POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

The Nambian Potter's Newsletter

PREPARING FOR OUR MUGG&MUFFINS!

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.

Welcome from the chair

As the weather is cooling, days are getting shorter and nights longer, the time of the year that many potters dread is upon us. However, we all know that some exercise is great, to warm up our stiff joints and cold bodies. And what better way to exercise, than by wedging some clay!

If you're wondering: 'hmmmm what can I make?' Here is a wonderful suggestion: MUGS...lots and lots of mugs. Not only are mugs a great warmup exercise in preparation for making your fantastic Biennale pieces, but they will help us at our fundraiser for the year, happening on the 27th of July, at the Tannery Market. This market takes place once a month in Windhoek, and is fast becoming THE cool market. At the event we want to sell mugs...I mean, who doesn't love a handmade mugs and muffins. We have teamed up with SlowTown coffee, who will provide the warm beverages. In addition to mugs, we need muffins and time from you.

At the event we will also have a mini-exhibition, to tantalize people for our Biennale in August.

If you have a beautiful piece or two, not your Biennale entries of course, that you would like to exhibit please get in touch with us.

Once you are well warmed up making mugs and trying our muffin recipes, you can work on your biennale pieces. Remember entry is mid-August and this year the prizes are HUGE, totaling N$ 36 000!!!
In addition to the two Clementina v/d Walt workshops this year, we have managed to get Caroline Winn, from the UK to present a workshop in Windhoek and one in Swakopund. We will give you more info on that in our next newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, created by Agathe & Marco, our new Social Media and Newsletter gurus. On a personal level, I would like to thank the entire committee for their dedicated work and enthusiasm for PAN, and agreeing to serve on the committee again. I know it's tough to find enough time in a day to do what we have to, let alone still make time to volunteer on a committee
All the best and happy potting,

Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren

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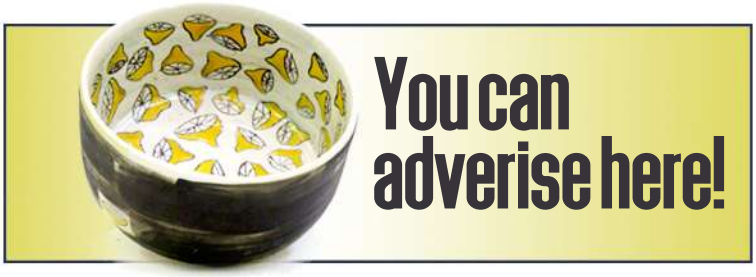

Meet the committee of 2019

Chair: Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren

Treasurer: Estee Cuff

Secretary: Renate Williamson

Social media: Annabelle Venter

Social media/newsletter: Agathe Dagutat & Marco de Wet

Agathe, Marco, Renate, Jacqui, Estee and Annabelle

Betsie's Decorative Workshop

report done by Carola Lorck

On Saturday 27 April a group of 11 clay enthusiastic ladies met at Die Tonfabrik in Swakopmund to attend a decorating workshop presented by Betsie van Rensburg. It was great to see some of the Windhoek potters, who didn't spare the trouble to make their way to the coast.

Betsie started her demonstration by showing us how she makes her platters with different images and slip. First a slab of clay is covered with a layer of slip. If required then a pattern material eg. A cloth doily or similar can be rolled into the clay before the slip is put on. Further marks are made into the wet slip and then let to stand to dry a bit. However be aware not to dry to too much as you need to roll the slip into the clay to "fix" it. If the sheen on the slip has disappeared put a sheet of newspaper onto your slap and roll over it. The creases of the paper will make further marks, which makes the whole peace even more interesting. Leave the paper on the slab and then transfer the slap into a slump mould or over a hump mould. Or else cut as required to make a cylinder from which you can build different vessels. If you build a cylinder place a piece of plastic over the design to prevent any smudging or distortion of the patterns.

A piece with a cloth doily and covered with slip

Everyone getting started with their first piece

Be aware not to through away any off cuts when you put your slab into or over your mould as you will need those for the second method Bestie showed us.

Betsie explaining her working process

The second method as just as interesting and fun as the first one. Here you once more roll out a slab of clay and brush slip onto it. You can use one colour or mix your colours depending on your final design. If you have off cut pieces from your first piece you can use them or else you make another slab where you paint slip on. Then cut out pieces from the second slab and lay them onto the first slab.

