May 2014

Volume 16, 2/2014

Potters' Association of Namibia

www.pan.iway.na

Newsletter

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.

John Hunter Teapot

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Your Executive Committee:

Chair & Treasurer:
Carola Lorck
Cell. 081 298 7274
lorckc@iway.na

Secretary:
Betsie van Rensburg
Cell. 081 279 5927
fischreiher@iway.na

Memberships:
Anita Zimny
Cell: 081 280 2527
dams.zim@iway.na

Mail Administrator:
Mariki Grobler
Tel. 064 - 404695 (h)
mariki.grobler@live.com

Additional:
Beate Schindler
Cell: 081 208 3501
Uschi Bauer
Cell: 081 280 9833
Maryke Maree
Cell: 081 461 6926
Izaan Pauw
Cell: 081 692 0963

For submissions or enquiries E-mail to:
pan@iway.na

Next newsletter deadline

15 June 2014

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Members, the year is striding on in huge steps; the first quarter is taken and I have the feeling that I haven't managed to complete half of what I have planned to get done so far. But I'm sure we all are in the same boat; the good thing about this is that we are all busy and are not sitting idly around.

In March we had a successful throwing workshop presented by John Hunter at his plot in Nubuamis and a well-attended AGM. Please read the newsletter to find out which changes have been decided upon and voted for at the AGM. Uschi Becker has written about John's workshop and I'm sure that one or other potter is very envious that they couldn't attend when they read about this.

Once again I would like to remind everyone of the Bank Windhoek Trienniale, which takes place again this year at the NAGN. The entry date is 11 July, please diaries and have your piece ready by then. It would be great to have a number of ceramic pieces exhibited at this big exhibition.

Another big exhibition planned this year is the National Exhibition opening in November in Cape Town. Please remember that you, as a PAN member and affiliated to CSA, are able to participate. Let's try and put Namibia on the map by having some of our ceramic pieces exhibited at this outstanding exhibition.

For now I want to wish you perfect firings getting all those pots ready and having fun making everyone of them.

Warm regards from a lovely Swakopmund.

Membership News

At the last AGM it was voted to change the membership cycle. From now on it will run from the 1stMarch 2014 until 28thFebruary 2015. All members will receive an invoice from Anita, our membership's coordinator, with the amount due by you until February 2015. From now on, please remember to pay your annual membership each year in March. This will make our co-ordination of members so much easier. Your co-operation will be very much appreciated in order to assist us with the smoother running of PAN.

We have good news for you: the membership fees stay the same for this year

Membership Fees 2014 !!!

Ordinary Single Members: N$ 320.00

Couple: N$ 370.00

Bona-fide Students and Pensioners: N$ 200.00

Please e-mail your name and payment advice to pan@iway.na, once you have made your payment. It's very difficult to trace a payment without a name.

WE welcome the following new members to PAN

Windhoek: Irene Barrion, Agnes Kleyenstueber, Shimi Matheus

Otjiwarongo: Elize Niewoudt

PAYMENTS:

The annual membership fee can be paid either by posting a cheque to us or depositing it directly into our account at: *Standard Bank, Swakopmund Branch #082172, Current Account #240211073*

Please fax the deposit form together with completed membership form to: *088643215*

PAN AGM 15.03.14 at Nubuamis, Brakwater, Windhoek

On Saturday 15.03.14 PAN members gathered at John's home for the Annual General Meeting. We had well attended meeting and some new matters were discussed and put into action. Here I would like to inform our members of some changes in the association. If you require more detail on the AGM, please contact me and I will forward the minutes to you.

