

June 2019



The Kiln Post

Workshops



WORKSHOP IN THE WOODS COILED VESSELS with Jan Bell

Join Jan and other clay folks for a day of coiled pottery-making on August 14, from 9 am to 3 pm in the Catalina Mountains.

This ancient, wide-spread and humble technique offers much to contemporary potters. Jan uses coils as both a construction method and decorative texture. She'll demonstrate various techniques of making base vessels to coil onto, making the coils and attaching them securely, and texturing the coils. Coiling pots surely has something in common with rocket science but

mostly it's a slow, low-stress activity that will leave part of our brains free for socializing and enjoying our outing in the woods.

We'll be out-of-doors at about 8000 feet, under a covered ramada that provides ample protection from sun and rain. The drive from Tucson is about one hour, up the scenic and winding Catalina Highway. The workshop per se will end about 3 pm but people can stay to continue clay work or just relax and enjoy the mountain however late they wish. The venue is an attractive group campsite that we have reserved from the afternoon before the workshop until 11 am the day after the workshop, so camping is also an option.

During her years at the Arizona State Museum Jan worked with diverse collections of indigenous coiled pottery and did fieldwork with coil potters in Arizona and northern Mexico. Since then her enthusiasm for ceramo-tourism has taken her to visit coil potters from Africa to Asia.

Feel free to contact [Jan](#) for any additional information. A list of what to bring, driving directions, carpool options, and camping info will be supplied to you after registration. Bisque and cone 5 firing can be arranged for those who need it

\$40 SACA members, \$50 non-members. There are 16 spaces available.

Register



**Andrew Vigil-Emerson
Presents**

Digital Marketing Techniques Making Social Media Work For You

It's been said hundreds of times by SACA members, "We need better marketing techniques — you know, like online tools." SACA people young and old have said thousands of times, "We need to reach out to young people." Well, the stars have aligned and on July 14 an intelligent young person will demonstrate effective use of online platforms for marketing.

Andrew Vigil-Emerson will show us how to use online platforms such as Instagram, in combination with digital media such as photography and video, to tell an effective story and build a strong online presence. He will also demonstrate how to use these tools to market ourselves toward a particular audience, such as individuals, galleries, or museums, and to help artists network with and support each other.

Many SACA people know Andrew, he's the son of long-time member Jennifer Vigil, and today he is studying Intermedia and Global Studies at Arizona State University. He is also part of a collective of artists and marketers who use multimedia and online tools to help artists market themselves. Andrew recognizes that one of the greatest challenges for artists today is how to use online tools and resources to market their work in an authentic and effective way.

For those of us who have prided ourselves on staying OFF social media, this is a good opportunity to learn how to become friends with these online tools. Attendees are encouraged to bring their wi-fi enabled devices such as smart phones or laptops, plus digital photos and/or videos. Also, if you have an account with Instagram, you can post images and videos right from our classroom. If you didn't know where to start, Andrew is here to make it easy to understand.

The workshop will be held Sunday, July 14, 2019 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the University of Arizona, College of Education, Room 351.

\$40.00 for SACA members and full time students, \$50.00 for nonmembers. There are 30 spaces available. For more information, visit the [SACA website](#) or contact [Workshop Coordinator Zach Gordon](#) .

Register

2019 SACA Tote Bags

**You'll be
Totally Kiln It!**



Are you going to a Clay Café ?

How about the Mt Lemmon Workshop in the Woods?

These bags are perfect for toting your favorite tools & supplies.

Lightweight & durable, perfect for a grab & go clay date.

\$15

(plus shipping)

Get yours now!

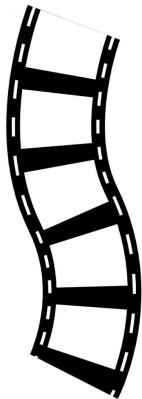
Limited Quantity Available

BUY NOW

Member Meetings

Groundbreaking Potters

RSVP



Andy Iventosch will introduce and present DVDs of groundbreaking potters at the member meeting in August. Scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 25, festivities will take place at the Quincie Douglas Library, 1585 E. 36th Street. Our meeting room is equipped with Induction Loop Technology, allowing hearing impaired attendees to set their hearing aids to "T" to receive clearer sound. This event, like all SACA member meetings, is free and open to the public.

