



## Ventura County Potters' Guild



[venturapottersguild.org](http://venturapottersguild.org)

### **Members' Meeting: March 23rd, 2020**

7:00pm.....Meeting room opens for Social Time

7:15pm.....President's Report

7:30pm .....Program: "**Grateful for Magic Mud**" by Natalya Sevastyanova

### **For Your Calendar:**

March 1st.....Board Meeting

March 23.....Members Meeting; 7pm

April 5th.....Board Meeting

April 27\*.....Members Meeting; 7pm  
Jury Workshop; 6:30pm

May 3rd.....Board Meeting

May 18 (3rd Mon.)...Members Meeting; 7pm

June 13, 14 .....63rd Annual Ceramics Sale in Libbey Park, Ojai

Sep 13th.....Board Meeting

Sept 28\*.....Members Meeting; 7pm  
Pre-Jury Workshop; 6:30pm

Oct 4th.....Board Meeting

Oct 26.....Members Meeting; 7pm

Nov 1st.....Board Meeting

Nov 23\*.....Members Meeting; 7pm  
Jury Workshop; 6:30pm

Dec .....Holiday Party

**Meeting Location:** Ventura Adult Center; 550 North Ventura Avenue., Ventura, Ca 93001

## • Presidents message

Dear fellow potters,

What is Craftsmanship?

About 5 years ago I began being a frequent juror at our biannual jurying. I thoroughly enjoy the process of seeing another's work as it is. I got to hear the 'Thank Yous'. And, I got to hear the dissatisfaction from people not passing their jurying. Frequently they'd been told by a friend, a potter, a teacher that they'd pass the jury for sure. Not passing, they not only took it personally—of course—but were angry at the jurors and the process.

After thinking about this for awhile I saw there were two issues. First, we claimed to be an educational organization and the jury process as constituted wasn't educational. Second, we claimed that craftsmanship was important, but the jurying was based on 40% craftsmanship, 30% aesthetics and 30% personal identity. Many of the people who were not passing the jury were not passing because of low personal identity scores. A metric that it can take years of evolution to manifest.

I proposed that we alter the jurying process to include a pre-jury that would serve as a critique and increase their chances of passing the final jury, and that we restructure the scoring so that craftsmanship had the most weight. The jury committee come up with the details of the current system where craftsmanship is 60%, aesthetics 30%, and personal identity 10%.

Recently I was talking with students about craftsmanship and had the idea of asking some of our juried members to write a paragraph on craftsmanship. I found the process of getting that "knowing" what it is into words a valuable one. I suggest you allow that question to gestate for you and write your own statement on Craftsmanship. If you do, and you wish, you can send your statement to me and we'll have a page on our new website where these statements live.

CRAFTSMANSHIP is overall symmetry, balance, and pleasant tactile

experience. No sharp edges, rims or bottoms!!! Safety first is a goal. —

**Victoria Littlejohn**

Defining CRAFTSMANSHIP is an interesting dilemma for me, because you can be a fine craftsman and not be an artist, but I don't think you can be an artist without good craft skills. One can be a very fine craftsman following some else's plan, for example, building a fine chest of drawers. By adding beautiful personally designed hand-carved appliques to the drawer and cabinet fronts now changes it from a craft to an art piece. Conversely, I believe one can't create good art without craft training. In summing up, you can be an excellent craftsman without art skills, but you need both craft and art skills to be an artist.

—**Arnie Kubelun**

CRAFTSMANSHIP: The feature of an item or object produced by a skilled artisan or tradesperson that shows quality, beauty, and efficiency of function. —**John Grisafe**

CRAFTSMANSHIP brings what's in my mind's eye to fruition. I have always worked with my hands, making things. I derive satisfaction from slicing food neatly, inking precise lines, stitching straight seams. But the most satisfying experience is the manifestation of a new, creative idea, elevating craftsmanship to art. This is when I'm inspired to hone my hand/eye coordination to a higher level and give full attention to detail and artistic expression. Every new idea presents an excuse to improve my skills, a lifelong endeavor. My art isn't complete until its physical form matches my vision, and this can only happen through craftsmanship. —**Terry Wilson**

CRAFTSMANSHIP is the foundation of creative endeavor. It's a feeling and an attitude of paying attention to the smallest details of process and result. It's doing what the material and use demand even when very few people will notice if one doesn't. It's where the intergenerational knowledge of the human-clay relationship resides and expresses itself. Craftsmanship is the arena not to compromise.

Without this strong foundation the whole edifice collapses. When aesthetics and craftsmanship are in harmony, art arises, and the piece

of work registers a visceral experience in the body that validates it's just right.

Wyn Matthews

- **Program**

The Ventura County Potters' Guild is pleased to welcome Natalya Sevastyanova. Originally from Russia, Sevastyanova received her MFA with a focus in Mural Arts at The Academy of Architecture and Arts, Ekaterinburg, Russia. She moved to Los Angeles in 2003 and studied ceramics at Santa Monica College. Her two favorite medias are clay and wood. "I enjoy playing with the unique forms, vibrant colors, and deep textures of these contrasting materials, creating a harmonious balance."