Motions to be considered and passed:

1. Removal of Biennale Exhibition pieces during the Exhibition:

PAN has the policy that no exhibits on the exhibition were allowed to be removed before the end of the exhibition. With the last exhibition it happened again that tourists wanted to buy pieces and take them along immediately. Carola could not give the gallery consent to do this, as this would break the rules of the exhibition. By this practise the artist and the Gallery lost the opportunity of a good sale. After a lengthy discussion and voting the following decision was made:

Purchased exhibition pieces may be removed from the exhibition if bought by a foreigner (not residing in Namibia and departing from Namibia before the closure of the exhibition); proof of their air ticket must be shown; The pieces must stay on the exhibition for at least 7 days after the opening of the exhibition; if an award winning piece is sold it will be replaced with a A4 size framed photograph, the costs of the photo and the frame will be covered by the buyer.

2. Workshop Selection (posed by Meryl Barry):

Meryl Barry asked that we should maybe have a sculptor workshop. Carola said any suggestions for workshops with possible artists/potters to invite are more than welcome. A request was made that a list of the DVD's in the PAN collection must be published in the Newsletter. Meryl also suggested that one of these DVD's should be shown at the Theatre School once a year. John Hunter suggested a workshop by Ruthanne Tudball, who will be travelling in RSA during May 2014. Carola asked him to provide all the necessary info on the costs, kind of workshop, dates and then we can decide on it.

3. Memberships:

Anita Zimny posed that we change the payment dates of members to one specific month a year. By majority voting the meeting decided that all members' dates changes to 1 March in line with the financial year. All members will receive a notice that the payment date has moved to 1 March and will be requested to renew their membership now. Those who have need to pay later in the year will get a separate notice of the amount outstanding to cover the fee until end February 2015.

4. Kidz Fun Fair versus Paint a Plate:

Sarie Maritz posed that we have a Paint a Plate for the adults with the Kidz Fun Fair. After discussing the possibility, the meeting decided that the two events put together on the same dates and place would take too much for the small group of organisers to handle. The "Paint a Plate" fundraising option will be used at a later stage again.

The new PAN Executive Committee was voted and the following members took up position:
Executive Chair and Treasurer: Carola Lorck
Secretary: Betsie van Rensburg
Mail Administrator: Mariki Grobler
Memberships: Anita Zimny

Volume 16, 2/2014

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Moments of Light

In light of the Moments of Light an exhibition of Miniatures organised by NAGN in aid of the Dias Machate Benefit Fund, I thought it would be interesting to investigate some potters who specialises in miniatures. With a little more time, I think we could have had quite a bit of fun creating real miniatures for the exhibition.

Some potters specialise in replicating life size pottery as smaller versions thereof, as illustrated on this link to Almeda Pottery: http://www.almedapottery.com/process.html

Under the above link, there's 5 short video clips where Jon demonstrates how the miniatures are thrown and trimmed. Really interesting to watch. He even Raku fires the post as the finish. The one-of-a-kind pots are literally thumb size!

I was wondering why one would want to do this? It turns out it's not just about making miniatures for a doll's house. According to miniature potter Troy Schmidt of Red Dragon Pottery, the idea of these miniatures is '*to create true to scale pottery that is aesthetically pleasing as well as "functional" -- walls of even thickness, trimmed foot rings, open spouts, removable lids*' the same qualities he would look for in a large pot. Some potters, like Jane Graber Miniature Pottery, hand paints the most delicate patterns and figures onto the miniatures.

But miniatures don't necessarily have to be miniature. As with the exhibition brief, anything small in size can be seen as a miniature. I found the following works to be quite inspiring as smaller sculptural pieces:

- Tanaka Kazuhiko's mini sculptures are beautiful and I can recommend an image web search on his name. "*Tanaka Kazuhiko's Wind People, Wind Towers and other mini clay sculptures capture a feeling – figurative poetry in motion*".

