POTTERS ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA
newsletter
October 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE chair

Dear Members,

I cannot believe that the Biennale has come and gone. Just a few short weeks ago I was frantically trying to finish my pieces and here I am, already thinking of the next Biennale in 2024! It sounds so incredibly far off, but it is literally just around the corner.
For me, the Biennale was a great experience. Yes, I was nervous; and it was certainly challenging. Living so far away meant that I did not have any control over what happened on the ground, but fortunately I have a wonderful team that I can rely on. Of course, there were a few hiccups. That was to be expected. Overall though the feedback was very positive, which for me is an indication that we, the committee, did a great job! We can certainly hold our heads high.

My first appearance on National Television. Oh dear.... I was rather pleased that Anthony accompanied me.

The workshop in Windhoek was so well attended and there was such a friendly and buzzing vibe. We really enjoyed each other's company and the workshop.

Most of you will of course have started work on pieces for the various Christmas markets, so a lot of work lies ahead for those who want to sell their art.

This is always an incredibly busy time of the year, with everyone trying to finish projects or work before the holidays, most companies are having Christmas parties and everyone is frantically trying to get everything done in time.

For this reason, we will only bring out our next newsletter at the beginning of February, with submissions to reach us by mid-January, which will hopefully encourage some of you to send us some contributions about the markets or other interesting pottery tales you might have come across during the holidays.

On that note I wish you well. Please remember to be kind to others and enjoy the Festive Season.

Yours,

Renate

THROUGH THE EYES OF
OUR **INVITED** JUDGE,

Anothony Shapiro

My Biennale experience was a fantastic one and such a treat.

I was treated like a king, from Renate picking me up at the airport and dropping me at the Air BnB on Independence Avenue. Chrizaan was the best ops person / host a potter could wish for. You guys went over and beyond.

The committee were extremely welcoming and engaging and made my experience a truly memorable one. Delicious dinners, invites to people homes and a true glimpse of life in Namibia.

My co-judge Prof Hercules Viljoen was delightful and so easy to work with.

One point is that I would have had the work on tables for ease of selection and judging. I felt like we may have missed a piece on the floor that would have been easier to see and select on a table.

Because there weren't as many entries as usual, it did make selection more difficult.
I think that with the work we had, we pulled off a pretty spectacular show.

Both workshops in Windhoek and Swakopmund were well attended and well received and nothing makes a presenter happier than a satisfied group

I will most certainly return to Namibia for a visit and hope to see all of you again really soon.

Anthony.

THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR **LOCAL** JUDGE, Hercules Viljoen

It was a privilege to be part of the selection team. I learned a lot from the accomplished Anthony who has a sharp eye for a good piece and the ability to detect the small details that made a difference in the way one looks at ceramics. Both the judging and curating the exhibition was a very stimulating experience. I was also inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment of every member of the PAN committee each of whom all contributed in a special way.

Although a fairly small number of entries were submitted, we were able to put together a beautiful show.

A special thank you to every member who supported PAN by submitting their best efforts. Keep up the good work to encourage and welcome new members!

Hercules Viljoen

NATIONAL CERAMICS BIENNALE

Prize winners

Handwork 1st prize 2022
Anita Steyn
"Namibian Fynbos"

Handwork 2nd prize 2022
Uschi Ramakhutla
"Humbled Offering"

Handwork 3rd prize 2022
Sharon Flewellen
"Walk this Way"

New Signature 1st prize 2022
Andrea Horsthemke
"Jug 3"

New Signature 2nd prize 2022
Uschi Hallwachts
"Vase"

New Signature 3rd prize 2022
Charlene Vorster
"Origami Nesting Bowls"

Rural 2nd prize 2022
Eliina Bainga

Rural 1st prize 2022
Eliina Bainga

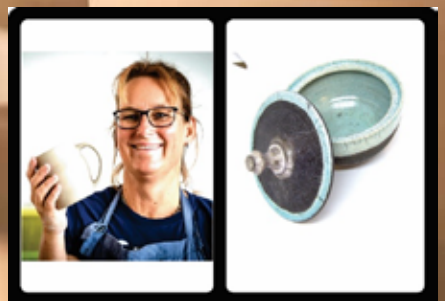
Rural 3rd prize 2022
Emelda Sinvula

Sculpture 1st prize 2022
Mitchell Gatsi
"Young and Mentally Trapped"

Sculpture 2nd prize 2022
Mitchell Gatsi
"Joyful Education"

Sculpture 3rd prize 2022
Filemon Kapolo
"Harmony"

Wheelwork 1st prize 2022
Genie Albrecht
"Fuchia"



Wheelwork 2nd prize 2022
Carola Lorck
"Turquoise Phoenix 1"

Wheelwork 3rd prize 2022
Betsie van Rensburg
"Spitzkoppe after the rain 1"

Promising Beginner 2022
Margot Timm
"Affirmation"

People's Choice 2022
Mitchell Gatsi

MY FIRST Raku Experience

Who would've thought that one can have so many firsts in one's pottery journey? It certainly keeps me interested and learning. Every. Single. Time!

