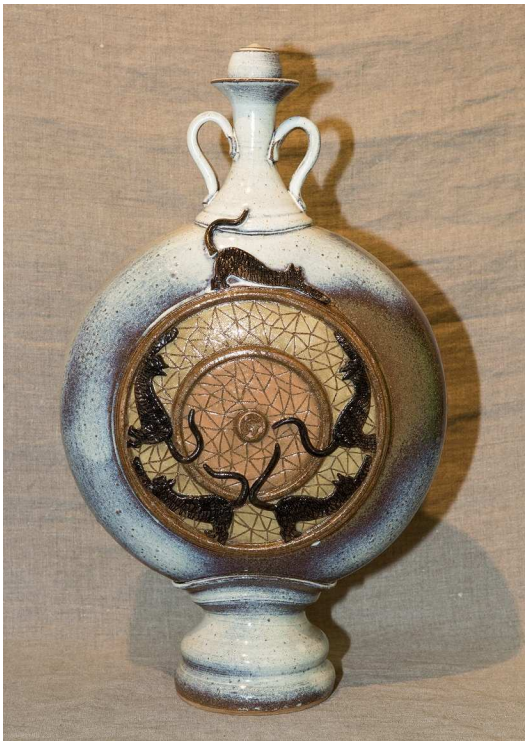
Potters' Association of Namibia

www.pan.iway.na

Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 5
September / October 2013



PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARD
BETSIE VAN RENSBRUG

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.

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Next newsletter deadline
15 November 13

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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.

Greetings from the Chair

The year is striding along in huge steps and we have once again successfully opened another Biennale exhibition. On 3 October Catherine Brennon from Underberg, South Africa had the honours to present the awards in the different categories and then declare this prestigious exhibition opened. We have received nearly 200 entries by about 35 potters country wide and with the help of my committee we managed to set up a wonderful exhibition at the Lower Gallery at the NAGN in Windhoek. Please read elsewhere in our newsletter on who the winners are and what Catherine had to say about the Namibian pottery quality.

I would like to thank Sarie Maritz and Mariki Grobler for hosting Chatherine during her workshop time in Windhoek and Swakopmund and Rosi for making her studio available for the workshop in Windhoek once again.

We are in the last quarter of this year and I hope you all are enjoying the warmer weather for your pottery endeavours and that you are slowly starting to think about a possible entry to the Bank Windhoek Triennial. The closing date is the 14 July 2014. Keep this date in mind and start to work now already.

Furthermore I wish you all the best and lots of energy for the last months to complete this year.

Yours in potting

PAN / Bank Windhoek
6th National Ceramics Biennale

Opening speech by Catherine Brennon

Thank you for inviting me as your Selector and Judge for the 2013 PAN Biennale. It is a great honour as well as a huge responsibility. I am a South African potter living in Underberg KZN in the Southern Drakensberg, where my photographer husband and I have The Underberg Studio - an art gallery specialising in ceramics and photography. I have a 3 year diploma in Ceramics and a B.Tech Ceramics degree and ran a teaching studio for a number of years in Johannesburg. However, much of what I have learned is through workshops through the Potter's Association and overseas, and also through exhibitions.
Bernard Leach (father of Studio Ceramics in the English speaking world) once said:

"The pot is the man: his virtues and his vices are shown therein – no disguise is possible."

This exhibition is real evidence of the truth of this statement. I have not met many of the makers of these pots, but I believe

Some pots are what I refer to as 'head pots'. They are planned, analysed , reassessed, perfectly made and presented with bold confidence. Then there are 'heart pots'. Sometimes (but not always), these pots are less technically proficient but more spontaneous and passionate. These are pots you love despite their minor flaws. Real pots made by real people. Where the head and the heart meet, you find the Great Pots. These pots are technically well accomplished while having a great sensitivity to the material. They allow room for both spontaneity and playfulness. These are the pots that are exceptional – they take your breath away. I believe the Premier Prize winning piece on this exhibition falls into this category.