- Playful, fun sculptures by Coco & Pompon, combines ceramic, wood and textile to create creatures and objects using a variety of recycled, vintage and natural materials. Blog: http://www.theblogofcocoetpompon.blogspot.com/

- Claire Malhoney from CRM Ceramics produces small tiles and pebbles with beautifully detailed designs. The tiles are hand decorated with wax resist, paper stencil and limited edition screen print. The pebbles and touch stones are constructed from press moulded porcelain and individually decorated with inlay, impressions and screen print. For more visit http://www.crmceramics.co.uk/page4.htm

Bridget Bodenham creates colourful original pieces, both functional and sculptural. Although technically not miniatures, they are smaller pieces. For more visit http://bridgetbodenham.com.au/works/

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. 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 unsuitable material, submitted for publication.

CONTENTS OF PAN VIDEO & DVD LIBRARY

Our small PAN video library has got some very interesting videos and DVD's which has been seen by a few members so far. Following is a short description of each one of them.

VIDEOS:

The BEGINNERS SERIES

GETTING STARTED WITH CLAY with Graham Sheeham (60 minutes)

Beginner potters are introduced to low-tech approaches to clay arts which have been used by potters for thousands of years. In the video he shows digging and preparation of clay, demonstrates some modeling- and slab techniques for making simple hand-built forms as well as building and firing a wood-fired kiln.

BEGINNING HANDBUILDING with Graham Sheeham (60 minutes)

Beginner potters are introduced to basic handbuilding techniques like pinch pots, coil- and slab building methods making 5 different pots with increasing complexity levels. Details about clay preparation, joining of different pieces and how glazes can be used to decorate forms are demonstrated.

BEGINNING TO RAKU with Gordon Hutchens (60 minutes)

Potters are introduced to basic raku techniques, desirable properties of clays and clay preparation. Several bisque fired pots are decorated using techniques that take advantage of the unique characteristics of raku. A simple kiln is made with a 55 gallon drum. He shows how to manage the raku firing and how to perform the post-firing reduction for the distinctive raku effect.

Programs for **intermediate and advanced potters** by Robin Hopper

Series "FORM AND FUNCTION - CERAMIC AESTHETICS AND DESIGN"

This 5 program series emphasizes on how to make a wide range of pots that work well in the home.

ELEMENTS OF FORM (30 minutes)

Introduction and overview to form and design, geometric form, integrated form, proportion and relationships, the golden mean, mathematics and nature, organic form, classical form. Some functional considerations for pots that work well in the home.

LIDS AND TERMINATIONS (51 minutes)

This video shows how to design and make top and bottom terminations like lips, feet, lids, their styles and variations and how these details relate to the overall form of the pot. Extensive demonstrations with many examples are shown.

SPOUTS AND HANDLES (50 minutes)

How to design and make spouts (that pour well), finals and handles (that feel good to hold), and how these details adapt and contrast to the overall form are demonstrated. Extensive demonstrations on many examples are shown.

POTS FOR EATING AND DRINKING (36 minutes)

Design and making process of tableware (plates, bowls and drinking vessels such as mugs, cups and saucers, goblets and tea bowls) are demonstrated. Examples of a range of dinnerware styles are shown. Practical, functional ware is emphasised.

POTS FOR COOKING AND SERVING (50 minutes)

Design and making processes for pitchers, jugs, teapots, wine and liqueur decanters, sake bottles, sauce boats, casseroles, steamers, bakers, serving vessels and storage pots are demonstrated. Plenty of hands-on demonstrations and examples of work by many potters are reviewed.

Videos of different **WORKSHOPS HELD IN NAMIBIA** are also available.

ANDREW WALFORD WORKSHOP IN WINDHOEK DECEMBER 1991 (180 minutes)

2. JOHN GIBSON WORKSHOP IN WINDHOEK, OCTOBER 1991 **PART 1** (120 minutes)

3. JOHN GIBSON WORKSHOP IN WINDHOEK, OCTOBER 1991 **PART 2** (120 minutes)

4. JOHN HUNTER "THROWING TABLEWARE" WORKSHOP IN SWAKOPMUND 1999 (180 minutes)

5. ANN MARAIS "MAKING SLAB POTS AND SLIP & LUSTRE DECORATING" WORKSHOP IN SWAKOPMUND 2000 (180 minutes)

6. DAVID WALTERS WORKSHOP IN WINDHOEK , AUGUST 2000 (180 minutes)

*** Please note these workshop videos were taken by amateur cinematographers, and therefore quality is not perfect although content is still very instructive and invaluable. Order now the videos or DVD's from our library - they are really worthwhile to see.