In July this year I found myself hitting the road again to attend a Raku Firing workshop at Die Tonfabrik, Swakopmund. Each bisqued piece was safely packed and wrapped in loads of bubble-wrap.

On day 1 we prepared and glazed our pieces.
And on day 2 the magic happened. I now know for sure that I have fascination with Fire and Mud! Loved the raku process. The alchemy of it. How marvelously unpredictable it is!

Carola carefully loading the kiln

Waiting for their flame

Fresh from the kiln... cracks and colours are slowly emerging.

Tells a story! Dove feather, sugar and zebra mane patterns.

Sugar, zebra hair & mossie feathers

My Greece inspired bowl, after a thorough scrub and polish. Such spectacular colours!

MUDTOOLS

NEW ARRIVAL

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BUILD A COIL POT

Fat Coils

Place a clay slab on the hump mould and smooth over with a serated kidney

Smooth slab with rubber kidney and cut edge
smooth with knife or needle tool

Once slab is dry enough take off the hump mould and place on batt to work on

Form a thick coil by pressing it into a thick "sausage"

Roll the "saussage" on the table into a thick coill

Line up the coil on the edge of the table and flatten the bottom part, which is on the edge of the table with the palm of your hand

Use a fairly flexible steak knife and "butter" the flattened coil to get a smooth side on the top. Repeat the "buttering" move a couple of time.

Score the top of the thicker part of the coil and the rim of the base of the pot. Wet with water and place the thicker part of the coil onto the

With the tip of the knife work the clay of the coil down onto the base

With your thumb press the clay from the coil down onto the base.
Use the ridged side of your knife and smooth the outside and inside of the wall

Furthermore use a rubber kidney to smooth the inside of your bowl

Score the top of the thicker part of the coil and the rim of the base of the pot. Wet with water and place the thicker part of the coil onto the base. Score and wet the joints and press together.

Continue with this process until your pot has reached the desired height and form.
To finish off your pot, take a surform-scraper and scrape the walls down until they are the required thickness.
Then decorate the walls to your liking, bisque fire and glaze.

Congratulations on your coil pot!

Surform scraper

Rubber Kidney

Serated Steak Knife

Workshop presented by Anthony Shapiro at Die Tonfabrik Pottery Studio, Swakopmund
Contribution by: Carola Lorck

Cone 5-6

Potter's Choice

Reduction Looks for Electric Kilns

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FROM renate.

With the Biennale behind us, I am reflecting on my experiences and can in all honesty say that I loved every minute of it, including the few hiccups. I had a wonderful time hanging out with my fellow committee members and the judges, and the many happy and fun-filled hours will linger with me for a long time to come.

Following Anthony's workshop, I wanted to give a coil pot a try. And I have to say, I am quite pleased with my very first attempt. I did not manage his technique to build it up quickly, so it took about a week to get it to its height of 30 cm (cold and wet coastal weather added another challenge)

True to myself I brushed some iron oxide over the finished piece and then scoured it off again to get the mottled look. I will most certainly attempt another coil pot real soon.

Of course I am back in the swing of things with my pottery classes.
The children have been very productive, making tic-tac-toe games, sweets holders and dragon / snake coil pots. They are so enthusiastic and for their new project they are making plates decorated with coloured slip and paper resist.

Sadly, I have had to cancel the lessons for one of the schools. They only have the one afternoon open for pottery lessons and the children are now too many to fit into my studio. Of course, the children were very sad, but once the school has an opening to split the class, they can hopefully resume their lessons.

The next thing on my "to do list" is to get Zak to Luderitz to fix my kiln. There are a few cracks and pieces of brick that have come loose, the elements need replacing, so it really is time for some tender loving care.

And then I must of course recycle four buckets of clay scraps, mix some more glazes (own recipes!) and stir up the old glaze buckets before the glaze settles into a hard lump at the bottom of the bucket.

So, all in all, a day in the life of a potter. But what fun it is.

