



Ventura County Potters' Guild



April 2021 Newsletter venturapottersguild.org

Members' Meeting: April 26th, 2021

- 6:30pm.....Meeting room opens for Social Time
7:00pm.....President's Report
7:30pmProgram:

For Your Calendar:

April 26th.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

Using AMACO Underglazes with Diana Faris

May 6th.....Board Meeting

Members are welcome to join our Zoom meeting

May 24th.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

June 12th-13thOjai Ceramics Sale

July.....Board Meeting

July.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

August.....Board Meeting

August.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

Sep.....Board Meeting

Sept.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

Pre-Jury Workshop application is due

Oct.....Board Meeting

Oct.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

Nov.....**Members Meeting; 7pm**

Jury Workshop

Dec.....**Members Meeting/Holiday party; 7pm**

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

• **Presidents message**

I tuned into **Forrest Lesch-Middelton's** workshop last week on Zoom. Thanks to **Jenchi Wu** and Ventura College for their sponsorship and inviting the Guild to participate. I was surprised that so few people tuned in. I found Forrest thoroughly engaging, masterful at what he does, and really good at talking about it. In any presentation I see (or hear), I always look for the *Gold Nuggets*.

My *Gold Nugget* from Forrest is that when making slip from your clay, deflocculate it and then add more powdered clay, thus creating a slip with a much higher clay particle density.

In pottery, as in life, we tend to talk about the quantifiable things. Like how to do something. And tips and tricks for how to do it better, quicker, etc.

In classes I teach, we have a conversation on the first day that even though we'll be working with clay, talking about, demonstrating and practicing many skills with clay, the class is really not about clay. It's all about them... personally. What they are really engaged with is the mirror that clay provides.

I say to them, "When you are frustrated, notice that the clay isn't doing anything *TO* you. The clay is just sitting there. You are bringing the frustration, the 'I'm no good at this', etc. and the clay doesn't care what you think or feel. It just requires that you listen... pay attention."

On the other end of the continuum are those of us who have given Ceramics a primary place in our lives. This is the realm of the unquantifiable. For those of us in this realm, an important question is "How has my relationship with clay changed me?" I think any long term loving, inquiring relationship with being a Maker of things with one's hands changes the Maker.

For me, I've been playing with this slippery, sticky dirt for over 50 years. When I was 18 I saw a couple making pots. I'd never previously seen a hand made pot or one being made, and yet, I knew that this was something I HAD to do. I left school and, at 19, apprenticed with Lauren and Nancy Libow in New Hampshire for 2 years.

I grew up abused physically, mentally and emotionally. I brought all of that with me to the clay. I was in rage and in fear. My PTSD radar was on 100% of the time. I found a refuge with the clay. A place of silence. My MO at that time was, "I'll do it how I want, when I want, and when I want! Fuck you very much!" That didn't work very well with clay. I gave all my angry energy to the clay and it didn't care at all. It just sat there. No matter what I tried, it just stayed clay... it didn't react.

Over the years and decades I learned to listen. I learned to be patient. I learned to not have to be right. I learned to respond instead of react. I learned to appreciate and forgive. I learned to befriend my negative thoughts and feelings. And I learned that I could bring those gifts to other domains of life than the pottery studio.

I learned that being Human was my primary identity, that being a Creative Human — an artist — was my secondary identity, and that being a potter was the crucible in which the magic was continuously born.

How about you?

Wyn Matthews, VCPG President
50+ year potter
me@wynmatthews.com 805.207.3122

• April 26th Meeting • Using AMACO Underglazes

Learn about the different types of underglazes and their application. Images and examples shown will include printing with liquid Velvet Underglazes and painting with Semi-Moist Underglazes (SMUGs). We will cover firing ranges and alternative uses. Participants will be able to ask questions and access various resource materials.

Diana Faris began teaching pottery in 1992 while completing her MFA in Ceramics at the University of Florida (Gainesville). She is an Account Manager at Amaco-brent where she also coordinates the Educational Outreach program. Her previous clay-work experience includes Fabrication Studio Director at Historic Pewabic Pottery in Detroit, MI."

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• The Gallery Corner

On April 1 st the Gallery Committee met and made changes to how Gallery space was assigned and shifts were allocated.

The new floor plan which would accommodate all 5 current requests for enlarged or new space beginning July 1, which the Committee approved, thereby clearing the waiting list for now. The Committee decided that future requests for expansion or new space would be filled based on the order in which Wanda Ferrin is notified of the request(s).

So, if you are a juried Guild member and interested in becoming a Gallery member, or are an existing Gallery member interested in expanding your space (from half to full), please let Wanda know sooner rather than later.

In order to accommodate more artists in our limited space, the Committee decided to allow up to two juried artists to share space with the following requirements: Half-space dues for shared spaces will be \$110/quarter with a 6-shift commitment (it is \$90/qtr w/ 6 shifts for one member) and full-space dues for shared spaces will be \$150 with a 10-shift commitment (\$120/qtr w/ 9 shifts for one member). The artists themselves will decide how to split costs and shifts.

