



## The Chinese Clay Art, USA

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# Chinese Clay Art, USA

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"CHINESE CLAY ART" is a newsletter emailed to professional artists, curators, collectors, writers, experts, educators and students in the ceramic field, who want to know about ceramic art in China and things related. This newsletter will be a bridge between China and Western countries for the ceramic arts. Comments and suggestions are very welcome.

An earlier newsletter is on the Web at:

<http://www.chineseclayart.com>

Chief Editor: Guangzhen "Po" Zhou

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## *The Clay and Tools for Yixing Teapot Making*



### **Yixing Clay**

Yixing Purple Sand (Zisha in Chinese) is a type of stoneware clay. The firing temperature is about 1125 - 1175 degrees centigrade. (You may fire it between cone 1 & 2 as a test.) The high quality, moist clay is ready to use. If you have not previously worked with Yixing clay, you will be excited by its fine texture and high density. This excellent material is superior to

others when it comes to detailed work. World renowned for its ability to hold water unglazed, it has been used in China for centuries. The ideal is for teapot clay. Note: This clay is used primarily for hand building and sculptures and is generally NOT used for wheel-throwing.

### **About Yixing Handmade Clay Tools -- Water Buffalo Horn Scrapers:**

Artisans often think of clay tools as part of their clay work, and many make their own clay tools. Yixing artisans especially like to use scrapers created from bamboo and water buffalo horn to smooth out their teapots. Bamboo scrapers are usually used for pieces that are still wet; while buffalo horn scrapers are good for burnishing pieces in a leathern dry condition.

After you have brought the buffalo horn sheet home, soak it in water for a few days until the horn sheet has become soft and flexible. Cut one end in a 45 to 60 degree angle (based on what kind of pieces you are making) and use a sharp-edge glass or knife to thin down this end, leave the other side as a handle. The finished horn sheet should be have one side thicker than the other and gradually change to paper thin with semi-transparency on the

other end.

The thin end should be able to be curved to fit the round surface of your clay piece. You also need to soak the horn sheet in water over night before using it every time.

### **The List of the Yixing Clay Tools**

**Wood Mallet:** Maple wood or rosewood. Used to pound chunks of clay into slabs.

**Rosewood Paddle:** For paddling the shapes of the clay body.

**Adjustable Circle Cutter:** Used to cut out circular pieces.

**Adjustable Parallel Cutter:** Used when cutting out parallel pieces such as rectangle or square shaped ones. **Mini Sculpting Knife:** Used for sculpting details.

**Arrow Head Knife:** Nice for cutting out precise, straight lines.

**Spout Making Knife:** Used for rolling out the hollowed spout tubes.

**Bamboo Tools:** Used for sculpting.

**Water Buffalo Horn Tools:** Used for burnishing the surface of clay works.

(Horn scraping sheets have many uses, including burnishing clay surfaces. Soak the sheet overnight and it will become soft and flexible; then cut it into the desired shape. Then use the edge that fits your needs).

**Brass Hole Cutter:** Used to cut out holes. It is very easy to clean out.

**Hole Smoother:** Used for smoothing out holes.

**Brass Dragon Scale:** Utilized in order to create scales as surface decorations.

**Wood Egg:** to smooth out circular edges, such as the edge on the teapot body.

**Wood Stamp Supporter:** Used to support the other side of the clay when stamping.

**Wood Hammer:** Used for stamping.

For more information about clay, tools, and things that are related, please visit our website at [www.ChineseClayArt.com](http://www.ChineseClayArt.com)

Guangzhen Zhou, Chief Editor

## ***YX Teapot Workshop March 16, 2008***

Yong-Jun Jiang has done several teapot-making demonstrations in De Anza College in Northern California, as well as Saddleback College in Southern California. She will come back to Northern California and have another teapot workshop in the ClayGround, San Jose, California on March 16th. For details, please go to our website or contact Po Zhou at [ChineseclayArt@hotmail.com](mailto:ChineseclayArt@hotmail.com)

Also, while Professor Jiang is doing the workshop in California, her husband Mr. Zhang Zhen-zhong and his friend Wang Hui will also be doing a teapot workshop in Hood College in Maryland.