Until next time,

Renate

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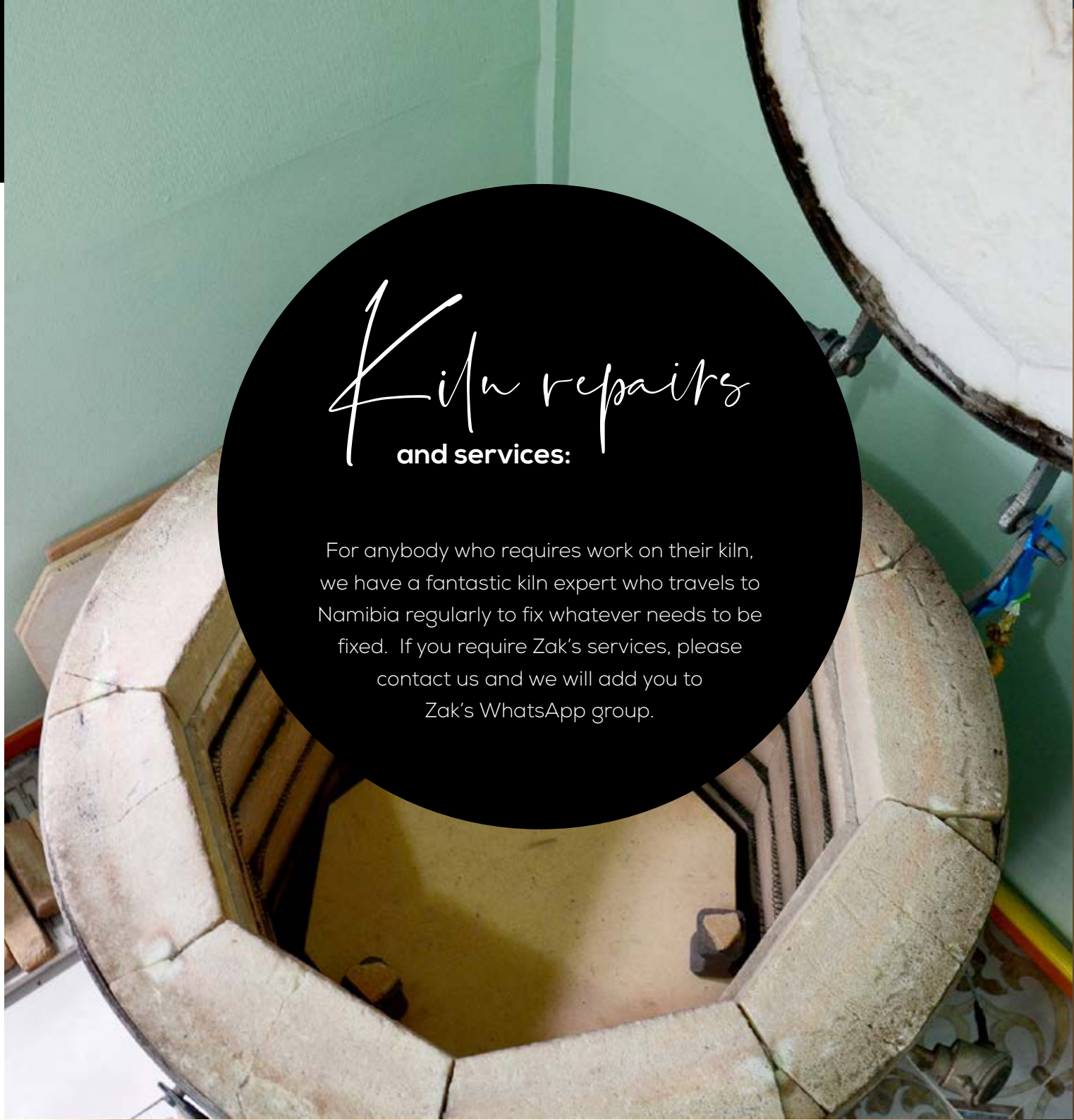


Kiln repairs
and services:

For anybody who requires work on their kiln, we have a fantastic kiln expert who travels to Namibia regularly to fix whatever needs to be fixed. If you require Zak's services, please contact us and we will add you to Zak's WhatsApp group.

What can you give a potter (or anyone) for Christmas? Of course!

an Apron!

Aprons are for sale for **N$350.00**. Contact us if you are interested.