DVD's:

1. "Making Marks, Ceramic Surface Decoration" by Robin Hopper 2 Disks (90min each)

2. "Handbuilding" with Mitch Lyons

3. "Creative Tile Making" by Angelica Pozo Disk I: Tile Preparation, Texture, Appliqué, Slip Decoration, Incised Deco. Disk II: Additive Sculpting, Underglaze, Cut Mosaic, Installation

4. "What if? Explorations with Texture and Soft Slabs" with Sandi Pierantozzi 2 Disks

Please send and e-mail to pan@iway.na if you are interested.

THROWING WORKSHOP by JOHN HUNTER
THEME: TEA POTS & SERVING VESSELS
DATE: Weekend of 15th and 16th March 2014

The first workshop this year took place on the 1000 hecter small-holding at Plot 4, Nubuamis, the premises of the Youth With a Mission (YWAM) Brakwater, Training Center outside Windhoek. It is the workplace and residence of John Hunter.

It was a lovely Saturday morning with humidity in the air from previous rainfall when the workshop started at 9:30hrs. Attending the workshop were approximately 14 students and interested potters from around Namibia.

Bio:

John Hunter is the Managing Director at Community Hope School, Katutura and has been a professional potter since 1968. He is from Los Angeles, California with many years of experience teaching pottery, lecturing and doing mission work. He studied ceramics at Penland School of Crafts under the tutelage of Cynthia Bringle in 1969-70 and still is influenced strongly by her teaching methods and work. In 1997 John and

his wife Suzanne moved to Namibia to work for YWAM teaching teachers and ministering to orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV. In 2005 the opened Community Hope School, Katutura, a primary school in the old Damara location.

Workshop:

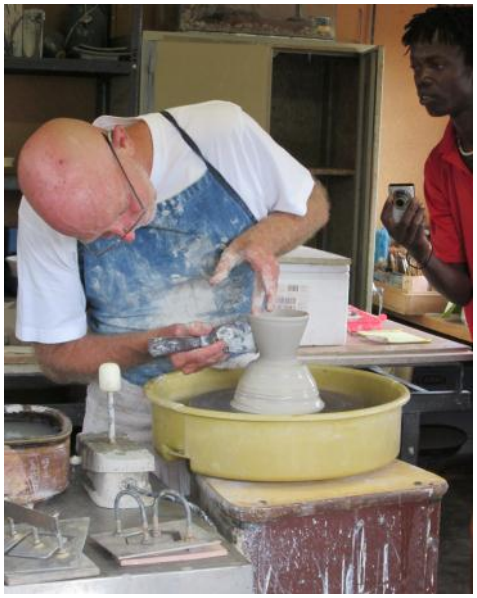
As John started wedging his clay into a shell form he explained the importance of preparing it for the wheel. Wedging this way removes air bubbles and readies the clay all the way through for wheel-work. If left to age anaerobic bacteria develops in a few months time as the moist clay matures. The older the clay the better it is to work with.

Inside the workshop John demonstrated how he has made over 5000 bowls to sell to raise funds for Community Hope School. A Bailey clay extruder mounted on the wall was fitted with a half circle die. Gabriel, his assistant showed us how the clay is put into the extruder and bowls are pressed out. Later in the day once the bowls have stiffened up the rim was trimmed and cleaned off and the inside impressed with a metal stamp that said “Hope Through Education.” They were then ready to dry and fire.

