

NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Issue 2 : March/April 2011



THE POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA
P.O.BOX 2585 SWAKOPMUND NAMIBIA



OUR MISSION

The main objective of **The Potters' Association of Namibia** is primarily to foster the art and craft of pottery and ceramics in every way. We encourage the development, recognition, appreciation of pottery and ceramics; we hold exhibitions, publish regular newsletters, and distribute related magazines. Furthermore, by providing practical workshops, technical information, skills development, arranging and encouraging social interaction, we support the interests of like-minded people.

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NEWSLETTER

For your newsletter submissions or
queries email Jacques at
jacquesjvv@gmail.com or pan@iway.na

Next newsletter deadline

15 May 2011

Extreme rain and heat is still abundant in Namibia, this at a time of the year when the dreaded daylight saving time has started. Therefore we should make good use of this time left, before the clay gets too cold to wedge and we hibernate away from our studios.

On the 12th of March we had our AGM, and although not well attended, the people in attendance had a look at the fruitful year that PAN had in 2010. Some important issues were also raised for 2011. The full details of which will be published in this (pg 8), and the upcoming newsletter.

PAN has been asked to re-affiliate to CSA. After much discussion and voting, a unanimous vote was passed that PAN will re-affiliate. The advantages for our members are discussed in on page 13.

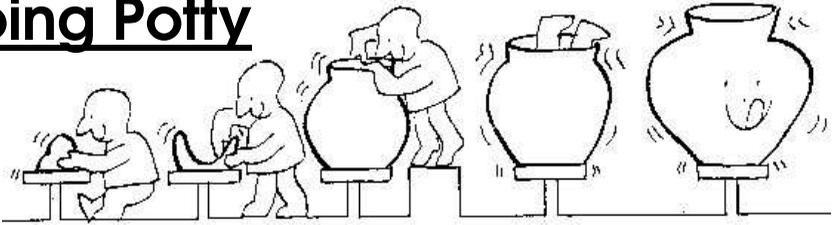
PAN has decided to jump on the band wagon and become more 'green'. PAN will in the future offer the newsletter in a printed version and electronic (PDF) version via email. The current newsletter will be sent in both formats. PAN urges that all the members please indicate whether they would like to receive the newsletter via regular mail or email. (pan@iway.na) The electronic version, will not only save paper, and a tree in the long run, but also space in your home or studio.

PAN has contracted a new webmaster to keep our 'international face' up-to-date. This is has an added benefit for the members. There a section for artists' profile on the website which will be updated more frequently now. If you are interested in featuring on our website, please contact us with more information. The link to the profile page on our website is: <http://www.pan.iway.na/Pages/Members.html>

I will host a workshop on throwing repeat ware and teapots in Swakopmund in April and also in Windhoek in May. See calendar for more details.

Have a wonderful time potting, and remember to keep experimenting with ideas for the Biennale in November.

Going Potty



Considerations for Exhibitions

Selectors/Judges, for ceramic exhibitions, are chosen because they have a wide range of experience and knowledge gained from looking at and handling ceramics of every genre, as well as practising their own form of ceramics over a number of years.

They understand the nature of the various clay bodies and the firing processes and recognise the technical constraints involved in all of these.

Hence if you have ever wondered “why didn’t I win” or “why did that pot win”, here is a list of criteria, that judges consider when judging ceramics at an exhibition:

1. Does the entrant understand the materials and the firing techniques being used?
2. The technical quality of the work – is it well finished? – are the glazes compatible? Etc.
3. Form and function – are these compatible in a functional piece?
4. If decorative, does the form complete the intention of the maker?
5. Surface treatment – is it an integral part of the form?
6. Has the artist/maker resolved the interpretation of the original idea?
7. Members bringing work for selection should have the confidence to know that the selector will give positive and encouraging feedback.

8. Exhibitions are for the benefit for the members – helping to develop their work and give them exposure to the collections and other buyers.

