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## Chinese Clay Art, USA

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in this issue

- [Happy Chinese New Year of Snake](#)
- [My Two Day Tour of Korea](#)
- [In Memory of Janet Mansfield and Sylvia Hyman](#)
- [The Chinese Delegation is Coming for NCECA in Houston](#)
- [CERAMICS ILLUSTRATED monthly magazine in China](#)
- [Ceramic Tour of Taiwan, mainland China and Japan, October 10-27, 2013](#)
- [Hotel Room in Houston NCECA conference](#)

For online version with pictures or previous version of our newsletters, please click [Newsletters](#)

"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>

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*Happy Chinese New Year of Snake*

Dear Friends,

Happy Chinese New Year - the Year of Snake! Not only China, but also Korea, Vietnam, and several other East Asian countries celebrate the lunar new year. According to the lunar calendar, February 10th is the first day of this year. In some parts of China, people may

celebrate the holidays for half of the month. The Zodiac has twelve animals, and the following years are years of the snake: 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001 and 2013.

Happy New Year of the Snake to everyone! Wish you all good health, wealth, and happiness all year long!

Guangzhen "Po" Zhou

## *My Two Day Tour of Korea*



I don't know why, but while I have flown over Korea many times, I have never gotten any chance to stop and meet ceramic artists there until last month. The tour, which was from January 26th to 29th, was arranged by my Chinese friend, Jin Zhenhua, who received her master's degree from Seoul National University many years ago, and Mr. Woo Byung-Tak, owner of Tho Art gallery, who guided me for two days. Mr. Woo has been in the ceramic art business for a few decades, and his gallery is a member of IAC. He knows the ceramic community of Korea very well.

It was cold in that time of year in Korea. With Mr. Woo, I visited three ceramic cities: Gwangju, Icheon and Yeosu. We visited the Gyeonggi Ceramic Museum and the CeraMix Creative Studio, as well as a few art galleries and antique markets, and we stopped at Seoul National University at the end.

Early Korean ceramics, such as celadon, and blue and white porcelain, were influenced by Chinese ceramics and passed on to Japanese ceramics, and since then, each country has developed their own unique style of ceramic tradition. What most surprised me was the large

collections of ceramic arts of the world in the museum. I received many books and exhibition catalogues from this museum and Mr. Woo. I wish I had come here before my last book was published. I was overwhelmed by the ceramics of the world today and yesterday.

Chinese, Japanese, and Korean cultures share similar cultural roots. Japanese traditional customs remind me of some life styles in the Tang Dynasty; in South Korea, the symbol on the national flag and the crane decorations I saw on ceramics reminded me of the symbols of Taoism. Also, their traditional costume look like what people wore in the Ming Dynasty. Unfortunately, from 1950's to 1970's, the revolutionary figures in the Chinese red region considered Taoism, Buddhism, and a lot of traditional cultures of Confucius as feudal superstitions. Due to this, the old culture largely died out.

I saw many store signs with Chinese characters and English words. The pronunciation of many Korean words is very similar to those of Chinese words. Many Korean words are also based off of English words. English is popular in Korea. Many new apartments in Korea have English names. The second largest Costco store in the world is in Seoul. It takes one to two hours to get a parking space during the rush hours.

Nowadays, along with Korean movie stars, plastic surgery has become popular with the young generations of China. In some public areas of Korea, you may be able to see some young girls with similar faces that may include big eyes, a straight nose, or clear and white skin. Some Chinese girls visit Korea for plastic surgery and they believe that a young girl with a beautiful face will find a decent job or get a boyfriend more easily.

We are living in the village of earth in the time of the internet, so the local individual identity has become blurred.

### *In Memory of Janet Mansfield and Sylvia Hyman*



The ceramic community is a large family where we all know each other, connected through emails, Facebook, and real life.



Janet Mansfield (1934-2013), former president of IAC, was a magazine publisher and a well-known Australian potter who specialized in wood firing. She passed away on February 4th. Her artwork was included in my new book "The Appreciation and Collection of Modern and Contemporary Ceramic Art"

and I had just been about to mail her a copy of the book early this month. Janet Mansfield was a very generous lady, and was very supportive of the international ceramic community. She wrote many letters for Chinese events when I requested them, and she visited China many times and attended almost every international ceramic event there. Right after I passed the sad news to my Chinese friends through the internet, I received a lot of messages through my iPhone, email and Sina Weibo (Facebook in Chinese version) holding their memories of her.

Sylvia Hyman (1917-2012), well-known ceramic artist, died at age 95.

Our good friend, Sylvia Hyman, who was a Trompe l'Oeil ceramic artist and a member of IAC, passed away on December 23, 2012. She was a very kind person, and exceptionally active in the ceramic community of the world. She participated in almost every general assembly of IAC, including Santa Fe in September 2012.