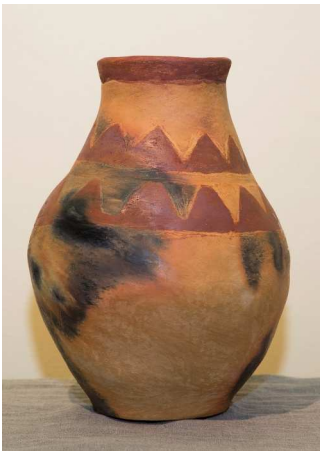
Cathy McRoberts and I had an interesting time making the selections. We were in agreement 95% of the time as we seem to have similar aesthetics. Although we separately selected all the prize winners, when we compared our lists they were almost identical. One piece was different, but was made by the same artist! Being like-minded really helped the selection process, and we feel that the pots chosen are a true reflection of this organisation. It takes both effort and courage to be open to criticism but it can be a very rewarding and healthy learning experience if handled with care. That is what I aimed to do and I hope we have accomplished this. Well done to everyone who participated. Just as we all endeavour to be the best people we

Belmont New Signature Award: Uschi Ahrens

I chose this pot because it was so simple, well thrown and very striking. It shows competent throwing and good design.

Belmont Most Promising Beginner Award: Elke le Roux

All this potter's work was of an exceptionally high standard. I could not believe she had been making pots for such a short time. Strong decorative skills, along with sound throwing skill have made this pot a winner.



3rd Prize in the Category Rural: Florencia Mwiya

The 3rd prize for rural is a quiet but beautiful pot. These potters need to be commended for their perseverance to make pots under some difficult circumstances. Thank you to those in this organisation who have mentored these people and helped to get their pots to this exhibition.

2nd Prize in the Category Rural:

Emelda Siinvula

The 2nd prize is a real heart pot for me. It has a happy accident of flashing orange from the firing that somehow moved it from good to wonderful.

1st Prize in the Category Rural:

Angelina Simushi

Unless you are a potter you will not appreciate the enormous skill these pots entail. The first prize in this category was an easy choice. The pot has wonderful proportions, balance and style. Be sure to look at the subtle patters on the shoulder of the pot – that surprise element that always helps one choose a winner.

3rd Prize in the Category Sculpture:

Christiane Hilbert

2nd Prize in the Category Sculptural:
Tafadzwa Mitchell Gatsi

Both Cathy and I loved the tranquillity on the face of this sculpture. The bush firing has enhanced the piece and it is well made. I believe this artist has a real talent and look forward to seeing his work go from strength to strength.

ART TRADING 1st Prize in the Category Sculptural:
Mariki Grobler

There was no doubt about which sculpture should receive this prize. Incredibly sophisticated, understated and surprisingly simple, these black forms totally intrigued us. It speaks of balance and the contrast of the inside smoothness and outside elephant skin texture is wonderful. The whole group worked so well together, but the ball stood out as the best.

3rd Prize in the Category Handwork: Lucia Tjitukwa

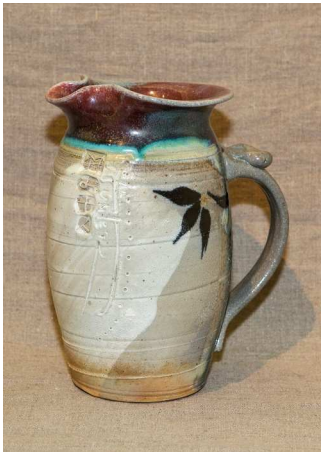
We chose a simple pinch pot

2nd Prize in the Category Handwork: Lesley Crawford

The piece chosen for this is most interesting. It seems to have been first thrown on the wheel and then greatly modified by hand. A black and white dot, carefully placed, resulted in something that perhaps suggests a fish. It is totally open to interpretation. It is a wonderful pot to handle – light and burnished. Delightful!

CPS 1st Prize in the Category Handwork: Sharon Flewellen

I love the way this piece speaks of fragility, and yet it is strong. It is a heart piece as although it is a boat, it talks to us of a journey, of hardship and longing. Mounting it on Perspex was an excellent idea as it does much to enhance the whole work and the feelings it evokes.