The Gallery is also going to take advantage of our summer weather down at the Ventura Harbor by extending our hours on weekends in June, July and August to 3 shifts; 10am to 7pm (normally we are open from 11am to 6pm). We're also excited about the upcoming Mother's Day events! More on that in the newsletter.

• **Our Gallery celebrates 10 years at Ventura Harbor**

What started as a three-month summer project to open a ceramic gallery at Ventura Harbor, grew to ten years and is still going strong. We thank the Ventura Port District Commissioners for awarding us a Ten Year Plaque.

Cecile Gurrola-Faulconer led the charge to open the Gallery and rallied eight intrepid potters to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty in something other than clay. Cecile now states, "It has been such a joy to see the Ventura Potters' Gallery artists and their ceramics rise to be seen as a premier art form in our community. Our members shine with both sculptural and functional items reflecting their own individual personalities. We are here to stay!"

Within the first month of being open the number grew to 15 participating artists. Over the ten years, 64 artists have traveled through the Gallery and there currently are 44 affiliated artists. Most have permanent displays, but consignment artists are encouraged to exhibit a few pieces each month.

The backbone is the Ventura County Potters' Guild, a local non-profit that oversees its master plan while Gallery members join committees for its day-to-day running. Not only do we pull from Ventura County, but the only limit to participation is the distance a member is willing to drive for sitting a shift.

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Long-time member and Santa Barbara ceramic artist **Dane Venaas** relates, "The fact that the Gallery has continued to grow and prosper in the same location is a testament to the hard work and quality control of those leading the way. I believe the success speaks highly of the group effort which represents us very well in a public setting. I am grateful for all of the foresight and changes that the members have made to continue this amazing venue."

Also hailing from Santa Barbara is **Troy Schmidt**. He volunteers as the Gallery archivist and is active on social media. He recounts, "Over the past decade, I have witnessed Gallery members grow as artists and have seen them improve their crafting skills as well, and I expect that to increase as we continue to move forward. I am certainly thankful for the opportunities afforded me in providing a venue where I can sell my work and also interact with the public by talking directly with so many customers and in doing educational outreach through demonstrations."

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Simi Valley potter **Wanda Ferrin** remembers, "I signed up to cashier at the Gallery the first day it opened, and remember the excitement of writing up the first sale. When the woman learned she was our first customer, she insisted on signing a one dollar bill for us to display, and it remains framed in the cashier area to this day." Wanda continues to be active as the treasurer.

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Ojai potter, and current Gallery chair, **Drew Lurie** joined a few years ago and states that there are many positives reasons for being a

Gallery member, "The opportunity to display my work has challenged me to look at why I make pottery, why I identify part of myself as a potter. It feels great when someone is moved enough to purchase a piece of yours. But beyond that, I enjoy being a part of the group of talented and diverse potters. It's also great to be a part of the Ventura Harbor."

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Be sure to stop by the Ventura Potters' Gallery to view work from 44 local artists and potters. The Gallery is located at [1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105](#) in Ventura Harbor and is open seven days a week from 11-6. Can't make it in? Please visit our newly-launched Online Store at venturapotteryonline.com.

More information can be found at <http://venturapottersguild.org>.

Here is the album of photos from the first year 2010: [2010 Gallery](#)

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(L to R) Brian Pendleton, Ellen Wohlstadter, Chris Stephens, Drew Lurie, Wyn Matthews, and Mike Blumenberg

• **Mother's Day at Ventura Pottery Gallery Presents**

One of a kind Vase for your One of a kind Mother

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VCPG **juried** members are invited to participate in the Gallery's **Mother's Day 'Open air Vase Exhibit'**

You can submit 2 vases for this event.

These vases can be any size, hand built, thrown or combination.

If you are interested in joining in this very fun event

contact Ellen Wohlstadter (818)321-8706.

We have created a Facebook event for the Gallery's special Mother's Day promotion.

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Link to FB event:

Mother's Day Open Air Vase Exhibit

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2918073998426229>

Facebook Members

If you haven't already - be sure to go to our gallery facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/VenturaPotteryGallery>

and click the "Like" button to follow Gallery posts.

1) From our gallery page, either click on the event "Mother's Day Open Air Vase Exhibit" or go directly to the event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2918073998426229>

2) Click the button that says "INTERESTED". (better yet - hover over that button on the right edge or click on it a second time until the option to choose "GOING" comes up and choose "GOING". Mark "INTERESTED" if you won't be there.

3) Click the "INVITE" button and choose friends from the list that pops up, then click on "SEND FRIENDS"

4) Last click on "SHARE EVENT"

This will add the event to your timeline's news feed and you can add a comment if you like.

• A drawing for a Free Vase and Faux flowers

Gallery customers can register to win at the gallery.

