



December 2020

THE KILN POST

President's Message

As I write this, it's the week of Thanksgiving and I'm feeling thankful for my health, my family, my dog, and for this awesome community of creative clay artists. This month, I have some unfortunate but necessary news to report. After keeping tabs on the current surge of COVID-19 cases, and after consulting with many of our talented members, it's been decided to cancel the Tohono Chul show in February. Although we'd all love to get together to celebrate and share our work, this is a necessary sacrifice we'll all have to make this year to make sure we stay safe.

With that said, we are working hard behind the scenes to create new ways of connecting. And we need your help! If you have an idea for a digital workshop/event, please reach out to our Workshops Coordinator, [Zach Gordon](#). We are looking for folks with the ability to share and demo their work digitally and I'm sure the broader community would love to hear from you as well.

As those opportunities and ideas percolate, I still have a lot of exciting stuff to report:

- We have officially launched the Southern Arizona Clay Artists Instagram! Follow us at @southernazclayartists. We'll be using this platform—in conjunction with our Facebook—to celebrate the work of members and to promote upcoming events/happenings in the community.
- Starting this month, we're hoping to feature one SACA member's work in each newsletter. This month, we have a feature of the

This pandemic has really altered our slate of shows this year. Show after show has been cancelled or held online. We are still planning shows and working to make these a reality. Look for updates in the newsletter or via email.

Jerry Bird
Shows Chair



Hi Everyone!

Just a reminder that Membership Renewals are coming up in January. You can renew online right from the SACA homepage. Also, if you know someone who might be interested in joining, please reach out to them or give them my contact info. I'm happy to reach out to them.

I am also asking all of you for your input. In these unprecedented times of social distancing, what would you like to see from us at SACA? Is it virtual workshops, social gatherings through Zoom, or perhaps small workshops conducted with masks and social distancing? Let us know how to best serve you through these trying times!

We want to hear from you, our loyal members, and get your thoughts regarding the best way to move forward and continuing to connect through SACA.

Check out my post on the Facebook page, Southern Arizona Clay Artists and Friends, called "Show Us Your Stuff". This is a place to show everyone what you are working on, celebrate our successes, and share our failures. No judgment, just good fun!. So show us your stuff!

Feel free to contact me anytime.

[Dawn Heinemann](#)
[Membership Chair](#)

[Renew or Register Now](#)



FEATURED ARTIST CAROL HEGEDUS

SACA has played an important role in my life as a clay artist. When I first joined long ago, I took a few classes and greatly enjoyed meeting and seeing what other clay artists created. Several from SACA have become good friends and we've continued to support each other personally and since they are more experienced with clay than me, they've helped me a lot with technical issues. Several years ago, Lynne Gingerich and I co-wrote the SACA newsletter.

Currently I sell my mosaics tile artwork in Tucson at Desert Artisans gallery and at the gift shop at Tohono Chul Park. My studio is set up with about 75 bins of tiles, each containing different tiles - leaves, birds, flowers, butterflies, etc. I also sell my mosaic tiles to other mosaic artists who come to my studio to find what they want for their own artwork. Also, MG Studios in Phoenix carries a small assortment of my loose tiles. For many years, I participated in art shows around Tucson but stopped doing them when it became too physically demanding for me.

One of the big challenges, when I first started making tiles, was how to install them and create hanging murals. When I couldn't find the metal frames I wanted, my son-in-law offered to make them for me and he's developed a little business himself, making frames for me and other mosaic tile artists. I also

had to learn about backing boards and how important the right backing was. I remember the very first SACA show I was in at the spring Museum of Art show - - it rained and all my wood-framed mosaics fell apart when the wood backing got wet and expanded. I changed to using cement backing, primarily wedi board, when it first came out and it allowed me to make irregularly shaped mosaics without frames, and everything held together!

Probably like other clay artists in SACA, the biggest challenge for me this year has been around how to keep my studio going in the midst of this pandemic. I'm still making tiles and they are piling up since it hasn't felt safe enough for people to come to my studio to purchase tiles or use my tiles in classes. This year, I'm trying to find a creative way to have something like a class but without having people come to my studio to do it. I'm thinking of putting 'kits' on my web site, where they could purchase a kit to make at home. Once I get it together, I'll send an email blast to my mailing list. I'm still trying to figure out how to get the kits together. If anyone else in SACA is doing something similar or has found a way to keep doing their classes in a new way, I'd love to talk with them to learn more. Maybe we could help each other!

Carol Hegedus

Handmade Tile Studio

www.handmadetilestudio.com








Southern Arizona Clay Artists & Friends

[Join the Group Now!](#)

Tell your friends to join us. Membership in SACA is not required.
You will always find a link in the footers of our newsletter and website.

 Join Southern Arizona Clay Artists & Friends

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