In September 2008, we traveled together from Shanghai to Xi'an. It was her 90th birthday when we arrived in Xi'an China. She was a wonderful friend. Both of them will be missed.

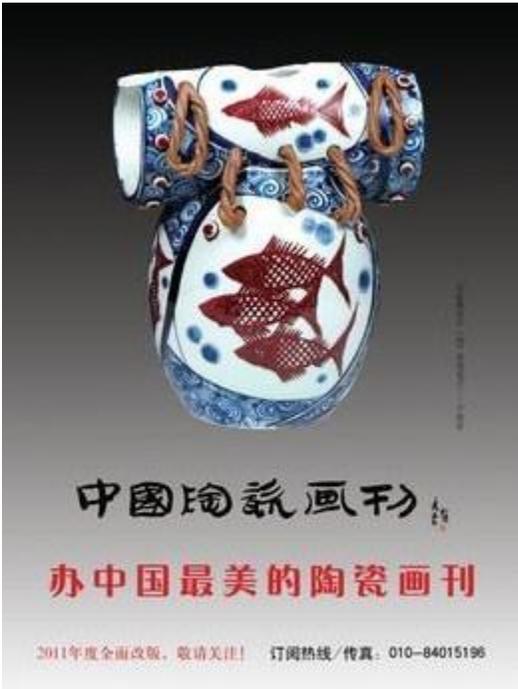


### ***The Chinese Delegation is Coming for NCECA in Houston***

Once a year, a group of 24 ceramic artisans, educators and art patrons from Yixing, Shanghai, Beijing, and Hangzhou will arrive at San Francisco on March 18. After the conference, they are to visit Washington DC, New York, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Los Angeles and Hawaii.

If anyone would like to meet the Chinese colleagues, please contact me by visit our commercial booth. The number is #428 and 430. See you at NCECA!

**CERAMICS ILLUSTRATED**  
*monthly magazine in*  
**China**



The CERAMICS ILLUSTRATED monthly magazine is going to start some special columns that focus on different part of the areas of the world. Po Zhou has been assigned as the editor of the North American column. The magazine contents include traditional and contemporary ceramic art, as well as design and art news mainly concerning exhibits, events and other happenings. The coming issue of the magazine will be featuring the artworks of Sylvia Hyman.

**Ceramic Tour of Taiwan,  
mainland China and  
Japan, October 10-27, 2013**



Ceramic Tour of Taiwan, mainland China and Japan, October 10-27, 2013  
(Taiwan-3 days, mainland China-7 days and Japan-6days)  
Bill Geisinger, Professor emeritus of De Anza College, California  
Ben Horiuchi, Japanese American artist  
Guangzhen Zhou, Chinese American artist

Here is the itinerary:

- October 10 Thursday, depart the US
- October 11 arrive Taipei Hotel in afternoon or evening
- October 12 Taiwan, Taipei National Museum AM, Yingge Ceramic museum and the pottery old street in the PM (Chartered Bus)
- October 13 Taiwan, studio of Ahleon AM, night market (Chartered Bus)
- October 14 early morning flight to Shanghai, Shanghai Museum and Yu Gardern, cruse on the Huangpu River in the evening
- October 15 Yixing in the morning, visit two studios of national masters of ceramic teapots, Yixing Ceramics Museum, ancient dragon kiln, Stay in Kaifumen Hotel
- October 16 Travel day, with time to also explore on your own.
- October 17 Jingdezhen ancient porcelain factory, ceramic museums, National ceramic art

master's studio of Jingdezhen.

October 18 Travel day, with time to also explore on your own.

October 19 One day tour in Xi'an, the Terracotta warriors museum, city wall, Muslim market

October 20 Beijing. Tian-an-men Square, Forbidden city in the morning and great-wall in the afternoon. 798 Art-zoon in the evening and dinner with local artists,

October 21 Japan, Kyoto, Travel day, with time to also explore on your own.

October 22 Japan, Shigaraki, two studios and the Shigaraki ceramic center (Chartered Bus)

October 23 Japan, Tamba, Hyogo Ceramic museum and the studio of Ichino Masahiko (Chartered Bus)

October 24 Japan, Bizen, Bizen museum, and the Fujiwara and Kimura studios(Train)

October 25 Japan, Nara, museums and temples Jomon and Dogu

October 26 Japan, Kyoto, Kondo Studio and Museum and Kiyomiso-dera temple

October 27 departure via KIX Osaka.



### *Hotel Room in Houston NCECA conference*

We have one extra hotel room at Hilton Hotel in Houston for the NCECA conference. If anyone is interested, please contact Peiwei Chen at email: [ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com](mailto:ChineseClayArt@hotmail.com)

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