

**September 2023**

*A publication of Southern Arizona Clay Artists*



# The Kiln Post

## **President's Message**

Hello, SACA friends,

September is upon us which means SACA's Annual Meeting is coming up at the end of the month! This also means it's time for us to vote in our new board members.

As you know, SACA is run entirely by volunteers who give a little of their time each month to create this wonderful community for us. Several of our long-term board members are stepping down at the end of 2023 and we need to replace them. I know that many of you have spent time in some of these roles already and we thank you for that time you've given. If you have not volunteered on the board of SACA, even if you are a newer member, I encourage you to join us.

Without volunteers in these key positions, we will not be able to continue our member programs and events, or possibly even our shows like Tohono Chul. If you would like more information or have

## **2024-2025 Elections**

We have new and exciting benefits for members going on for SACA already this year. There is more in the works for the year ahead, including workshops, the new Clay Circle and other member events and unveiling of our first-ever commissions program. Plus, at our annual meeting, you'll be asked to vote on a brand-new SACA logo!

Along with the excitement and growth, we face some challenges, like all changing organizations. To help us get these new programs off the ground, we'll need support from our members, especially those who can become board members. Come and be a part of the excitement!

Are you an active member of the clay community? Do you want to expand your expertise and contacts and help SACA grow? Then join the SACA board! Several of our members are finishing their 2-year Board terms and

questions about these positions, please reach out.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on September 30. We have some exciting announcements we'll be sharing as well as an ocarina activity led by Mary Swallow. And really, what's better than working with clay with your clay friends? Not much! Find all the details below and the link to RSVP.

See you in a couple weeks,  
~melissa

we are looking for new friends to join us!

We need you! Board elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting on September 30, 2023. Please contact [Melissa Henshaw](#) and let her know which position you are interested in filling.

## 2024-2025 Open Positions

### **Vice President**

Fills in for empty board positions and assists the President and others as needed.

### **Shows Chair**

Coordinates the organization's shows and sales.

### **Website & Technology Manager**

Maintains SACA's web presence and website.

### **Member at Large**

Represents membership at board meetings.

### **Member Programs Chair**

Plans assemblies for members and guests throughout the year in a casual and fun setting.

# SACA's Annual Meeting

\* VISIT WITH SACA FRIENDS  
HANDS ON CLAY ACTIVITY  
HEAR ABOUT EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES  
VOTE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS  
AND MORE!

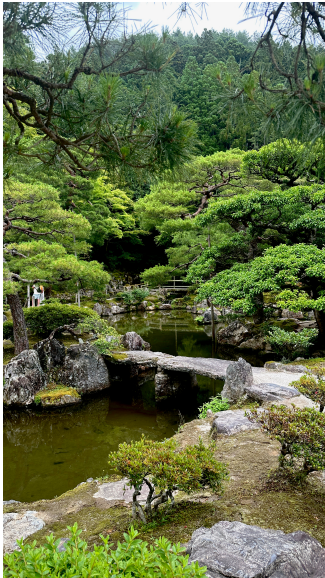
**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 30**

**1-3 PM**

RANDOLPH CENTER AUDITORIUM  
200 S ALVERNON WAY, TUCSON

[www.SouthernArizonaClayArtists.com](http://www.SouthernArizonaClayArtists.com)

RSVP



# Journey to Japan

## Part 1

Dawn Heinemann

This past August, I was incredibly fortunate to travel to Japan on the iCAN Journey to Japan ceramics tour of Kyoto and Tokyo! I knew getting to Osaka was going to be a very long trip, so I planned my arrival for a day early in case of any delays enroute and to give myself time to recoup a bit. Fortunately, I didn't encounter any delays, however, transferring from the international terminal to the domestic was a bit tricky. I'm happy to say it all worked out in the end.

Day one in Osaka was a leisurely day on my own followed by a meet and greet that evening in the hotel lobby with the rest of the group. Since I didn't know anyone, this was a great icebreaker and I discovered that folks from US, Canada and Israel signed up for the trip. There were 21 of us, plus our fantastic tour guides, Matt and Keiko, two amazing people that I'm so happy I got to meet.

Early the next morning we hopped on our tour bus to Zuiho-in and explored the Daitoku-Ji Zen monastery and gardens, which were gorgeous. We attended a tea ceremony introduction by a Zen monk who is also a master of The Way of Tea and had a great discussion about tea bowls and the 400-year-old history of the Tea Ceremony. We were all served our tea in different styles of tea bowls, and then passed them around while the tea master told us about each one. Virtually all of them had been gifted to the monastery by local potters. Aren't potters generous people? I think so. We continued to tour the gardens, temples and the bonsai exhibit including a



600 year old tree, then had a wonderful vegetarian lunch of never-ending tastes and textures.

That afternoon we visited the gallery of art historian, author and lecturer, Robert Yellin. Yellin gave us a brief history of Japanese ceramics then talked about the artists he represents, and the incredible work offered in his gallery. His knowledge of Japanese ceramics is mind-blowing. I had heard of Robert before but getting to know him for a few days was amazing. Read more about him and the gallery. We then went to Ginkaku-ji to see the Temple of the Silver Pavilion and the Philosopher's Path, which were breathtaking.