3rd Prize in the Category Wheelwork: John Hunter

For 3rd prize we chose a charming jug. Thrown in the studio pottery tradition, this jug is perfectly balanced and holds

2nd Prize in the Category Wheelwork: Sarie Maritz

Our 2nd award is for a wonderfully colourful bowl that shows great ease in the throwing—showing a mastering of this skill. The decoration takes it to another dimension and I just love the way it has been decorated on the outside as well as the inside. It is a bowl that I would love to own and would use regularly to serve a "wow" salad.

CPS 1st Prize in the Category Wheelwork: Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren

One of the biggest challenges for a throwing potter is that of a teapot. There are so many things that have to be considered from a practical perspective, and somehow the different components have to look like they were all made at the same time. Our first prize for this category is to a charming teapot. It has good balance and a beautiful woven handle. The glazing gives it a front and a back and it would be perfect for a

GLAZECOR PREMIER AWARD: Mariki Grobler

This piece needed no discussion! It just took our breath away! Tactile, simple but sophisticated - this piece shows immense skill and patience. It really speaks to my heart and moves me but is also well thought through and could also be seen as a 'head' piece in view of it's technical proficiency. It is almost impossible to resist the desire to hold the piece in my hands. This is a piece that meets all the requirements for an exceptional pot.

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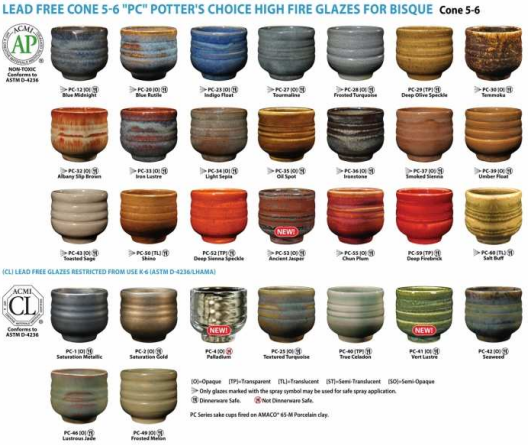
AMACO – New stocks in this week.

ARTIST CHOICE GLAZES and the popular POTTERS CHOICE GLAZES arriving with this shipment.



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MANY THANKS TO THE RENEWALS RECEIVED FROM:

Annegret Leuschner, Mariele Hlasik, John Hunter, Anita Steyn, Sarie Maritz, Meryl Barry, Stienie van Rooyen, Uschi Ahrens, Jacqui Jansen van Vuuren, Carola Lorck

WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS:

Ujama Kuhungi—Windhoek
Ronelle du Plessis—Windhoek
Irene Strydom—Swakopmund
Anne-Marie Fourie—Otjiwarongo
Lesley Tjiriange—Windhoek
Tafadzwa Mitchell Gatsi—Windhoek

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON TIME:

September:

Scott & Judy Hurd, Antoinette Warren

October:

Petro Hayman, Wilma Wilkinson, Elize Oelofse

November:

Ruth Brockmann, Sakki Namis, Tina van Skalkwyk

Congratulations to Maryke Maree who won a 1 year's membership free by getting 3 new PAN members in one year.

REINDERS
POTTERS SUPPLIES

Reinders Potters Supplies is a leading supplier of clay, glazes and related pottery equipment to the South African ceramics industry. We have over 30 years of experience and continue to develop and improve products and services.

Shop Hours

Monday to Thursday - 8am to 5 pm

Friday - 8am to 4pm

First and last Saturday of each month 9am to 1pm

Factory Shop

We have opened up a Factory Shop in Brackenfell industrial just off the N1, on the opposite side of Cape Gate shopping centre, Okavango road. The new Factory Shop has room for a studio and we'll be sending out notices of workshops and product demonstrations. Call us or mail us on reinders@kilnsandclay.com so that we can add you to our mailing list.

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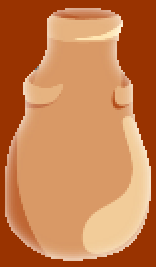

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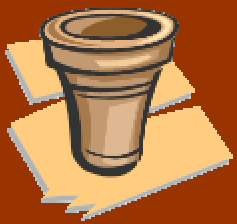
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