POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

newsletter

JULY 2021

LETTER FROM THE chair

Dear Potters

Firstly I want to send my heartfelt condolences to everyone who lost someone, due to this terrible thing that is still going on. Perhaps it's my naivety, but last year this time, I couldn't possibly imagine the persistence of COVID, and how it would change our daily lives. As moments of joy can spark momentous creativity, so too can this dark time maybe inspire us to create works of art, that help deal with sorrow.
During our AGM this year, we were optimistic that we can make up for the lack of activities last year. Unfortunately it seems as if that will not be the case. We are however hard at work to try and arrange an exhibition towards the end of the year. We are hopeful that this can take place at the Craft Center, but we are also negotiating with other venues.

We have also not forgotten about the video evenings. As soon as restrictions relax again, we most certainly start hosting.

As a fun activity later this year, we plan to do an Obvara firing. This is an ancient technique, with quite spectacular results. More details will follow soon.

During the AGM we were fortunate to gain 2 committee members: Uschi Ramakhutla and Rosi Stevenson. Sadly we had to say goodbye to Annabelle shortly after the AGM. Her contribution to all things PAN related will be missed. Thank you for the diehards who agree to stay on: me as chairlady, Estee Cuff (treasurer) and Renate Williamson (secretary).

Lastly I would like to thank all the members who paid their annual membership fees. I understand that it may seem as if it's in vain, but I assure you it is not. Even though we cannot with certainty plan events, workshops etc., we still have running costs, website etc. We also enlisted the help of a professional graphic & layout designer Andrea Horsthemke, who put together this wonderfully new look newsletter. All the committee members also pay full membership fees, and do not get compensated in any way. Thus I want to urge you to pay your membership fees, if you have not yet done so. Understandably, it is hard times too, for some more than others. If you cannot pay your annual fees, please get in contact with us, and we can work something out.

I wish you all a healthy and happy potting time.

Stay well and safe

Jacqui

THE **START** OF A new life.

2020 was a tiring year for absolutely every one of us. The world-wide Covid 19 pandemic forced us to stay at home, socially distance ourselves from our family and friends, be super careful to wash our hands constantly and wear masks when we go shopping. Many, if not most of us, were asked to work from home wherever possible and it did not take long for businesses to take a financial plunge. Many lost their jobs and their livelihoods. I was one of them. After 35 years working for the same company, I was informed that I would be retrenched at the end of December 2020.

What a shock to the system! I spend many, many sleepless nights wondering how I would be able to carry on. I was too old to seek new employment and I felt too young to retire completely.

But then they say that every cloud has a silver lining.

My son and my daughter-in-law have been amazingly supportive. There was no doubt in their minds that the best thing would be for me to sell up in Windhoek and move to Luderitz to be close to my granddaughter. So, after millions of tears, a lot of planning and dreaming and chatting, I finally sold my

Margit, Anja and Grubi busy at work in the old studio.

Margit, Grubi, Estee and Emma, our little helper, at the final pit firing event.

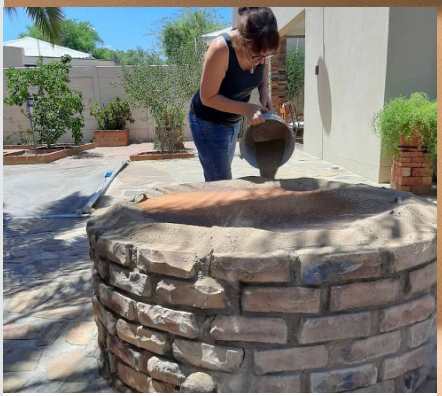
Let the magic begin.

house. My students were devastated that our wonderful hours together would come to an end, but they too supported my new venture. We had a final pit firing event and then I started packing. What I could not take with I sold, many things I gave away and then it was time to leave my home of so many years.

I have now been living in Luderitz since the 23rd of January and I have been made to feel so welcome by everyone. The people here are friendly and caring, everyone is super helpful and the service one gets from the shops and service providers is amazing. I am in the process of building a little house and once finished, I will re-open my studio here. I have even treated myself to a new toy! A brand new direct drive pottery wheel! How amazing is that! I have not had an opportunity to use it yet, but as soon as my studio is ready, I will get potting. A number of people have indicated that they would be interested in pottery lessons and I will, for the first time ever, start to work with children. A daunting task, but one I am sure I will love.

So, as you can see, all has worked out perfectly for me. I am happier now than I have been in a very long time. I can say in all honesty: I have come home. And I love it here.

Yours in potting,
Renate



Estee covering up the pit

My new toy!

Friedrich and Renate taking out the pots

MITCHELL M. gatsi.

My name is Mitchell Milton Gatsi. I am a diploma graduate as a 3D sculpting artist from College of the Arts and Crafts. I have represented my sculptures in two solo exhibitions, where I stood a chance to win first and second place(s) in the sculpture category and I have taken part in well-known exhibitions, such as the Potters Association of Namibia (PAN) Biennale and Bank Windhoek Triennale.

