have that!"

My more comprehensive review, in which I comment more deeply on other exhibits, may be read in the forthcoming Summer Edition (No. 98) of *National Ceramics Quarterly*.

JOY SAVAGE 27TH November 2011

Newsflash

Newsflash

Newsflash

Newsflash

National Exhibition 2012

Western Cape Region selection 6 August 2012

Selected work to arrive Pretoria Art Museum 28 September 2012

Opening Sunday 7 October 2012

John Higgins Workshop



When is a pottery workshop a success? When you are so inspired that your hands are itching to play with clay. This is what we felt after a wonderful workshop presented by British potter John Higgins. John had been invited to be the selector and award judge for the Namibian Biennale and agreed to present a workshop in Cape Town on his way back to Britain. John is an accomplished potter and teacher, has exhibited at home and abroad and has won numerous international awards including one at the APSA Triennials. His work is included in many collections; private and public.

John was destined to be a potter as he began his life's journey in Newcastle-under-Lyme which is close to the Pottery towns that make up Stoke-on-Trent. Growing up in the heart of the Potteries led to many discoveries about industrial ceramics, literally walking along roads paved with pottery shards and past walls built from discarded kiln shelves, visiting dump sites littered with the remnants of tableware from the great Pottery factories such as Royal Doulton and Wedgwood and breathing smoke from the many bottle kilns still in use in his formative years. John attended the Newcastle Art School and then Wolverhampton College of Art where he studied ceramics under Jacqui Poncelet. This was followed by a teaching degree from Brighton College. A lifetime of teaching has continued up to the present.

An illustrated talk revealed many of the elements which inspired John's creative urge from the paintings of William Scott, to textured and peeling Moroccan walls and rusty iron pipes to the architecture of Frank Geary. Scott's paintings in which there was a cross over between two dimensionality and three intrigued John.. This led to a series of pots where the illusion was of three dimensional forms which were actually fairly flat. Later work shows a strong architectural and sculptural essence with muted surfaces coloured with underglazes or oxide washes or both.

Evident in his latest work is a feeling of creative freedom and playfulness where distortion and looseness is encouraged.

We were then introduced to John's working methods; slabs that are made in a rather unorthodox way. The first was to cut a series of slabs from a thick lump of clay with a harp that has the cutting wire enhanced with other wire to create a grooved pattern. The second was to throw a cylinder with deep throwing rings. This thrown cylinder was then cut into sections. The slabs from both methods are then thrown onto a flat surface elongating and thinning the clay as well as distorting and elongating the grooves and patterns. When the ideal thickness is achieved the slabs are cut and made ready for assembling. John used these slabs to make a tall rectangular jug. Wide sections which formed the front and back were joined to each other by narrow side pieces. A hollow thrown ring was cut to form the handle and a section of slab made a spout. The base was set up on four fairly large thrown feet. The end product is an abstracted jug form, reveling in it's spontaneity, robust but elegant



John's unabashed love of playing with clay was evident in his new plates which are distorted and then vigorously and quickly splattered with touches of colour. A flat disc is thrown with an indented double rim. This is cut off the wheel and then thrown and stretched. The inner ring forms the outer edge of the plates well whilst the outer ring becomes the plates actual rim. This is then placed on a drape mould to harden and then a foot ring was thrown onto the underside of the plate. The end result was a plate which retained all aspects of it's making, so different from the perfectly machined plates John grew up with in Stoke-on-Trent

John is undoubtedly a Master of his medium, making appeared effortless and easy however we all know how much practice and experience one needs to reach these heights of creativity.

We had the privilege of meeting and learning from a wonderful artist. A wonderful day.

Some of John's sound bites;

" As soon as it gets easy- STOP IT. The element of struggle adds to the essence of the work"

"We learn in a spiral, ideas keep coming back but are changed by time and experience"

" Work with whatever happens. Marks in clay, leave them behind, be spontaneous"

" Remember when working on a piece that people will want to go around the back"

Ralph Johnson

"Thank You"

I would like to thank Ceramics South Africa - Cape region for the award given to me.

To be the runner up for new signature section is an unexpected honour.

Thank you for The Potter's Shop for the gift voucher.

For Hennie Meyer and his inspiration and trust in me I am very grateful, if it was not for his encouragement I would not have entered.

Thank you very much.
Francois Korver.

Welcome New Member

September 2011
Vanessa Pather

October 2011

Didi Barnard
Megan Brand
Laura de Beer
Anja de Klerk
Madoda Fani
Lundikazi Matyala
Helen Vaughan
Nkosikho Vulangengqele
Gaby Weeden

November 2011

Jane Bendon
Sarah Benjamin
Sandy Diogo
Mervyn Gers
Vuyisa Potina
Gloria Sparg

Obituary - Pat Hayden

We were saddened to hear that Pat has died suddenly after surgery. She was a regular at the Potters Market for many years and we will miss her presence there. Our deepest sympathy to her husband Mike and her family, friends and students.

Clay Museum Cube and Office Showcase Exhibition 2012 Schedule

Start	End	Corresponding Cube Exhibition	Artist	Office Showcase
7-Feb	29-Mar	Lidded or Unlidded Containers	Ceramics SA - WP members	Kate van Putten
3-Apr	3-May	"A Touch of Japan"	Ralph Johnson's pupils	Ralph Johnson : "Transformation"
8-May	31-May	"	"	Laura du Toit
5-Jun	28-Jun	Jewellery holders/containers	Ceramics SA - WP members	Christo Giles
3-Jul	26-Jul	"	"	Garth Meyer
31-Jul	20-Sep	Majolica pots ***	Open to all Ceramics SA members	Ian Calder Majolica pots
25-Aug	25-Aug	[Ceramics winter workshop]		
25-Sep	18-Oct	"High Tea"	Elmien Porter & Students	Yvonne Martin & Ineke Nicolle
23-Oct	20-Dec	Gifts in The Cube	Ceramics SA - WP members	David & Sarah Walters

Note : START DATES are exhibition openings at Rust-en-Vrede : The Cube is normally held over for 2 exhibitions

Majolica is tin-glazed (i.e. tin oxide in the glaze coating gives a white colour) earthenware, famously from Italy. Although imitated in Britain and as Delft in Holland. Originally it was formulated as an imitation of the white porcelain ware from China that was all the craze in Europe in the 16th Century (?). It was not known in Europe how to produce this dazzling white ware and was a closely-guarded secret by the Chinese. Eventually in the 17th Century a chap called Bottger managed to formulate a porcelain body in great secrecy but eventually it all leaked out, and then everyone was producing porcelain ware.

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REINDERS

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Opening up in Paarden Eiland:

We will be shortly opening up a satellite shop in Paarden Eiland where you can fetch clay and glazes

English White (White Stoneware):

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