# November 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE

# chair

Dear Members,

After an intense and very tiring year and everybody gearing towards the summer holidays, I wish to share some reflections on the past year.

The Biennale was a great success and we, the Committee, are very proud that we managed to pull off such a splendid display without a main sponsor. It is common knowledge that such an exhibition is very costly and so we did have to dig into our savings, but not too much. Some very kind and generous members came forward with extremely welcome and generous contributions. To each and every one of you, our members, thank you for creating such exceptionally beautiful artwork, for paying your membership fees, for sponsoring and supporting the opening of this much anticipated exhibition. And to all the helpers who assisted when the pieces were submitted, then running around buying paint for display boxes, organising camera equipment, buying thank you presents for the judges, and generally for doing your bit, THANK YOU.

We organised another exhibition called Presently Present, at the Bellhaus Atelier & Galerie. Sadly, this exhibition did not happen, because we did not receive sufficient pieces to showcase a diversity of

pieces from many potters. It has thus been decided to postpone / cancel the exhibition.

At our last meeting the committee discussed our continued affiliation with Ceramics South Africa. The new rules and regulations regarding cross border payments and customs and excise make it very challenging indeed to continue the affiliation with our neighbours. The big chunk of money we pay does not warrant what we get in return and the benefits from anything on offer. It is thus with a heavy heart we have decided to cancel our affiliation as from January 2025.

As all of you know, I will be stepping down from the Committee at the next AGM, so will Jacqui and Rosi. This newsletter will thus be my last one.

I wish to remind you that we need new committee members to fill the key positions. Without your willingness to join the committee, there is a very real possibility that PAN may have to dissolve. That will be heartbreaking, and I call on each and every one to contact us to discuss your possible involvement. We will have orientation meetings and of course I will be available to assist and guide new committee members.

I thus close this, my last message as Chair, with my sincere wish that PAN will continue to serve you, the members.

Yours in potting,

Renate

# ATTENTION *Important*

As all of you know by now, three committee members will be stepping down at the next AGM. This means that some of the key positions need to be filled.

**IF YOU HAVE DETERMINATION AND DRIVE**, we urgently appeal to you to make yourself available to serve on the committee. The positions that need to be filled are:

**CHAIRPERSON**
(previously filled by Renate)
**VICE-CHAIRPERSON**
(previously filled by Jacqui)
**SECRETARY**
(previously filled by Renate)
**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**
(previously filled by Renate)
**EDITOR & PROOFREADER OF ALL COMMUNICATION**
(previously filled by Rosi)

PAN committee cannot function if these positions are not filled, which would sadly mean that PAN would have to be disbanded. You can all certainly agree, that no one wishes to see this happen! So, it is up to you dear potters to respond to this appeal and volunteer to serve on the committee, and especially in one of the key positions outlined above.

We would like to have an orientation meeting with prospective candidates to discuss their possible involvement with the committee early in the new year. Should you have any questions, please contact us on our email – potters.namibia@gmail.com, alternatively call Renate on ⊙81 243 3766 to discuss.

**We Need YOU**

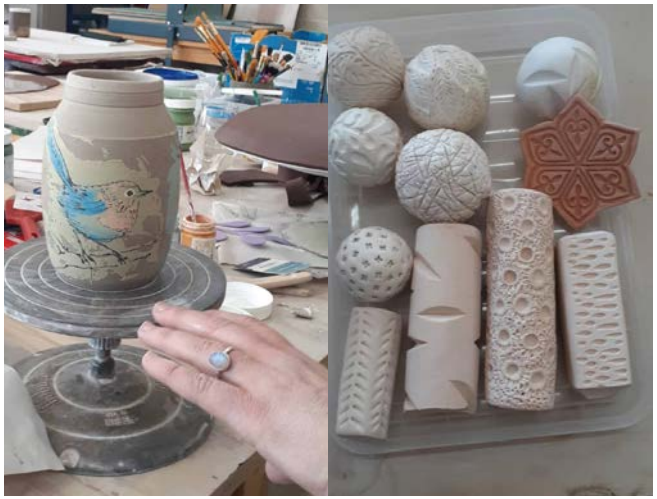
Die Tonfabrik
GET YOUR
POTTERY
TOOLS
@
www.dietonfabrik.com
30 Einstein St
Swakopmund
Jorckc@elinknam.com

# Nada Spencers

## CERAMIC DECORATING WORKSHOP

BY **ZANDRIA NAGEL**

**Nada Spencer recently conducted an inspiring workshop focusing on ceramic decorating techniques, particularly water etching and monoprinting. Held for both novice and experienced potters, the workshop explored the intricate process of water etching, where Nada demonstrated how to create delicate, textured patterns on clay surfaces by selectively removing layers of slip. Additionally, she introduced participants to monoprinting on ceramics, a technique that allows for the transfer of unique designs onto pottery using coloured slips and underglazes. Nada's expertise and passion for these techniques provided attendees with new creative avenues to explore in their ceramic practices.**