Today I am a ceramic (hand building) teacher and lecturer, both at the University of Namibia (UNAM) and I have recently opened up my own studio where all level of skill individuals are welcome to come a learn and, mainly, have a load of fun while creating their pieces.

My classes provide the most basic ceramic construction techniques and easy to use tools. The main goal for the classes, apart from learning and understanding the medium, is to create a relaxing and high street free environment through class jokes. The students are welcome to create any object either functional, decorative or both but under my supervision and advice in how they can best build their ideas to best stand a chance to survive through the drying process and firing process in the kiln.

ABOUT THE ARTIST
MITCHELL MILTON GATSI

Mitchell Gatsi (b. 1992, Zambia) is a sculptor of clay and ceramics whose delicately shaped creations primarily reflect moods and moments of single motherhood, often complemented with the lingering presence of a bittersweet youth.

Working with elements of surrealism, Gatsi's sculptures are presented as fine ornamental objects united with a human form, combining functional art with an empowering air of innocence and beauty. His technique involves pinching shapes out of clay, which provides the artworks with a stable foundation, but simultaneously makes it fragile and light, allowing the protruding figures infinite room for self-expression. With a preference for working with darker shades of clay to reveal more depth, his figures portray intricate facial features that disclose a subtle symbolism, predominantly of women standing up for themselves, demanding respect and breaking down a deeply ingrained patriarchal culture. As such, Gatsi's objects project a slight energy of abandonment and pain, but also that of strength and joy. Speaking of past and present realities, it presents the viewer with an opportunity to unmask inner feelings through the revelation of an often-unseen reality, while simultaneously presenting an opportunity for change and hope for the future.

Gatsi was raised between Zambia and the United Kingdom. He relocated to Namibia to attend high school, where after he obtained a Diploma in Visual Art from the College of Arts in Windhoek. A multi-visual artist who creates with the intention to pass on a culture of creativity to the youth, Gatsi's been teaching ceramics part-time at UNAM since 2017. He also practices in comic illustration and mural paintings, and lives and works in Windhoek.

Date of exhibition:
EM'BRACE by Mitchell M Gatsi.

The opening was on Saturday the **13th of March 2021**

ROSI stevenson.

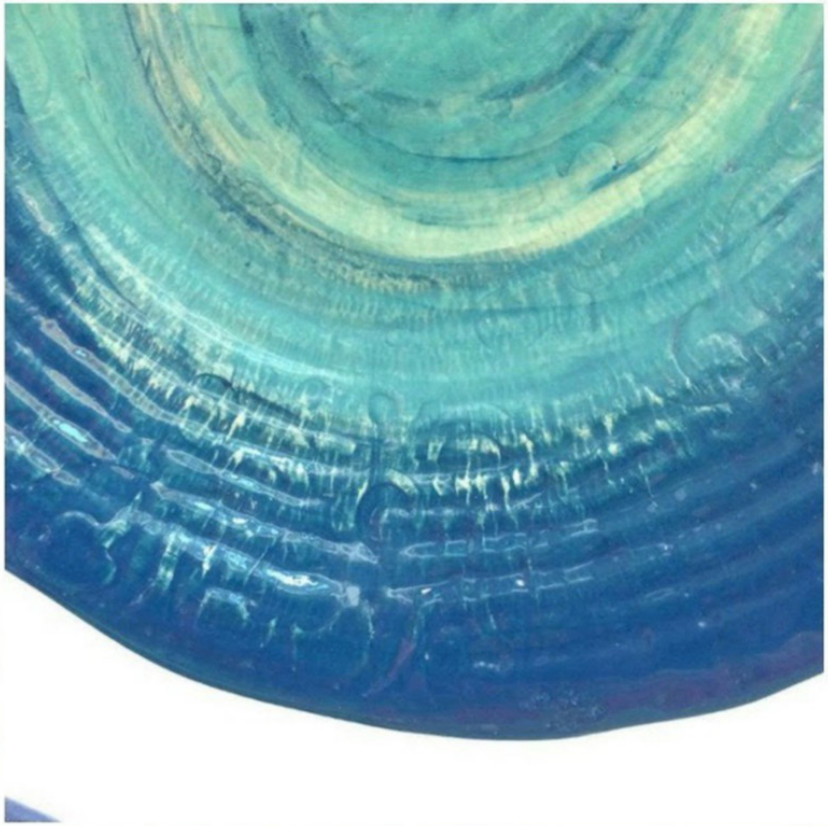
About seven years ago I finally made one of my cherished dreams come true by enrolling in a pottery class. I stopped making excuses and realised that I just have to make time. It was a great decision, I've never looked back since and have thoroughly enjoyed working with the magical elements of clay, glazing and firing -- the possibilities are endless. I love the creative process, constantly learning new skills, experimenting with new techniques, and being aware that there is so much more to learn. So far it has been an enriching journey.