Then we started learning about wheel-work. John demonstrated centering and throwing “Off the Hump.” Then he wheel-wedged the clay holding his hands on both sides of the hump, locking his thumbs in the middle to keep a firm grip, bracing his arms on the side of his body while the wheel turned steadily.

Once the clay was centred he showed us how to throw cups and stems off the hump. These were assembled later into tall Communion chalices.

John then made some teapots. He faceted the bodies of the pots straight after throwing. The faceting was done with a cheese cutter for a bevelled pattern on the outside of each piece. This pattern



was used for the cups and goblets as well. After cutting the pots from the wheel with a twisted wire he dried his hands and lifted the teapots off onto the ware board. We were so amazed that it is possible to remove the newly thrown item immediately.

Thereafter, the master potter gave us a lecture and demo of his personal way of throwing the perfect fitting unique lid for a teapot, considering a shrinkage of 12.5%, making it a little smaller than the opening of the pot and rim. The lids were thrown in one piece off the hump. They were hollow and the knob was formed after the open pot was closed up.

To finish off he demonstrated how to throw the spout for the teapot as well. Again he did this from the same piece lump of clay that was already centered. Later when the pieces had been assembled after they were leather hard he pulled a handle directly off the back of the pot and the cups. Every item turned out a master piece! It is important to make sure each part adds to the whole and does not distract from the overall design.

John sells most of his bowls, tea pots, mugs and serving vessels in America where he holds a reputation as a well known potter. He also preaches in churches and collects money for Community Hope. His work is also available at his studio in Brakwater.

After a tea break with delicious cakes and sandwiches baked and prepared by Uschi Bauer and Anita Zimny, we got our chance to sit down at our wheels and practice what was shown to us earlier.

The rain surprised us and we had to move all the wheels into John's glazing area. This was a space of about 12m^2 covered with a roof, which had to fit 11 wheels. Well, we never complain

when it rains in Namibia and therefore everyone was quite happy sitting at own his dry little space. John suggested that everyone should practice to throw only cylinders and by that perfect his / her throwing skills.

There was great enthusiasm, concentration, and laughter once each one got busy with his own clay creation. John assisted and gave tips or even a helping hand in the meantime.

For lunch we gathered on the patio of the Hunter's house surrounded by trees and the sounds of birds everywhere and the smell of rain in the air. The afternoon was spent at the wheel with all the participants trying to make what John had demonstrated that morning. The

day was concluded with a proceeding of the AGM that evening.

each of us is the work of your hands."

It was another beautiful, slightly cloudy day with a moderate warm temperature. John began by showing us how to throw plates and pasta bowls.

To conclude the day John explained in detail how his own, self-built wood fired salt kiln functions. He fires to cone 13 in a reduction atmosphere with his own home made glazes, always experimenting with new techniques and mixtures.

15:30hrs. Everyone left content and with a smile on his face, in a good spirit, having enjoyed the wonderful potting weekend in a harmonious atmosphere, thanks to John's calm and friendly personality.

Many thanks as well to Carola, Anita, Uschi Bauer and Betsie for their good organization and food.

Sunday, 16th March was devoted to more practicing. John started the day with one of his favourite phrases from the Bible, ISA 64 :8, "But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay and You are the Potter and

Since some of the group had to travel back home as far as Swakopmund the workshop ended early in the afternoon around

Once again we had a wonderful weekend. Many thanks also to John presenting this workshop and thanks to his lovely wife, Suzanne, for the warm hearted hospitality.

By Uschi Becker

PAN EVENTS 2014

MAY

10.05.14 Demonstration Throwing Workshop by Ruthanne Tudball from England in Swakompund.

JUNE

Entries to be handed in for Bank Windhoek Triennale

OCTOBER

17.10.14 Entries to be submitted for CSA National Exhibition

NOVEMBER

16.11.14 Opening of CSA National Exhibition * Cape Town
22.11.14 Demonstration Workshop by Magdalena Odundo in Windhoek

Windhoek & Swakopmund DVD evenings

Dates to be confirmed