

Studio Newsletter

February 25, 2009

Volume 4, Issue 2

Randy Brodnax Workshop

Special points of interest:

- Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Studio
- Molly needs someone to take over the web site

A special thanks to Orbry for bringing Randy Brodnax to the studio for an awesome workshop. Randy not only filled us with new ideas and challenges but also rebuilt our two-burner raku kiln to like-new condition. The kiln fires even better than when it was new. We are so lucky to have such great talent come share their knowledge with us.

Please coordinate with Barb Throne before firing this up-graded raku kiln if you did not attend the workshop. Firing it is a little different from firing the barrel kilns. Barb will be happy to give you assistance that will help you get the most from your raku firings.



Randy Brodnax & Kay Bernier

March Meeting Program

You'll want to be sure to attend the March meeting. Barb Throne will demo how she makes paperclay after the business meeting.

See page 2 for an article published in Ceramic Arts Daily featuring Barbro Aberg, a Denmark clay artist, who uses paperclay.

February Meeting Minutes ~ Tammi Vermillion

Old Business. Minutes from last meeting accepted as published

Glaze Committee. All Cone 10 glazes were tested in a cone 6 firing. Results were shared with the membership. Some of the results were fantastic. The test tiles will be placed on the cone 6 shelf for reference.

- We will mix a batch Temmoku to be used for cone 6

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Strong Clay for Lightweight Building

by *Ceramics Arts Daily*, November 14, 2007



Spheres with Cross," 27 cm (11 in.) in diameter, ball clay with perlite and paper fibers. Barbro Åberg states, "Throughout the working process I try to keep focusing on the strength of the single piece, its language and the story that, in the end, is being told."

The work of Barbro Åberg is not easily categorized. A Swede living in Denmark, Barbro manages to escape the shackles of both traditions, borrowing the best from each: the playful evocativeness of the Swedes and the rigorous analytical approach of the Danes. In addition, she spent five years in the United States at the outset of her career; a period that still inspires her works with a sense of confidence and adventure.

PROCESSES

Often her works end up quite different from how she first imagined. They change during the work process. She enters into collaboration with the work; into a kind of dialog. "I have to listen and look; it's not just me making the decisions. Sometimes a piece is shouting at me to change it this way or that.

"I use toilet paper for my paper clay because it is easily dissolved," Barbro explains. "I put a roll of toilet paper into a bucket of hot water and let the paper soak for a while (preferably over night). After it has soaked and the fibers have broken down, I use a drill and a paint mixer to beat the paper fibers for approximately 5–10 minutes. Then I pour the paper fibers into a sieve, wash them and then lightly press the water out.

"Next, I mix the water and paper fibers together in a bucket. To this I add perlite, taking care to reduce dust. Then I add the ball clay and stir thoroughly. I recommend trying different ball clay for different firing temperatures. This recipe gives a wet clay mixture. In order to get a firmer clay, you can dry the mixture on a plaster bat before use or reduce the amount of water in the recipe."

SAFETY TIP

Mix the clay outdoors! Wear a respirator with NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) approved filters while being exposed to dust.

RECIPE

Clay with perlite and paper fibers	
Water.....	22.2%
Paper fibers	11.1
Perlite (fine grain, appr. 0–2mm).....	22.2
Ball clay.....	44.5
	100%

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To see more of Barbro Åberg's work, visit www.barbroaberg.dk/.



"Cargo," 110 cm (43 in.) in length, ball clay with perlite and paper fibers.

February Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

- Kemp Red - we will use the rest of this glaze and will transition to Cranberry.

Publicity. Carole brought a copy of a brochure to be used to advertise our club at Empty Bowls. It was passed around and Carole asked for any ideas. Carole reminded everyone to pick up the latest edition of the LMRA Newspaper.

Website. Molly has asked for someone to take over the maintenance of the website. She has made changes that were suggested and needs someone to let her know what galleries need to be deleted.

Pottery in the Park. Kay suggested adding an ornament-sized piece to the raku firing. That way the cylinders would all be one price and the ornaments another. Less confusion that way.

Newsletter. Send any suggestions for the newsletter to Sharon.

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Studio Calendar

- March—Barb Throne to demo making paper clay
- April—Orbry will demo making baskets
- May—Raku party to fire baskets started in April
- June—4-Artist workshop



Randy Brodnax assisted by George Law



February Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

Empty Bowls. We are finishing up the glazing for the last bowls to be donated. Over 200 bowls have been delivered so far

Raku Workshop. Randy will be rebuilding our kiln in the kiln yard. It needs to be stripped so he can come over and rebuild it. Randy will bring all the supplies we need and we will pay him. We need to get a high pressure valve. Bring 4 bisque pots for the workshop.

Classes. Holly is having trouble with the current class with cancellations. She will write an article for the newsletter about how to sign up and pay for classes.

The wheel class is scheduled to start Monday, February 9, 2009.

February Cone 10 Firing



The kiln gods were with us this month. The kiln fired almost without effort to an even cone 10 at both the top and bottom of the kiln. Nearly every piece from this firing was a keeper.