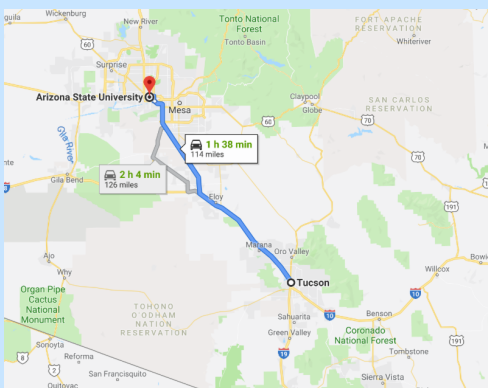
Long an admirer and "student" of some of the first practitioners of studio pottery, Andy has researched many of them and collected DVDs of some of his favorites. Andy said it was hard to focus on just three groundbreaking potters, so we may eventually have another movie matinee to learn of others. This time, we will learn about Japanese and Korean potters and Michael Cardew.

Andy teaches ceramics classes at Randolph Pottery Studio in Reid Park and has taught at several other venues in Tucson. Most SACA members know Andy and his signature huge round jugs.

SACA Road Trip UNIVERSITY BOUND

RSVP

ART AT ASU



Our June 2019 Member Meeting will be a great field trip with lunch. Arizona State University Art Museum is presenting two exhibitions of high interest to clay enthusiasts and we have arranged a day trip to view them.

ASU Art Museum presents ["ClayBlazers: Women Artists of the 50's, 60's and 70's"](#).

Almost 100 mid-century artworks represent the full range of technique, aesthetic approaches and possibilities within the field. Legendary artists like Maija Grotell, Susan Peterson and Marguerite Wildenhain were educators, mentors and masters of their craft, inspiring many future generations. Some additional familiar names among the 44 artists in the show include Cynthia Bringle, Rose Cabot, Ruth Duckworth, Karen Karnes, Gertrud Natzler and Beatrice Wood. If these names are not familiar to you, join us to learn how these woman advanced the field of ceramics.

The second show at ASU Art Museum Ceramics Research Center is ["Particle and Wave: PaperClay Illuminated."](#) It is described as a "groundbreaking exhibition of 45 works by international artists who incorporate paper pulp and organic fibers into their work." The result is increased strength and lighter weight, allowing a wide range of forms not possible with more traditional materials.

On Saturday, June 29, we will gather at 9:00 am at a parking lot in the northeast near I-10, to carpool to ASU and CRC. We are arranging docent tours in both facilities; guided tours greatly enhance our understanding of the artworks, and often add interesting personal and historical context. We plan to visit the first facility, probably the Art Museum, and then have lunch nearby, followed by the CRC. Both facilities have free admission, and SACA member meetings are always free and open to the public — so feel free to bring a guest. On the RSVP form, please indicate if you will bring a guest, and also please note if you are willing to drive in the carpool. Your RSVP confirmation will provide additional details.

Please join us on this special day trip. Clay structures incorporating fiber sound very interesting. Plus, since we revere our forefathers in clay, it will complete the picture to bring our women clay-blazers into better focus as well.

OUR CRITIQUE WAS VERY CORDIAL

by Karen Phillips

An enthusiastic group of SACA members and guests assembled May 18 to hear comments from Simon Donovan and Maureen Mackey about the ceramic pieces we brought for evaluation. Simon's comments were very often humorous but

insightful and Maureen's evaluations were thoughtful and experienced. Some people attended as observers but most brought one or more pieces to be examined. We sat around a large table and as each person shared what they brought the pieces were passed forward to Simon and Maureen, then around the table so everyone could see them up close. The leaders noted how much each piece varied when looking at it from a distance versus a close-up view. One great feature of the meeting turned out to be interaction from all attendees. Everyone had some comment to share as the pieces passed through their hands, offering a wide variety of feedback to the artists. The general comments at the end seemed to say more frequent critiques would be welcome.

The Board welcomes two new members to its ranks, taking over the 2019 unexpired terms of two important Coordinator positions. Carol Mullen is our new Membership Coordinator and Zach Gordon has just come on board as Workshops Coordinator.



CAROL MULLEN
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

I fell in love with clay when I was a little girl. Then and now, playing with clay (or mud!) was centering and focusing. When I moved to Tucson from the Midwest, I began classes with the wonderful teachers here. After a bit, I rented a studio and bought a kiln. I'm the producer of many great disasters and a few joys. It is the process of creating that I love the most. My background is in science and healthcare and this is a perfect segue



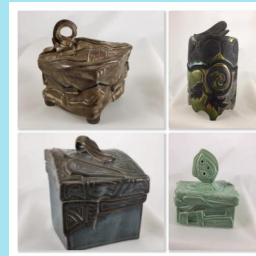
ZACHARY GORDON
WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

I received my MFA in ceramics from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, where I lived from 2009-2014. I also have a law degree from the University of Arizona. I've been working with clay for over 26 years. In Turkey, I focused on making ceramic fountains and telling stories with fountains. I also participated in a five-week ceramic workshop in Tokoname, Japan in 2011, where I fell in love with wood-firing and began experimenting

for me. I think clay folks are the best and I'm grateful to be one.

with wheel-thrown, hand-altered forms. I came back to the United States in 2015 and began practicing law again in Tucson. I recently left my law job to focus more on my passion, which is ceramics. I look forward to being the workshop coordinator for SACA because I enjoy meeting new artists and learning new techniques.