With this method interesting motives can be created or just pattern "drawn". If all motives have been placed cover it with a sheet of newspaper and roll over it. The cut out pieces will be rolled into the first slab and form one even slab.

Now you can take this slab and once more drape in or over moulds or build cylinders from which other vessels can be made.

The second piece in process. The cut out pieces are put onto the slip

Cover the slip with a newspaper and then roll over it.

After the first demonstration everyone was very eager to get going and started on rolling out clay and putting slip on it. It was very interesting to see what everyone had in mind and at the end of the day many beautiful pieces were created.

In the late afternoon the studio was cleaned up very quickly and everyone left for home with a very satisfying feeling and very inspired for their next projects. Maybe the one or other Biennale piece will come off this workshop.

Some beautiful creations made at the workshop.

Thank you Betsie to make yourself available and share your knowledge with us. It was informative and very inspiring.

Hi Potters of Namibia! This newsletter is brought to you through the combined efforts of Marco and Agathe. We are really honoured and excited to be part of your community.
Please let us know if you want your pottery classes advertised in the newsletter. If there are any comments or critique about the newsletter, or any ideas you have - please feel free to contact us @ 0812391646.

If you want your work to feature on our social media pages - just send us everything you want us to post.
And please, go follow and like our Facebook and Instagram pages!

@namibianceramics

@Potters' Association of Namibia

Jacqui exhibiting at the Omaruru Art Fair

OMARURU ART FAIR

"I have found clay to be one of the most profound ways of subtly expressing aspects of my being that I am otherwise not willing to blatantly expose; communicating what is rather obvious, but concealed at the same time. This is never a preconceived notion for me, but rather a combination of techniques that subconsciously manifests into an extension of my being. From a physical aspect: clay is one of the very few mediums that is rather worthless as a material, but through artistic transformation and the firing process, becomes a ceramic object that is everlasting." - Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren.

Claybright® Underglazes

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CLAYBRIGHT®

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Tel: +27-21-701 1320/1

e-mail:
info@capepotterysupplies.co.za
web:
www.capepotterysupplies.co.za

Product of South Africa

All tiles photographed where fired to 1200°C on a porcelain tile

Mugs & Muffins

Good morning PAN members!

We hope this finds you all well and busy producing your best work ever for the Biennale!
As a run up to the Biennale we are holding our annual fundraising event at the Tannery Market in Windhoek on Saturday, the 27th July. We've had to change the date in accordance with the Tannery Market's recently revised market dates for the year, so apologies for that.
Our hope is that you will be in full swing producing beautiful pots and can add a couple of mugs to your to-do list. This does give you a bit more time to get mugs ready for this event, as the alternative date would have been in June which is too soon for many of you.

By holding this event at the Tannery, we hope to raise awareness of our upcoming Big Exhibition especially amongst a crowd that we might not have access to normally. We also plan to have two demonstrations during the event, which lasts from 9-3. Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren will do wheel work demonstrations and Annabelle Venter will demonstrate some hand building techniques.

We'd like to view this as the first event in the Biennale line-up this year and a chance to reach out to the public and whip up interest. We are going to need every member's support to make this a success and we're counting on you to help us!

Saturday 27 JULY TANNERY MARKET MUGS & MUFFINS	8h-10h (set up)	10h-12h	12h-14h	14h-16h (dismantle)
Helper 1				
Helper 2				
Helper 3				
Demo 1				
Demo 2				

We are now kindly requesting a little commitment from you to offer the following:

- MUGS – lots of them and an average size of holding 200-250mls of fluid. We plan to make one price for all so it helps if they are standardised. Not too small, and not extra large.
- MUFFINS – at least as many as we have mugs (to give out free to each mug buyer)
- INGREDIENTS – if you don't bake and don't have time to make mugs, how about considering a cash donation towards ingredients for the bakers and makers?
- TIME – at least two members at a time to man the stall, excluding the members doing demonstrations. It's fun if there are several of us as we can talk longer to our supporters!
- INTEREST – to come and visit the market and support the Association please!

You might even find a favourite mug for yourself there....

Thank you in advance!
Kind regards
The P.A.N committee.