## ***Winning Teapots of the Third International Small Teapot Competition***



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**Mission Viejo, CA, 24 FEB 2008**

From February 25 through March 27, 2006, the Saddleback College Art Gallery will sponsor the Third

International Small Teapot Competition. Over 350 pots were entered into the competition representing ten countries including China, France, Israel, Canada, Australia, Turkey and the United States. 116 pots were selected to be exhibited in the show. One entry, "Tea Amigo," was selected as the best of show. Its creator, Serina Nakazawa of Glendale, California will receive the grand prize: a fifteen-day tour of ceramics sites in China in summer 2008. All winning artists are listed below:

**GRAND PRIZE**

Serina Nakazawa, Glendale, CA, US

**FIRST PRIZE**

Fanny Liberek, Sion, Valais, SWITZERLAND

**SECOND PRIZE**

Carol Tripp Martens, Laguna Niguel, CA, USA

**THIRD PRIZE**

Annette Reed, Mission Viejo, CA, USA

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**

Clive Tucker, Port Moody, BC, CANADA

Kathryn McBride, Soquel, CA, USA

Steve Garcia, San Diego, CA, USA

Meryl Ruth, Portland, ME, USA

Lingwu Kong, Dingshan, Yixing, Jiansu, CHINA

Paul Frehe, Asheville, NC, USA

For more information please visit [gallery.saddleback.edu](http://gallery.saddleback.edu)

**Letter from the juror Guangzhen Zhou**

The grand prize was given to a piece entitled "Tea Amigo," by a Japanese-born female artist, Serina Nakazawa from Glendale, California. The piece consists of three teapots in various sizes. Each teapot consists of four circular shapes in large and small sizes, and in negative and positive; and when the three pieces are displayed together, the twelve circles in the group play like the rhythm of the music with rainbow colors. I chose this piece because I enjoy art work that has original visual power and the ability to shock the viewer. This is strongest teapot show I ever seen. It was extremely painful to select only a limited number of works for the prizes among these many powerful pieces. I felt sorry for many of the artists who created strong pieces, but whose artworks were not selected. At the same time, I would like to say thanks to everyone who submitted their art works, thanks to the many faculty and students from the Saddleback College Art Gallery who contributed so much time and effort to make this show possible, and thanks to the professor Tony Huntley and Ms. Gloria Gimbrone who have given me the chance to get to know such fine works of art!

***The "Ceramics China" Tour Before the Olympics***



Everyone knows that while the Olympics are being held in China, a large crowd will gather and all of the prices will be going up. The visa application fee right now is \$130. We are going to lead a 15-day tour starting on May 28, before the Olympics begin in August. During late spring, the hotels' prices and other travel costs in China will not have risen to their heights. Most of the airports, train stations and other sites have just been completed. Therefore, it is the

best time in the year to visit China. For details regarding this tour, please visit [www.ChineseClayArt.com](http://www.ChineseClayArt.com)

### ***About 2008 IAC Post Conference Tour***

Many artists asked about the post-tours of IAC in China. I have been leading the tours of "Ceramics China" since 1999. So, for those of you who are visiting China for the first time, the best route should be Route G (New), which covers both Jingdezhen and Yixing. For the details, please visit [www.2008iac.cn/tours](http://www.2008iac.cn/tours).

[Read on...](#)

### ***Chinese Clay Art in NCECA***



**The Chinese Clay Art Corp Booth Number is 713-715**

#### **China Reunion:**

Just like what we have been doing during the past years, Chinese Clay Art is going to host the China Reunion Dinner Party on 6:30pm, Friday, March 21, 2008. Everyone is welcome! Please email me if you wish to make a reservation. Prices will be \$10 for each person. (Chinese Clay Art will pay the balance.)

Due to many choices of the restaurants, I can't choice which restaurant (Usually will be walking distance from the conference hall) we will go until I arrived in the town on Tuesday. Please come to our booth to pick up the restaurant information on Wednesday at our both No. 713-715.

#### **New Products:**

In the conference of this year, we will bring some new products as following: Plastic stamps of 12 zodiac animals, round edger, Chinese Clay Art T-shirt, ceramic beads, textured lacquer-ware bracelets (can be used for stamping your pots) and much more; For details, please visit our website at [www.ChineseClayArt.com](http://www.ChineseClayArt.com).

#### **Free Gifts in NCECA:**

Just like very time before, we are going to bring some products to give away, Here is the list; Stainless Steel Fettling Knife with Chinese Clay Art web address, Denim tool bags, Two different Posters in small and large sizes ("100 Chinese Historical Ceramic Art" and "100 Contemporary Teapots of Yixing").

#### **Free catalog of 2008:**

Our new catalogs have just arrived. If you would not be in NCECA this time, please send us your mailing address through email at [ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com](mailto:ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com).

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