SACA Bylaws grant the Board authority to elect members to fill unexpired terms. Both of these fine people will be on the September ballot for election to their own two-year terms from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.



JULY CLAY CAFÉ

**BOXES ARE THE
BEST!**

[Register](#)

CLAY CAFÉ ON CARVING

The June 13 Clay Café on Carving found eight SACA members fully engrossed in creating their own samples of relief carved tiles.

Karen Phillips demonstrated finished examples of both line carving and relief carving, also explaining tools, techniques and glazing for best effect. After she showed the actual technique on clay, the attendees worked on their own tiles. Both white B-Mix and red B-mix with grog were available so people could get a feel for carving in smooth clay versus groggy clay. Understanding how to differentiate the various layers of relief carving was a big accomplishment for attendees.

Denise Gullett was a great host and even supplied a light supper for all. As usual at these popular events, the participants enjoyed meeting new and familiar SACA people, exploring a new

Boxes! Boxes!

Are you one of the many who have an obsession with boxes? From ornately carved wooden boxes to lowly shoeboxes, people collect, display, create, and store BOXES. And as for ceramic boxes, well, for clay aficionados of course the fascination goes even deeper.

On Saturday, July 20 from 2:00-4:00 pm, Elaine Dow will host a Clay Café discussion about boxes at her home near 4th St & Alvernon. Bring one you've made, one you admire or a photo to discuss. Bring questions or solutions about construction. Karen Phillips will demonstrate her style of hand-building lids and we can share tips, tricks or other clever advice in hand-building or throwing a perfect box. Or a quirky, stylized box. Or a round domed box. Aren't the options endless?

skill, and trading information. Another successful Clay Café.

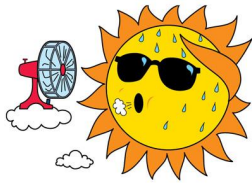


This Clay Cafe is open to eight SACA members at a fee of \$15. When you register you'll receive payment confirmation, directions and other pertinent details.

Clay Cafe groups have proven to be popular SACA events and every attendee adds thoughtful comments in an always lively discussion. Please join us.

Karen's Korner

A message from the President *June*



Ah, summer in Tucson. The snow birds have flown away north. Triple digit temperatures are finally upon us. We are making our own travel plans and the town seems to have lost some of its vitality.

BUT — your SACA team is steaming ahead with plans for Clay Cafe, interesting and informative workshops, Member Meetings related to our favorite subject (hint: Clay!) and even more. If you're in town over the summer months, please join us at one of these stellar events.

Another Clay Cafe small group discussion is planned for July 20 — all about boxes, an obsession I share with lots of other people. Elaine Dow will host this session at her studio near 4th Street and Alvernon. A Clay Cafe is a great way to get to know other members and learn from your peers as well. See all the details in this newsletter and sign up.

2019 CALENDAR

Click on **UNDERLINED DATE** for more information.

JUNE

June 29

Art at ASU
ASU Art Museum Tour

JULY

July 14

Digital Marketing Techniques
Making Social Media Work For You
Andrew Vigil-Emerson

July 20

Clay Cafe - Boxes

AUGUST

August 25

Presentation
Groundbreaking Potters
Andy Iventosch

On June 29 we will take a field trip to Phoenix for two exhibits at the ASU Art Museum and their Ceramics Research Center. We have a guided tour planned for ClayBlazers: Women Artists of the 50's, 60's and 70's. After lunch we have a self-guided tour for Particle and Wave: PaperClay Illuminated at the CRC. This is another great way to get acquainted while getting educated. Guests are welcome.

July 14 we have a special workshop by Andrew Vigil-Emerson, a young man who can teach us about using online resources for powerful marketing. Many of us have been talking for a while about the need to get more informed and more plugged in. Andrew will teach us how. It's exciting to have a young person from our SACA family taking a leadership role.

On August 14, Jan Bell will reprise her popular Mt Lemmon workshop. Spend a day in the cool mountain air making coiled pots with clay-minded folks. Also in August, on the 25th, Andy Iventosch, always a fun, knowledgeable presenter, will show videos of clay masters. His talk about groundbreaking potters is sure to be interesting. Movie Matinee! Will there be popcorn?