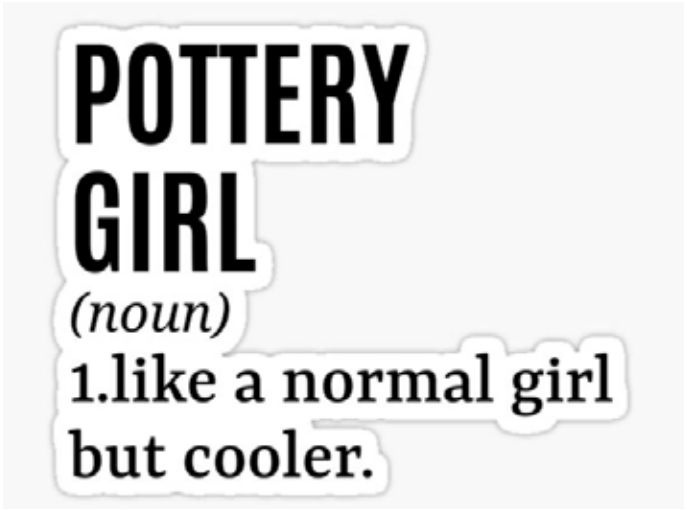
potters.namibia@gmail.com

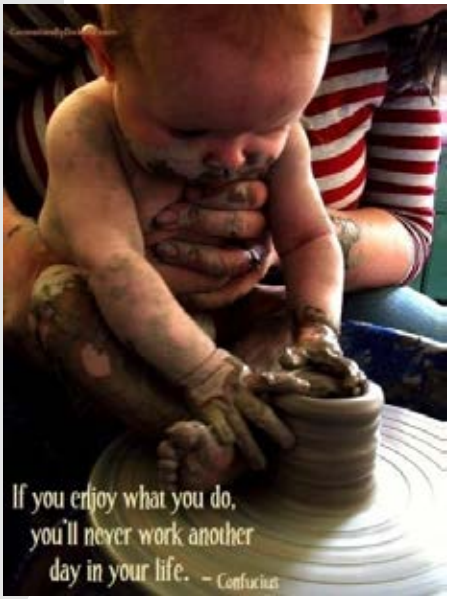
POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

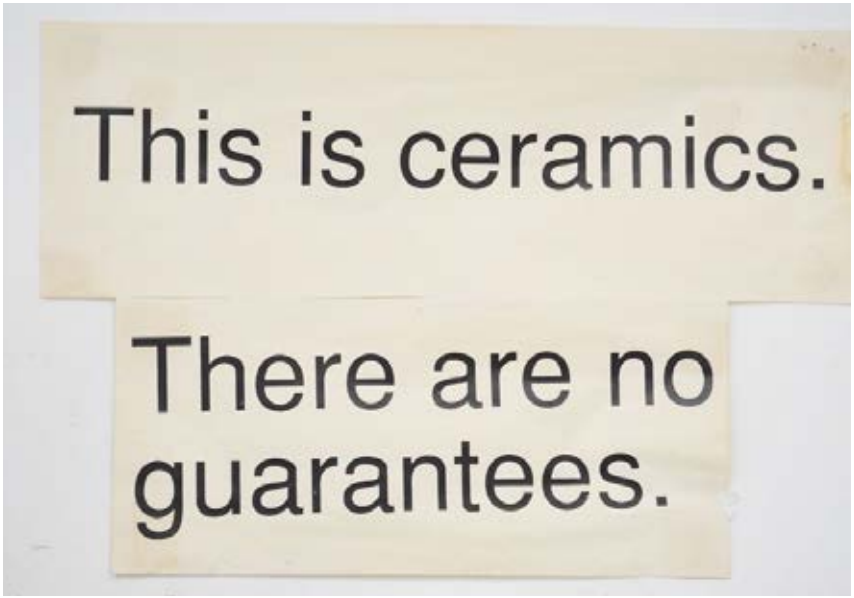
PAN's main objective is to promote the art and craft of pottery and ceramics in Namibia.

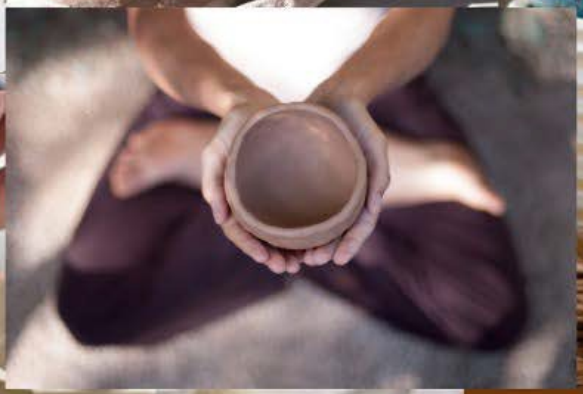
Visit our exhibition at the Namibian Craft Centre to buy beautiful work from Namibian ceramic artists.

POTTERY *Inspiration*









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