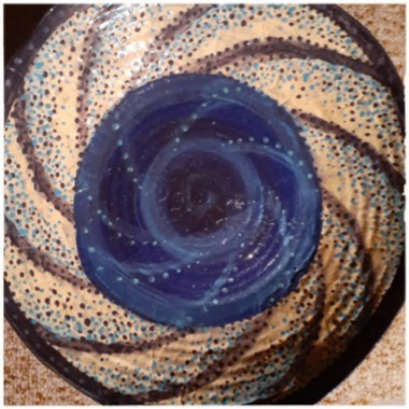
The pottery I create finds use in our day to day lives.

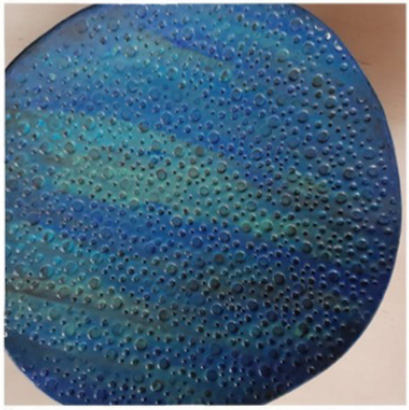
To date I have exhibited and sold some of my pieces at the

- COTA Studio Exhibitions
- Ceramics Biennale in 2019 and was awarded the new signature prize.
- 'Season of Clay' at the Project Room in December 2020

The PAN committee roped me in this year, I hope that I can be of assistance in some way to promote and support pottery in Namibia.







Die Tonfabrik

Pottery Supplier

visit us:

30 Einstein Str, Swakopmund

www.dietonfabrik.com

081 298 7274

stock products by the following suppliers

REINDERS POTTERS SUPPLIES
EVERYTHING IN POTTERY
OVER THIRTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Clayman

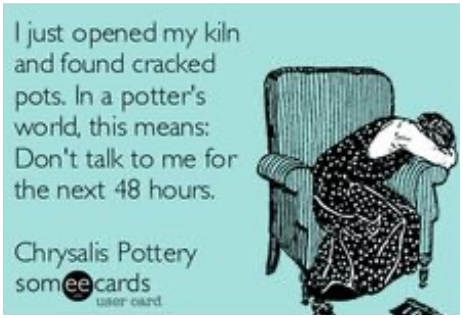
GLAZECOR cc
GLAZE & FRIT MANUFACTURERS

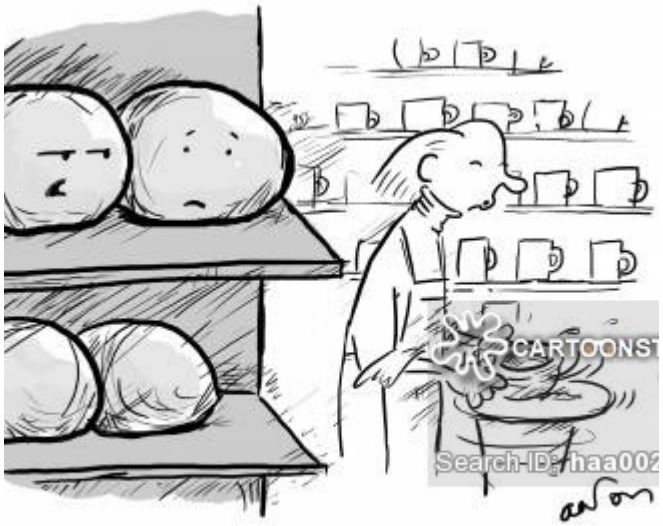
CPS

Van Tuyl
Kilns & Furnaces

Kiln Contracts (Pty) Ltd

POTTERY jokes





"Watch that one, he'll make mugs of us all."

POTTERY teachers

WINDHOEK:

Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren
jacquivv@gmail.com
081 861 8869

Uschi Ramakhutla
uschisvu@gmail.com
081 851 6415

Ansie Ward
ansieward@gmail.com
081 272 9905

Mitchell Milton Gatsi
Tafy Tang Arts
Mitchell.putukara@gmail.com
081 612 8691

College of the Arts (COTA)
Filamon Kapolo
061-374 100

SWAKOPMUND:

Sharon Flewellen
frameworx@afol.com.na
081 203 2113

Carola Lorck
lorckc@iway.na
081 298 7274

KEETMANSHOOP:

Brigitte Greyling
mrsgreyling@hotmail.com
081 140 5054

LUDERITZ:

Renate Williamson
rossler@iway.na
081 243 3766

POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

Email: potters.namibia@gmail.com
Website: www.pan.iway.na
Contact numbers: 081 861 8869 / 081 681 0328
Facebook: Potters Association of Namibia
Instagram: namibianceramics