This takes us up to our September Annual Meeting and potluck on the 15th. Our end-of-year calendar is filling up, too. Stay tuned; we have lots more.

Summer Doldrums? Not one bit! I hope to see you at one or more of these interesting summertime events. Bring a guest and share the fun.

[Karen Phillips](#)
[SACA President](#)

August 14

Workshop in the Woods: Coiled Vessels
Mt. Lemmon
Jan Bell

SEPTEMBER

September 15

Annual Meeting - Pot Luck
Details TBA

OCTOBER

October 19 & 20

Tucson Botanical Gardens
Details TBA

Surface Decoration 2

Details TBA

NOVEMBER

TBA

DECEMBER

Annual Holiday Potluck

Details TBA

WORKSHOP

CLAY CAFE

MEMBER MEETING

SHOW



In the Spotlight

Hiro Tashima - Public Artist



A public artist in our midst, Hiro Tashima, longtime SACA member and Professor of Ceramics at Pima Community College has several art installations in and around Tucson and Arizona.



One of his first big projects was in the Phoenix Convention Center where it is on permanent exhibit. The scene Hiro created, *Beach in Heaven*, consists of various desert icons including saguaro cacti, birds of the desert, people playing in the desert and other animals we all recognize. If you haven't seen it, it's worth a trip to Phoenix just to do so.



More recently, Hiro has concentrated on art in the Old Pueblo. One of his first assignments was a collaboration with neighborhood youth for a mural inside Mission Branch Public Library. It shows the history, in a ceramic mural, of Tucson, from indigenous peoples, to Spanish infiltration and finally the Tucson of today.



In the Dunbar/Spring neighborhood near downtown Tucson, Hiro, in a commission with Jason Butler, created a gila monster reading a poem written by Dunbar. It shows Hiro's sense of humor as well as his sensibility to the history of the area. You can see it at Second Street and 10th Avenue, north of downtown.

Another whimsical installation is on Pantano River Park at 8700 E Arbor Street (on the southeast corner of Golf Links and Pantano Parkway) in the southeast part of the city. Featuring a tortoise and jack rabbit in sports regalia, this was also a collaboration with seven local students and a college student.



At Jacob's Park, in Northwest Tucson, Hiro created "*Fish Cactus*" at the pool area. It's another example of Hiro's interest in combining art with neighborhood history and culture. See it at 3300 N. Fairview.

Traveling farther north to Oro Valley is an installation of "*Quail Trail*," another collaboration of Hiro's with Jason Butler. It's in Naranja Park. They also designed and built the low walls at Oro Valley City Hall.

Looking to the future, Hiro is planning another commission at Ajo and Valencia for



more quails as seating structures. Look for them to be installed in the spring of 2020.

Hiro is an outstanding example of ceramic artists contributing to the cultural life of Tucson. Take a tour of his works around our fair city to see what he has made to make us smile and enjoy being a part of this ceramic life.

Remembering Our Friends

Remembering Gwynn Becker

by Karen Phillips

For those who missed the news of Gwynn Becker's passing last February, it still comes as a shock to know our friend and colleague is gone. Her close friends report Gwynn lived a full and varied life right up to her last day, including working out at a gym, lunching often with friends and of course working on her art – clay tiles, paintings and sculptural pieces. Gwynn joined SACA in 2000 and served on the Board as Shows Coordinator and Member at Large. She also donated a lot of time to Ben's Bells, and showed in "Share Our Walls" at the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild gallery.

Remembering Betsy Tanzer

by Elaine Dow

Betsy Tanzer, longtime SACA member and functional potter, died early in May. She was an acclaimed clay art teacher, providing advanced classes from Connecticut to California, Alaska, and many places in between. Over the course of her 60-year career, Betsy won numerous awards and fellowships and participated in many juried exhibitions around the country. After having grown up and spent most of her life in New England, she moved to Tucson in 2003 where she founded the Tucson Clay Art Center. Memorial contributions can be made to the Tucson Clay Art Center Student Scholarship Fund, 1703 E. Ft. Lowell Road, Tucson, AZ 85719.

Wordsearch Puzzle Fun

Answers from May Puzzle

Clay is Everything

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GLAZE
 COILING
 GREENWARE
 SGRAFFITO
 REDUCTION
 EXTRUDER

CARVING
 BISQUE
 CANDLING
 UNDERGLAZE
 OXIDATION

KILN
 THROWING
 KIDNEY
 STONEWARE
 CONE