Inspiration page

S.A. judge for 2019 biennale - Clementina van der Walt

"Seeking the Sacred in the Ordinary"

""My intention is to 'seek the sacred in the ordinary'.

In the 21st century, we are increasingly being catapulted into this cyber age of information overload. Making contemplative and utilitarian objects by hand forms a necessary antidote to the above. The ceramic discipline, with cultural and historical links to rituals of everyday life, encompasses society, religion and philosophy. The archetypal significance of the home, as a point where our spiritual and earthy lives interconnect is where I have attempted to explore these ideas.

My aesthetic inspiration is drawn from the patterns, colours and textures in the urban African and rural landscapes.

Applying techniques of press moulding, casting and throwing I use earthenware clays, slips and underglazes.""

Information found: https://clementina.co.za/

Internationally acclaimed - Caroline Winn to join us in Namibia

Caroline has worked as a ceramicist since the early 1990s, although her interest and involvement in pottery goes back to her childhood. Her work has been sold to collections throughout the UK and overseas and exhibited in galleries in London and Cornwall.

Caroline has also taught ceramics extensively during her career. She has run courses for Dulwich Picture Gallery, the National Trust, The Art Academy London, St Paul's Girls' School and a wide range of other institutions in the UK.

In her earlier career, Caroline worked as a curator for South London Art Gallery, the Tate Gallery in London and private art galleries in the UK, Hong Kong and Australia.

Information found: http://www.carolinewinn.co.uk/artist

"Caroline's smaller pieces are an encapsulation of memory and the human spirit. Her unique larger sculptures typically combine figurative and abstract forms and incorporate a mix of clays, other materials such as found metal, and layers of slips and glazes that she has developed through experimentation."

We're reading:

Digital magazines is the easiest way of connecting with Potters and their ideas right across the world. We love reading through these:

https://pocketmags.com/claycraft-magazine
and
https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/daily

Join our member whatsapp group!

Message Agathe @ 0812391646 to join!

Tips to photograph your artwork

1. Create a seamless backdrop. For example a table pushed against a wall with a grey paper as a background.

2. Use natural light if possible, but not direct sunlight. If you do want to photograph your pottery outside, do it in either early morning or late afternoon, when our Namibian sun is least potent. Use side lighting if possible.

3. Whether you are using a camera or a cellphone - keep it steady. Use a tripod or something to rest your camera on. Keeping it steady and in a fixed position will sharpen the focus on your work.

CAROLA LORCK CERAMICS

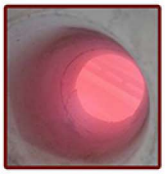
Carola is an experienced potter who has been producing ceramics for many years in her studio here in Swakopmund
Find her unique Namibian ceramics at *The Trendhaus* in the courtyard of Otto Günter in 30 Tobias Hainjeko Street.
Commissions are welcome. Please contact Carola with your request

Mobile: +264 81 298 7274; e-mail: lorckc@iway.na
3 Tobias Hainjeko St, Trendhaus, Otto Günther Courtyard, Swakopmund

Die Tonfabrik

Die Tonfabrik offers customised pottery classes with something for everyone
We run year-round classes for adults, and special holiday classes for children
Celebrate your child's birthday with a pottery party,
or gather your girlfriends together for a fun pottery evening!
Contact us with your request and let clay bring us together!

Mobile: +264 - 81 298 7274 e-mail: lorckc@iway.na
30 Einstein St, Swakopmund



Working for the 2019 Biennale

(Notes from Sharon Flewellen's personal clay journal)

It's time to START NOW and yes! .... You are good enough to enter! To build up your self-confidence just do what you enjoy doing most and do what you do best. Trust your instincts. Picasso famously said: "Inspiration finds you when at work..."

PREPARE MENTALLY .....
Decide what you want to make and in what overall category (e.g. functional, decorative, traditional, sculptural, etc) and do detailed sketches of each. Focus on a basic theme or concept to be continuous throughout everything you make; this will evolve into your own personal style. Never copy another's work. Study a piece you admire, determine what makes it successful and extract an element of it to develop into your own.... find the "Wow Factor"!