Taken and adapted from CSA Gauteng Region Newsletter Feb 2011

John Higgins - Biennale Judge 2011

Artist Statement

The ceramic vessels that John Higgins makes refer most often to architecture, archaeology and everyday objects. A format is decided, but room is always allowed for spontaneous and expressive handling of the medium.

The techniques of slab forming and throwing are used, the clay is heavily grogged to withstand the unusual methods of making and the surfaces are treated simply with slips, stains and oxides. Gas and electric kilns are used, and the work is fired to 1150°C.

John has exhibited extensively all over the world, and has a vast experience of hosting workshops and teaching. For John's full CV go to this link:

- <http://www.studiopottery.co.uk/profile/John/Higgins>
- <http://www.studiopottery.co.uk/images/John/Higgins>

Workshop Outline - 'Mark making and slab construction' 4-6/11/2011

This exciting workshop, will look at making slabs, including throwing and different approaches to mark making. John will include throwing, and using the results to construct large complex forms. If time allows some slip decoration over the forms.

Friday Afternoon: Starting of with a brief introduction and

slide presentation, John will discuss his: background, influences, source material and a look at images of his past work to current ones. He'll then embark on the demonstration of slab making, mark making and throwing slabs. The participants could then have a go at something similar.

Saturday: He will demonstrate how he constructs forms from slabs made the previous day. The rest of the day John will assist the participants in constructing their forms.

Sunday: A discussion of how he would complete his piece after firing by looking at current images, and demonstrate some slip work techniques. The participants would then complete their own pieces, and conclude with a discussion.

I hope that this very brief look at John's approach and the workshop outline will entice you to participate.

Remember, you might not necessarily work with slabs and/or slips, but attending this workshop might give you new insight when approaching your own work.



Some Images of John's Work



AGM Report 12/03/2011, Part 1

Annual Report by the Chairperson Carola Lorck

Events during 2010:

Workshops

Two workshops were held during 2010. The first one was presented by John Hunter at his plot near Brackwater in Windhoek. 10 members attended the workshop which focused on throwing and decorating methods. A woodfiring was done on the first day and very much enjoyed by all participants.

At the end of June and beginning July we had invited Tania Babb, well-known potter from Cape Town, to present a workshop on her sculpture method. She presented a workshop to 10 members and one non-member in Windhoek and 8 members and one non-member participated at the workshop in Swakopmund.

Fundraising

On the first Friday in June 2010 PAN had organised the Fill A Bowl Fundraising evening. 21 PAN members had donated in total 292 soup bowls, which were sold filled with soup, sponsored by a number of restaurants in Swakopmund. The sales that evening added up to N\$ 20 230.00 of which we donated after deductions N\$ 1500.00 to the Okanona Soup Kitchen for the elderly in Mondesa and another N\$ 1500.00 to Charmain's Soup Kitchen in the DRC to feed children. This evening was a great success, well supported and tremendously enjoyed by the Swakopmund community.

Social Responsibility

In December 2009 I was approached by Riaan van Rooyen, representative of Bank Windhoek, and requested to put up a stand at the Kidz Fun Fair during September 2010 in Windhoek. As the committee felt very strong that this event would be a very good platform to advertise PAN and introduce pottery to the community we had decided to participate. Betsie van Rensburg was responsible for the entire organisation and planning of this event, of which she did a great job. Clay was bought from CPS and Hüster Machine Tools sponsored the transport of the clay from Cape Town to Windhoek. The remaining clay that was not used at the Fair was sold to members in order to recover some costs.

Exhibitions

PAN has a tradition to plan and organise one exhibition each year. The current committee strongly supports the point that the PAN members should have an exhibition where they can showcase their works and have the chance to receive awards. This is done by organising the National Biennale every second year in Windhoek. Then we feel that there should be another possibility to showcase and also mainly sell the work. Therefore a Theme Exhibition was organised and held at The Fine Art Gallery in Swakopmund during October

2010. This exhibition was well attended by members. The number of entries was limited with 10 pieces, of which 5 would have been put on the exhibition from the beginning. The sold pieces were then replaced with the rest of the entries. Although not many took the opportunity to submit the maximum number of pieces to generate greater sales, 13 Members participated, exhibiting 77 pots in total, of which 46 (66%) were sold. In contrast to the Biennale, pieces which were sold at the Theme Exhibition, could be taken along by the buyer although the exhibition was still on. This practice is not allowed at the Biennale, all the exhibits have to stay on exhibition until it closes.