In the upcoming lecture, she will reveal how to create wood textures by using a Sodium Silicate technique.

The second topic will be Horse Hair Firing with a Mica iridescent effect.

During the lecture video clips that were shot during the firing process will be shown.

"Forever grateful for the magic mud!"

Free and Open to all ceramic lovers! Refreshments

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- **Treasures from the Sea** is our next Gallery exhibit scheduled for March 21st

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- **Photography demonstration • Free • 3/21 • 10am-12pm**

Buenaventura Artists Association member **Joe Osborne** will demonstrate how to use your cell phone camera to take quality photos of your art. **FREE to all.** More info: Email Joe at [josborne@buenaventuragallery.org](mailto:josborne@buenaventuragallery.org).

Please RSVP here: <https://baa.wildapricot.org/event-3778495>

This event is followed by BAA Member Potluck from Noon-2 pm. All members and their guests are welcome, especially NEW members. Not a member? Follow this link: <https://baa.wildapricot.org/web-app-mobile-join>  
432 N. Ventura Avenue in the Bell Arts Factory #30  
Enter at the corner of Ventura and Harrison.

• **The Beauty of Underglazes • 4/25-26 • Ventura**

**Only two spaces left to sign up**

A two day workshop with **Julia Feld**. April 25-26. 10am-4pm. This is a fabulous hands-on experience for all levels of potters. Whether you hand build or throw on the wheel, you will learn how to enchase your work with Amaco Velvet Underglazes to create a painterly image that mimics watercolor. After practicing on a green ware and bisque tile to see how the underglazes respond to the raw and fired clay, you will then create a design on a bisque piece you bring. Don't miss out on this exciting workshop. Sign up soon. Application in the newsletter.

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• **The VCPG Annual Ceramic Sale in Ojai • 6/13th-24th**

Our 63rd Annual Sale in Libbey Park and Fundraiser is currently open for registration. The dates are June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. You must be a current member of the Guild and have completed your 2020 membership renewal by February 28, 2020.

If you are a juried member and would like to be a part of the sale, please complete the attached form and send it to Diane Hedding along with a check for \$40.00 asap.

Diane Hedding

**• Your creative adventure! • 2-Day workshop • 2 Sessions**

A fun way to get your hands in clay and create! Whether you are an experienced player, a beginning potter or just want to do something new, this will be fun.

<https://www.patriciagriffinceramics.com/workshops.html#/>

**Members Exhibit at Beatrice Wood Center**

**"Nature's Bounty" • September 12th - October 24th**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, September 12, 2020 • 2 - 4 pm**

This show is open to all guild members. You do not need to be juried to enter. This year's theme is "Nature's Bounty". As we are in the back gallery again, I urge an emphasis on wall pieces as there are limited pedestals available. Jurying will be done on-line starting June 1st to August 16th. No late entries accepted. More info about how to enter will come in the May newsletter. The cost is \$25 for two entries.

Accepted work will be delivered September 4th-6th.

<https://www.beatricewood.com/exhibits.html>

**2020 Membership Directory 20.1**

Enclosed is your 2020 Membership Directory. This is a .pdf file so open the file: 'FILE' then SAVE AS, then locate where you want to store the file or print the file and put it in a place where you can find it. We are holding at 138 members right now but I am still receiving new forms every week to process. Please review your entry, remember that the \* next to your name means you have been juried, and send any corrections to me. Once I have enough changes, with corrections or additions, I will mail out version 20.2 to you - that is usually in late summer.

Brenda Burgess [bburgessinventura@gmail.com](mailto:bburgessinventura@gmail.com)

**• Kiln for Sale \$800**

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• **Ceramic Art Studios**

**Obscurityarts** is a collective of artist studios which sole purpose is to provide an undisturbed work environment for the artist. We have several options for studio work areas with abundant space for indoor/ outdoor working and set up your own fully editable website within Obscurityarts.com to help promote you and your work Please check out our website <http://www.obscurityarts.com> or call Jon at (805)377-3167 for more information.

• **VCPG Board of Directors:**

President: **Wyn Matthews** [wyn@wynmatthew.com](mailto:wyn@wynmatthew.com) 805.207.3122  
Vice President: **Would you like to volunteer?**  
Secretary: **Stacy Rowe** [stacer2000@gmail.com](mailto:stacer2000@gmail.com) 310.429.2822  
Treasurer: **Roe Estep** [estep67@aol.com](mailto:estep67@aol.com) 805.320.3524  
Programs: **Cecile Faulconer** [gipsylily@gmail.com](mailto:gipsylily@gmail.com) 805.985.5038  
Sales/ Shows: **Diane Hedding** [d\\_hedding@yahoo.com](mailto:d_hedding@yahoo.com)  
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Gallery Chair: **Drew Lurie** [drewlurie@gmail.com](mailto:drewlurie@gmail.com) 805.798.2240  
Finance Chair: **Wanda Ferrin** [ferrinpottery@earthlink.net](mailto:ferrinpottery@earthlink.net) 805.462.7309