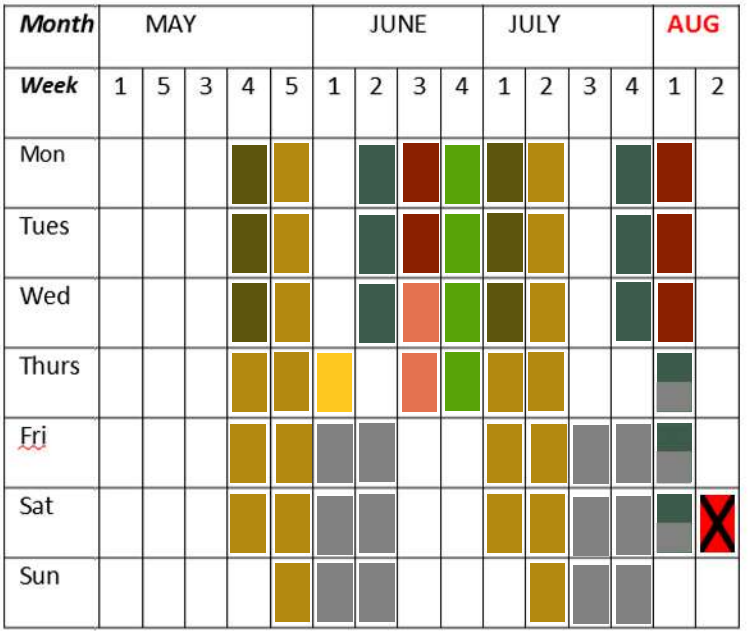
SET A GOAL ..... Commit to completing everything within a set time frame. Plan a strict schedule, including breaks; work backwards from the deadline date, planning for every eventuality. Be realistic and don't put last-minute pressure on yourself by not allowing enough time! Draw up a detailed timetable/timeline/progress sheet with columns showing daily, weekly, monthly tasks required for all the necessary processes. This helps one focus, gives direction and reduces stress.

REFINE TECHNIQUE ..... Picture the finished item mentally before starting. Explore various methods; choose the correct clay for the project; settle on only two variations of design, construction and decoration, etc. Keep craftsmanship and aesthetics always uppermost in mind! Don't waste time ... dump it if it doesn't work. Do not fall into the "failure trap" of only making one item – make more... make twenty! Practise makes perfect!

BE CRITICAL ..... Do not be "precious" about every item you make - be strict: submit only your very best! Carefully assess everything you make throughout all the processes. Ask outsiders for an opinion if you can't critically assess your own work. (But don't ask friends or family - they love you and will not wish to hurt your feelings with a truly unbiased opinion.)

Never underestimate the buying public – they are very discerning when it comes to opening up their purses and will not easily buy work that is second-rate. Exhibition entries that are obviously flawed will not fool the selectors either so don't downgrade yourself by entering imperfect work.

DO NOT BE DEJECTED if your work is not accepted for a judged exhibition! Selectors have been chosen specifically for their experience in a particular field and are as objective and unbiased as is humanely possible in performing their duty. Nevertheless judging is always subjective and merely one person's opinion. Do not take the "non-selection" of your exhibition entry as personal criticism – the selector does not know you! He/she is judging your work, not you the maker. Constructive criticism is a valuable learning opportunity! Take it in good spirit, learn from it and keep working!



Decorating

Drying

Firing & Cooling

Labelling & Packaging

Decorating & Glazing

Sorting & Assessing

Planning/ Designing/ preparing materials

Making

PAN calendar for 2019

JAN

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May 18 Raku workshop with Jacqui
May 20 PAN Newsletter Autumn Edition

July 27 Mugs&Muffins Fundraiser at the Tannery Market
July 29 PAN Newsletter Winter Edition

Aug 10 Submission of work for Biennale
Aug 15 Biennale exhibition opening night
Aug 17 Clementina workshop in Windhoek
Aug 24 Clementina workshop in Swakopmund

Oct Caroline Winn workshops Windhoek/Swakopmund
Oct 21 PAN Newsletter Spring Edition

Nov 23 Exhibition students of Jacqui and Frieda

Dec 16 PAN Newsletter Summer Short Edition

We'd like to wish you a very productive and happy potting period in the next few months as you prepare for the Biennale. And of course we are really looking forward to seeing you at our next event, Mugs and Muffins!

With best wishes from your committee!