It is with great pleasure to report that two Namibian potters i.e. John Hunter and Lucia Hambiri were invited by CSA to participate in the exhibition African Landscapes in Clay held at the Association of Arts Pretoria, Nieuw Muckleneuk in June 2010.

Re-affiliation to Ceramics Southern Africa

PAN was approached by Jerice Doeg in 2008, who offered a re-affiliation to CSA. This offer was discussed at the AGM in 2009 and it was decided unanimous that this affiliation was not viable for PAN members. I reported back to CSA during 2010 and declined their offer. However in December 2010 I was once again approached, this time by Betsy Nield, who is the new National Chair, whether we could not re-consider the affiliation. She gave us the option to re-affiliate PAN as a region to CSA and that we then give our members the option to join CSA. Our members would then pay an additional fee of N\$30.00 when they pay the PAN membership fee. PAN will transfer the affiliation fee to CSA. The advantage of our members being affiliated to CSA is that they can take part at their exhibitions and participate at their workshops at CSA member rates. PAN has the option to hold the position of the National Chair. This means that the National Exhibition and the meeting of the National Council could be held in Namibia. Should PAN host the National Exhibition the cost to fly in the International Potter will be covered by the National Council. On top of this an amount of N\$10 000.00 award money will be given by the National Council.

Website

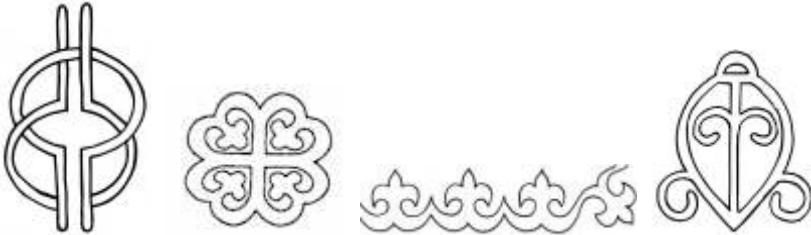
Only the 2010 membership forms were loaded on our website during 2010. The committee was searching for a new webmaster who can work on our website as it is. Many of the web designers who we approached wanted to change our website design and also the web address. Gunnar Heussen in Windhoek confirmed that he could add information and pictures to our website without changing the general layout or the web address. It was decided that pictures of the 1st and 2nd Biennale are added to the website again as well as information of fundraising events and workshops presented.

Memberships

Unfortunately the total membership number decreased during the last year from 53 to 50. During the year we welcomed new members from Tsumeb (2) and Windhoek (2). We lost members from Swakopmund (1) and Windhoek (1) and Skukuza (1)

Carola's Tip Corner

- To produce different effects with your favourite glazes, try spraying a contrasting glaze through a sieve over another glaze. The result depends on glazes used and quantity sprayed.
- A paediatric ear syringe makes a wonderful tool for applying small amounts of glaze or slip. It gives much more control than a turkey baster.
- To remove raw glaze drips and rough spots, slide an inverted, plastic, coffee measuring spoon over these unfired areas much like using a plane on rough wood. This can give a more uniform glaze thickness to the pot.



DISCLAIMER:

Neither the Editor, PAN Committee members, nor the contributors to this newsletter will be held responsible for any errors that may creep in unnoticed and the personal opinions freely expressed are not necessarily those of the Association!

We welcome, and are most grateful for any contributions to this newsletter!

However, the Editor retains the sole right to edit, and/or refuse

Quilting with Clay

A workshop was presented, by Ralph Johnson in RSA, about using stained clay to create bowls that have a quilted look. Here is his technique, kindly provided by Mariki Grobler.