# SHARON'S Tip

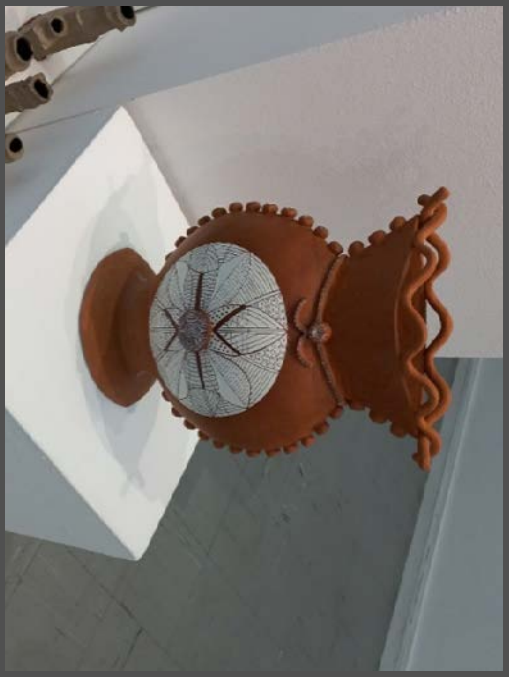
BY **SHARON FLEWELLEN**

**Make your own sponge on a stick! Perfect for drying up the water at the bottom of a tall piece or for bellying out the shape of a narrow necked item when you're throwing on the wheel. Also so useful for dusting out inside those narrow bisqued items you can't get your hand into before glazing!**

**All you need is to get to a hardware shop for a packet of replacement sponges for sponge paint rollers and the chopsticks you've collected from Chinese takeaways!**

**Push the pointy end of a chopstick firmly into the metal channel of the sponge ....and it's ready to use!**

# 11th Biennale



# SHARING THIS *tip*

BY **SHARON FLEWELLEN**

Quick tip for today! Did you know that water soluble (washable) markers will transfer from paper to clay? It works just like a temporary tattoo but for clay! This is great if you prefer a guide when carving, painting or for Mishima techniques. The ink from the market will burn away in the bisque so this isn't a final finishing technique but it can be super helpful if you aren't confident drawing directly on the clay or would like to easily repeat a design. This technique also works with watercolor pencils and ink jet prints. Pretty much any ink that would run if it gets wet. Experiment to see what works best for you! This method works best on fresh clay with some moisture but if your pots have set up a bit, a damp sponge will help encourage the ink to transfer. Obviously)

Potter's New Year's Resolutions
that won't make it through January
1. I will no longer wipe my hands down my trousers
2. I will wash my tools at the end of the day
3. I will not wander back to the studio and poke things after I'm showered
4. I will stop apologising to people for being dirty
5. I will look at my face in the mirror before leaving the studio

# RAKU FIRING IN Swakopmund

BY **ZANDRIA NAGEL**

In Swakopmund, a recent Raku firing event showcased the highs and lows of this ancient Japanese pottery technique. Led by an exceptional woman (Carola) whose expertise and passion shone throughout the day, more than 60 pieces were fired, each revealing the unpredictable beauty of Raku.

As the kiln heated, anticipation grew. Some pieces emerged with stunning, iridescent glazes, leaving everyone in awe, while others bore cracks and unexpected flaws, a reminder of the delicate balance in Raku. Despite these mixed results, the event was a triumph, celebrating the artistry, community, and the thrilling unpredictability of the process.

# Raku

## DieTonfabrik

10 August 2024

SHARON FLEWELLEN SHARED THIS ESSAY BY MEG BIDDLE, USA.

**Working with clay means taking your time, because the process can't be rushed. There are about ten steps between preparing the clay and the glaze firing, some that require hours or days in between. If you try to rush it, the clay will make its resentment known by cracking, exploding or rebelling in some other way. While this can be frustrating, Mindy Stollman, a licenced Clinical Social Worker, says it is worth it: "Pottery makes me step away from the need for instant gratification, because there is a lot of waiting for completion."**

With clay, we also don't always get what we want, despite the hours of love and labour. We groom and beautify our pieces and pick colours that speak to us, hoping they look as we imagine after firing. And for the lucky or talented, they do. But the rest of us must lean to let go of control and accept imperfection. There is no merchant to complain to or store to demand a refund.

Creating with clay is a physical-sensual-mental experience. The physicality and limitless potential for creativity engages our muscles, fine motor skills, vision and imaginations. We are simultaneously allowing unprocessed feelings to shape the clay, while making detailed decisions about which direction we would like to take our piece.

## CONCLUSION:

While writing this piece, I came to see a pattern of duality inherent in clay work. When we touch clay, we are interacting with the earth, building a relationship with something that is millions of years old. Yet we are creating something brand new that has never existed before. Wrestling and joining with the slab of mud forces practitioners to seek the balance between control and unpredictability, seriousness and playfulness, detachment and attachment. The clay transcends into a beautifully finished piece of art and while we may never be finished (and may still need therapy), we are one step closer to our own transformation.