(see flyer attached)

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• **Beatrice Wood Show • 5/25 to 6/26, 2021**
• **Application is due 4/18/21** •

Our annual show at the **Beatrice Wood Center** will be May 25 to June 26, 2021 in the main gallery.

Containers is our focus with the title of the show "**Put A Lid On It**".

Reception: to be determined.

Applications due: Sunday April 18 with \$20 and Artist statement.

Delivery to the Beatrice Wood Center: May 14-16.

Pick up: June 25-27

Application is included.

geniethomsen@gmail.com

• **The VCPG Annual Ceramic Sale in Ojai • 6/12th-13th**

Our 63rd Annual Sale in Libbey Park and Fundraiser is currently open for registration. The dates are June 13th and 14th.

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 a form from our website and send it to Diane Hedding along with a check for \$40.00 asap.

Diane Hedding

• **Clay Studio is opening**

After one year of temporary indoor closure, [Clay Studio](#) will be reopening for open studio time starting Monday, April 5th.

Participating in Clay Studio's Spring Open Studio Time will enable community members to work independently inside the 2,500 square foot studio during allotted days and times over the course of 8 weeks.

Participants will have access to equipment such as new Brent potters' wheels, a new slab roller, extruder, hand-building tables and more. Learn more and register at www.claystudiosb.org/openstudio

- **Classes are opening at Studio Channel Islands**

Ian Bermann is a pottery and sculpture teacher at **Studio Channel Islands** he has been teaching off and on for 20 years and is interested in using his skills to help people gently get back to feeling ok in public. Classes begin in the early part of June. It is a five weeks course. There will be 3 people to a class and he will continue to add more classes as they fill up. All students must show proof of vaccination.

Please contact Ian at his email is berms27@gmail.com or his phone # is 818 337 9620.

- **New Members to our Guild • Welcome!**

Jon R. May

- **Ventura Pottery Online**

All juried members can post items for sale on the new Online Store: venturapotteryonline.com.

- **The VCPG Library has been reactivated!**

Check out an item now.

You can find information about how to check out items, including the list of items available, on the website:

<http://venturapottersguild.org/membership/> (left side and bottom).

- **Volunteers; Workshop Coordinator, Newsletter Coordinator and Assistant Treasurer**

Workshop Coordinator Wanted. You scheduled one or two workshops a year starting in 2022. Contact the artist, arrange a location for the workshop, figure out cost per participant in order to break even on expenses, register participants, host the event and find accommodation for the artist if needed. You will get the information to the publicity/ newsletter/ website directors. You are a voting member of the Board of Directors and attend monthly board meetings. This is a great way to meet new people in a fun and educational environment.

Assistant Treasurer Wanted. You balance our Bank of America account once a month. Small job, but big help.

Newsletter Coordinator Wanted. You are a voting member of the Board of Directors and attend monthly board meetings. You collect information, some is sent to you and you create a newsletter once a month. You are welcome to use your layout and ways to put the NL together.

Please call or email Brenda if you are interested or have questions about it.

Brenda Burgess

bburgessinventura@gmail.com 805-290-4741

- **Please renew your VCPG Membership**

Please use 2021 membership form included

- **VCPG Website;**

<http://venturapottersguild.org>

- **Check our YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2lzebZHcq-j01UucykUVpg>

• VCPG Board of Directors:

President: Wyn Matthews wyn@wynmatthew.com 805.207.3122
Vice President: Bill Evans bill133@cox.net 805-450-5863
Secretary: Stacy Rowe stacer2000@gmail.com 310.429.2822
Treasurer: Roe Estep estep67@aol.com 805.320.3524
Programs: Barbara Fosbrink/Foz bfosbrink@aol.com 805 643 4635
Sales/ Shows: Would you like to volunteer?
Workshops: Genie Thomsen geniethomsen@att.net 805.886.1957
Communications: Ruty Levy levyruty4@gmail.com 818.613.7256
Instagram/Pinterest: Troy Schmidt RedDragonPottery@gmail.com 805.252.0923
Membership: Brenda Burgess burgessinventura@gmail.com 805.290.4741
Publicity: Rebecca Catterall rebeccacatter@yahoo.com 310.384.1840
Jury Chair: Would you like to volunteer?
Marketing: Ellen Wohlstadter ellenwohlstadter@gmail.com 818.321.8706
Hospitality: Victoria Mullins vlmceramic@gmail.com 805.320.3524
Gallery Chair: Drew Lurie drewlurie@gmail.com 805.798.2240
Finance Chair: Wanda Ferrin ferrinpottery@earthlink.net 805.462.7309
Librarian: Amanda Mason Amanda.rose.mason@gmail.com 704-533-2574

Our Mission Statement:

The Ventura County Potters' Guild is a nonprofit organization committed to stimulating public interest in ceramic arts by providing networking, education and sales opportunities in an inclusive environment for all levels and interests.