Staining the Clay:

The best clay to use is a white firing porcelain or Walford White Clay. Measure 500gr of dry clay and add either 50gr of Iron Ox, Chrome Ox, Yellow Ocher or 10gr of Cobalt Ox or Copper Ox. Follow the normal procedure for reclaiming clay to reconstitute your amount of coloured clay. You can create further shades of your original colours by blending measured amounts of your coloured clay with uncoloured clay.

Preparing for Making Bowls

Coloured slabs can be layered and cut into strips. These strips can be laid next to each other to create a slab with stripes. Coils can be encased with slabs, rerolled and cut into slices. These slices can be shaped in squares or triangle as well.

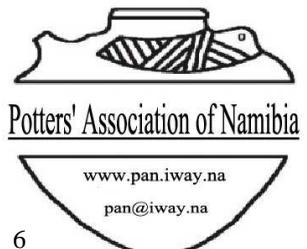
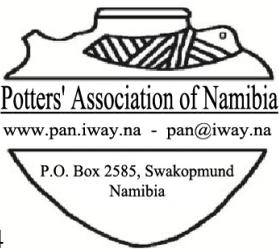
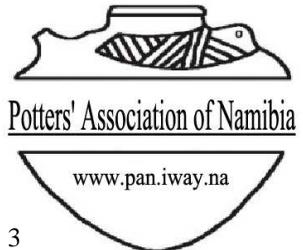
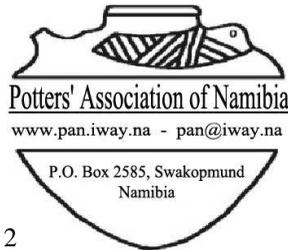
Making a Quilted Bowl

Use a bisque or plaster slump mould. Cut a disc of clay to form the base of the bowl and place it in mould. Place coloured clay elements (coils, slabs, shapes) into the mould. Secure each piece with slip or water and smooth the bond with a rubber kidney. When the bowl is suitably leather hard, it can be demoulded and feet or a foot ring added. It is important to let the item dry VERY slowly to leather hard stage, to ensure that the elements are well bonded together.

When the bowl is just over leather hard, it can be scraped with a metal kidney to reveal the quilted pattern. Let the bowl dry VERY slowly until completely dry and sand with wire-wool. After the bisque firing the bowl should be sanded to clean up the pattern further. It can then be fired to maturing temperature or glazed and fired.

PAN Logo

Image is everything, and PAN is considering adapting the logo for various reasons, among these are practical reasons, but also to keep up with trends. As PAN have said before, the committee is there to service its members, therefore PAN would like to know what you think about some suggestions for the logo. Some suggestions have very minor adaptations, but the main considerations are to: retain the text in the positive space of the pot, losing the 'The' in the title and losing all other contact information, except for the email address or web address. Below are some ideas, but PAN would really appreciate any input from its members via email (pan@iway.na). PAN will have the logo redrawn by a professional graphic designer.



Re-affiliation to CSA:

If you choose to affiliate to CSA through PAN, you will receive the following additional benefits and conditions, to you usual membership:

- Each PAN member gets the option to affiliate at a fee of N\$30.00 p/year.
- The affiliation fee will be paid together with the membership fee to PAN
- Affiliated members can take part in CSA Exhibitions and workshops at CSA rates. (up to 50% less than a non-member)
- Affiliated members can take part in CSA Regional Exhibitions

Affiliation is completely optional and completely worthwhile. If you travel to RSA on a regular basis, or once in awhile, it can be a huge saving when attending workshops or demonstrations there.

PAN will have the option to hold the position of the National Chair, which includes: that the National Exhibition, for all CSA Regions, and the meeting of the National Council could be held in Namibia. The National Council will pay the cost to fly in the International Potter and an amount of N\$10 000.00 award money for the National Exhibition.

Membership Fees for 2011!!!