- Studio delivered more than 200 bowls to the Food Bank
- Wheel classes started Feb 9
- Studio clean-up and cone 10 firing Feb 14
- Randy Brodnax Raku Workshop, Feb 21—22
- Holly's hand building class starts March 3

Important Class Info ~ Holly Thompson

We are having problems with the registration and payment for classes.

FIRST—It is important for you to put your name on the sign-up sheets for classes ONLY if you intend to take that class.

SECOND—you should put your phone number and e-mail address on the list so the teachers can reach you if necessary.

THIRD—Go to the office and PAY the class fee when you sign up. Be sure to put "Pottery Class" on the registration form so the tuition goes to our club.

FOURTH—If you decide that you cannot take the class you have signed up for, CALL YOUR CLASS INSTRUCTOR at the number on the sign-up sheet and let them know you can't attend. Please do that AT LEAST one week prior to the start date.

Event Notices

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Lecture & Workshop; 3/6—3/7. Lisa Orr at Eastfield Community College, Mesquite, TX. Lecture, 3/6 at 7:00 pm; free and open to the public. Workshop, 3/7, 9:00 am—4:00 pm; \$25 fee.

Contact Mickey Bruce at Michael-Bruce@dcccd.edu for additional information or to reserve a seat in the workshop.

Workshop & Exhibition; 3/9—3/13. Liz Luri Workshop at Oak Street Hall, University of North Texas. The exhibition will run 3/9—3/13 at the Cora Stafford Gallery with a reception on Thursday, March 12, at 6:30—8:30 pm. This is a UNT Clay Guild Silent Auction Fundraiser also featuring Wichita State University Cup Exchange Exhibition.

The workshop is Thursday, Mar 12, from 10:00 am — 5:00 pm & Friday from 10:00 am — 5:00 pm with a slide lecture 11:30—12:30 and potluck starting at 12:30. For more info contact Brenda Lichman, lichman@unt.edu (940) 369-6509

Lecture; 3/31. Jiansheng Li. Southwest School of Art & Craft, Russell Hill Rogers Lecture Hall, 1201 Navarro, San Antonio, TX. Lecture begins at 7:00 pm. www.swschool.org

A free public lecture on Tuesday, March 31, will be given by Jiansheng Li, President of the Sanbao Ceramic Art Institute in Jingdezhen, China, a region that is considered by many to be the “porcelain capital of the world.” His lecture, entitled Sanbao: The Lost Memory, will look at the 1000 years of ceramic tradition in the region.

Jiansheng Li holds two MFAs in ceramic arts; one from the State College of New York at Alfred University, and the other from the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute. His lecture will be at 7:00 p.m. in the art school’s Russell Hill Rogers Lecture Hall.

Workshop: 4/4—4/5, Raku Guru Steven Branfman at Five Elements Pottery, 3533 Twin Lakes Dr, Prosper, TX. Fee: \$250

Don’t miss this two-day workshop with Steven Branfman, author of “Raku, A Practical Approach.” Steven will take participants on a journey through his process for creating raku-fired work from start to finish. Day one will feature Steven’s wheel throwing and vessel forming techniques, surface manipulation, glazing, and firing. Participants will receive information on inlaying colored glass, texturing, expanding forms from the inside, application of dry clays to wet surfaces, trimming with chucks, and much more. Participants will spend the second day glazing and firing their own bisque. Glazing techniques covered will include dipping, pouring, bushing, spraying, layering and resist. Steven will address a variety of post-firing options including different smoking methods, naked clay, controlled cooling, horse hair, copper mattes, and fuming. Participants will learn about firing techniques including combustion theory, kiln control, and atmospheric manipulation.

Event: 4/8—4/11, NCECA 2009, 43rd Annual Conference, Ceramic Interface: From Dawn to Digital, Phoenix, AZ. [Wwww.nceca.net/static/conference_home.php](http://www.nceca.net/static/conference_home.php)

SAN ANGELO CERAMIC WEEK-END: 4/17—4/20, San Angelo Museum of Fine Art / Chicken Farm Art Center.

This year’s featured artists include Sunyong Chun, Joe Bova, and Billy Ray Mangham. Don’t miss this exciting weekend packed with workshops, nationally renowned exhibits, and all the barbeque you can eat. For information go to: www.samfa.org/ncc.htm & www.chickenfarmartcenter.com

Coming Events

- Lisa Orr workshop in Mesquite, TX
- Liz Luri Workshop at UNT
- Jiansheng Li lecture at SW School of Art & Craft
- Steven Branfman workshop in Prosper, TX
- NCECA
- San Angelo Ceramic Weekend



The fully-equipped Potter's Studio is open seven days a week during LMRA hours. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless notified otherwise. Classes are held on Mondays and Tuesdays in the Pottery Studio. Membership Fee: \$60 Individual; \$120 Guest.

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Staying Centered

2009 Officers

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- Publicity Carole Standridge, 940-682-2252 (cjstandridge@juno.com)
- Commissioner Mike Sawatzky, 817-655-8644 (mike.s.sawatzky@lmco.com)

Committees

- Glaze Committee: Barbara Baker
- Holiday Party: Mike Sawatzky
- Pottery-in-the-Park: Kay Bernier
- Workshops: Orbry Chamblee
- Empty Bowls: Mary Harper

Newsletter

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