*- Meg Biddle*

# Thank you

At the beginning of November 2024 Sharon Flewellen hosted a demo workshop by Uschi Hallwachs at her studio. The workshop was attended and enjoyed by 11 potters and Sharon was so kind as to donate half of her earnings, i.e. N$ 550.00 to PAN.

Thank you, dear Sharon, we appreciate your generous support.

**Herewith a few of the pieces made by Uschi at the workshop**

POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

PAN's main objective is to promote the art and craft of pottery and ceramics in Namibia.

Visit our exhibition at the Namibian Craft Centre to buy beautiful work from Namibian ceramic artists.

**Please make use of this wonderful opportunity of selling your work.**

**Email: potters.namibia@gmail.com | Website: www.pan.iway.na | Contact numbers: 081 243 3766 / 081 681 0328 / 081 270 6045**
**Facebook: Potters Association of Namibia | Instagram: namibianceramics**

POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

Potters.namibia@gmail.com – P.O. Box 97090, Windhoek. - www.pan.iway.na

# 2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

## Membership

Annual Membership fee: **N$ 350.00**

Membership includes newsletters, reduced entry fees for workshops, Biennale participation, exhibition space in PAN's stall at Namibia Craft Centre, plus free promotion on popular Social Media platforms.

---

***Kindly complete the form below in full and email it with your proof of payment to***
***potters.namibia@gmail.com***

**Bank:** Bank Windhoek **Branch:** 483 872 (Maerua Mall) **Account:** 8004 722 441
**Acc Name:** Potters' Association of Namibia
**Ref:** Your name and surname + Memb (e.g. Anna Johnson Memb)

Name: ..... Tel Home: (.....) .....
Postal Address: ..... Tel Work: (.....) .....
..... Cell Phone: (.....) .....
E-Mail: ..... I.D. No.: .....

Are you currently taking pottery classes? Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes – with whom / studio name/ where: .....

Are you willing to present a workshop? Yes ☐ No ☐.

---

**** WHAT PAN DOES FOR YOU ****

- The **PAN newsletter, filled with valuable tips and techniques, news of pottery events**, keeps **you in contact** with other members and **teaching studios and classes offered** around the country.
- **PAN** organizes formal and informal **exhibitions.** A major exhibition **"The PAN National Ceramics Biennale"** is held every two years at which generous **awards** are given in recognition of the development of Namibian potters. This prestigious event is attended by an international professional guest potter/selector who also presents a specialised workshop at this time.
- **Practical participating workshops, demonstrations,** etc with a large variety of topics is offered to all our members from beginner to advanced levels.
- **Members** enjoy **reduced entry fees** for exhibitions, workshops and any other **PAN** event as well as a selling opportunity at our popular stall in the Namibian Craft Centre.
- With our **Instagram** and **Facebook** social media platforms and the **PAN website, www.pan.iway.na** , our Namibian members and their ceramics are **promoted internationally**,
- **PAN's development fund is** available at the discretion of the Executive Committee to talented underprivileged individuals requiring assistance in furthering their ceramics development.
- **By joining PAN you will learn many new techniques, develop and uplift your skills and expand your knowledge**. **With the strong support, dedication and friendship of this Association and our like-minded members, you will benefit greatly!**

**PAN RULES OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership is valid for a period of 12 months from 1 March this year to 28 February next year. A renewal reminder will be sent to you in February and if your renewal fee is not received by the end of April, your membership will automatically expire and all communication will be withheld until your renewal is paid.
2. Membership and events fees are regularly reviewed and adjusted if required, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
3. The Committee of The Potters' Association of Namibia (PAN) reserves the right to decline any application for membership or to terminate the membership of any person and shall not be obliged to furnish any reason for doing so.

*I accept the rules of PAN membership as outlined above:*

**Signed:** ..... **Dated:**.....

# POTTERY teachers

**WINDHOEK:**

**Ansie Ward**
ansieward@gmail.com
081 272 9905

**Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren**
jacquijvv@gmail.com
081 861 8869

**Mitchell Milton Gatsi (Sculpture)**
tafytangarts@gmail.com
081 612 8691

**Genie Albrecht (kids)**
geniealbrecht998@gmail.com
081 128 8963

**SWAKOPMUND:**

**Carola Lorck**
lorckc@elinknam.com
081 29807274

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

**LUDERITZ:**

**Renate Williamson**
rossler@iway.na
081 243 3766

## REMINDER

Please remember that your annual membership fees in the amount of **N$350.00** per person are due in **March 2025.**

# Contributions

**NEXT EDITION:**

NO FURTHER NEWSLETTER IS SCHEDULED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SEVERAL CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

# POTTERS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

**Email:** potters.namibia@gmail.com
**Website:** www.pan.iway.na
**Contact numbers:**
081 243 3766 / 091 681 0328 / 081 270 6045
**Facebook:** Potters Association of Namibia
**Instagram:** namibianceramics