Ordinary Single Members: N\$ 320.00

Couple: N\$ 370.00

Bona-fide Students and Pensioners: N\$ 200.00

Affiliation to CSA (Additional to any membership): N\$ 30.00

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A big thank you to the following renewals received:

Lesley Crawford, Windhoek; Mariki Grobler, Swakopmund; Gisela Knupp, Windhoek; Gerda Stahl, Windhoek; Betsie van Rensburg, Swakopmund, Rosi Praetorius, Windhoek.

The following renewals are due:

April:

Ralph & Genie Albrecht, Windhoek; Ebbie Boshoff, Otavi; Birgit & Gernot Grasser, Windhoek; Daleen Holz, Tsumeb; John Hunter, Windhoek; Uschi Richter, Windhoek; Elsa Stipp, Windhoek; Anita Zimny, Windhoek

May:

Karin Ramachers, Omaruru.

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YOUR ADDRESS OR OTHER CONTACT DETAILS!
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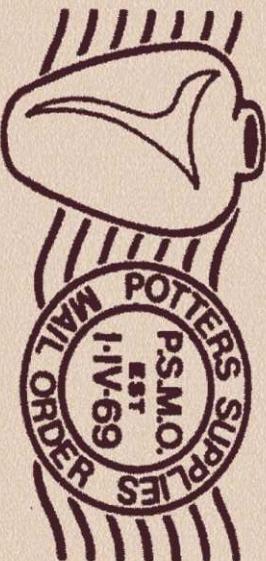
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Factory Shop

We have opened up a Factory Shop in Brackenfell industrial just off the N1, on the opposite side of Cape Gate shopping centre, Okavango road. The new Factory Shop has room for a studio and we'll be sending out notices of workshops and product demonstrations. Call us or mail us on reinders@kilnsandclay.com so that we can add you to our mailing list.

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9am to 1pm**

For your Information

Please note our events for 2011

April

Submit Entries for Taiwan Biennale, Sunday 10th,
more info at:

[http://competition.ceramics.tpc.gov.tw/en-us/ID/Informat/
Index/55.htm](http://competition.ceramics.tpc.gov.tw/en-us/ID/Informat/ Index/55.htm)

Workshop: Throwing repeat ware, teapots and cane handles
by Jacques Jansen van Vuuren, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
16th & 17th Sharon's Studio, Swakopmund

Exhibition Opening: Carola Lorck & Betsie van Rensburg,
THURSDAY 21st Fine Art Gallery, Swakopmund, Closing
28.05.11

May

Pottery Video Evening, FRIDAY 20th, Anita Zimny's House,
(2 Xena Str. Ludwigsdorf), Windhoek (Please confirm atten-
dance by 18.05.11, cell: 081 280 2527)

Workshop: Throwing repeat ware, teapots and cane handles
by Jacques Jansen van Vuuren, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
21th & 22th (Whk, Venue to be confirmed)

Raku on the Beach, SATURDAY 28th. Somewhere on the
beach in Swakopmund (Venue to be Confirmed)
Email pan@iway.na for more info

June

For your Information Cont.

Exhibition Opening: *Spiced by Nature* - Jacques Jansen van Vuuren & Susanne Blochberger, FRIDAY 3rd Fine Art Gallery, Swakopmund,

Clay Fest Ceramics SA, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 4th & 5th, JHB

July

Bank Windhoek Triennial, SATURDAY 16th
<http://www.bankwindhoekarts.com.na/>

August

Pottery Video Evening, Wednesday 10th,
Swakopmund

September

Bank Windhoek Kidz Fun Fair, FRIDAY-SUNDAY 16-18th Windhoek (Helpers needed, please contact Betsie v Rensburg Tel. 064 - 462930)

November

PAN Biennale, Thursday 3-25th Studio 77, Old Breweries Complex, Windhoek

Workshop: John Higgins, biennale guest judge from the UK, FRIDAY to SUNDAY 4-6th,
Windhoek