Day 2 started with Robert leading us on an excursion to the Tamba region in the Hyogo prefecture. We visited the Old Tamba Pottery Museum followed by visits to several potters including Nishihata Tadashi, considered one of the greatest living Tamba potters, and Ichino Masahiko, a 2nd generation potter known for his innovative forms. There are 50 or more kilns in the area (studios are called kilns in Japan) and Tamba ware has been made in the area for over 700 years. This was followed by one of the best dinners I've ever had at Hyouto Shijo Karasuma, a shabu-shabu (hot pot) style restaurant. The food was impeccable and we had so much fun. There was a lot of saki and beer flowing that night!

Day 3 was a tour of Kyoto's Gion district which felt like stepping back in time. The area is as it was 150 years ago. It is home to the maiko, geiko (geisha) in training, and one of the five geisha districts in Kyoto. We then visited the Kenninji Zen Monastery, which was founded in the 1200s and most of the temples date back to the 1600s. We were then free to explore Kyoto on our own for the rest of the day and it's beautiful.

Day 4 started with a visit to the home of a 5th generation gold leaf master, Noguchi Yasushi. I'll admit, I wasn't too sure this would interest me, but it was fantastic! He applies gold, silver, or platinum leaf to washi paper in incredible colors and patterns. The paper is then woven with silk and becomes the stunningly beautiful kimono obi. His humor and pure joy for his craft was delightful. We also met his wife and his son, soon to be the 6th generation master. The KitanoTenmangu shrine followed by the Kiyomizu district for an introduction to Kyoto's formal functional ware and tea ware was next, followed by a tour of the many shops and galleries. And boy did we shop! It was a good thing that I traveled carry-on only, or I would have been in big trouble. I purchased the most amazing little rabbit sculpture by celebrated artist Masaru Nishikawa, and the gallery boxed him up in a little crate so I could get him safely and soundly to his new home in Tucson.

Japan is so amazing, it's hard to describe. The Japanese people are incredible, I really didn't experience a language barrier at all, the land is stunning, it's incredibly clean and I felt safe everywhere I went, didn't matter if I was with the group or out on my own.

There's so much more to share. Look for Part II in the next edition of *The Kiln Post*.



## Annual Tohono Chul Show February 9 & 10, 2024

Registration will open December 1,  
2023



### MEMBER GALLERY

Remember to visit our [Member Gallery](#) to see the amazing work created by our fellow SACA artists. And while you're there, submit a photo or two of your own work for the community to see. We love this new member feature and are excited about the opportunity to share the work of our members.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Have a new piece of work you want to show off? Or trying out a fun technique new to you? SACA would love to share your work on our Instagram and Facebook Stories. Be sure to tag us [@SouthernArizonaClayArtists](#) and use the hashtags [#SouthernArizonaClayArtists](#) and [#SACATucson](#) the next time you post! You can also join the [Southern Arizona Clay Artists and Friends](#) group on Facebook to connect with our members and others in the community!



2024 is on course to be an exciting year for workshops.

Painted Pots with [Bede Clarke](#),  
Bead Making with [Vladislav Ivanov](#),  
Hand Painting Ceramic Tiles with  
[Damyana Dimitrova](#), just to name a few.

Do you have ideas for workshops?  
Are you a clay artists that would like to offer a workshop? If so, contact our [Workshops Chair](#), [Doug Hively](#). He welcomes your input and ideas.

# MEMBER PROGRAMS

*always free and open to the public*



## Save the Date

### Plaster in the Studio

Sunday, October 29, 2023

1:00-3:00 PM

Rillito Park, Ramada 3

4502 N 2st Ave

Learn about types of plaster and their uses, how to calculate batches and





mixing, best practices in the studio, and more. Plus a demonstration on making a damp box.

The small group that gathered for our first Clay Circle this past August had such a fun time chatting about clay and the creative process! The members shared their pieces with the group and after discussion, each of us came away with helpful feedback on what could be improved upon and also well-deserved compliments about our work. Plus we got to hear some really entertaining stories from our years in clay. Our next Clay Circle will be held in 2024

# Marilyn Cleavinger

Sharing Memories of Marilyn  
Sunday, October 1, 2023, 12:30 pm  
Reception to follow

Randolph Performing Arts Building  
200 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85716

Whether or not you choose to speak, you are invited to bring your written stories and memories of Marilyn to be bound in a book for her family, or email them to Elaine Dow at [conedowne@gmail.com](mailto:conedowne@gmail.com).

We will show a photo montage of Marilyn and her work, and we would love to include your photos. If you have digital images of Marilyn and/or her pieces, please email them before September 15 to Dan Lynch at [Dan@xxxxxxxxx.org](mailto:Dan@xxxxxxxxx.org).

For additional information please call Karen Phillips at [xxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxx)





**Tiny Wonders opening  
reception changed to  
Saturday, October 14, 2023  
6-9pm  
Romero House Potters  
102 W Washington St  
Tucson, AZ**

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SACA is excited to announce our new collaboration with the Children's Museum Oro Valley at Tohono Chul!

Each month we'll be working with the kids on a clay project based on the storytime book of the day at the Creative Clay Workshop. This is a great opportunity for our SACA members to share our love of clay with the youngest members of our community!

Our August Creative Clay workshop was lots of fun and many families came the museum specifically for the clay activity where the kids stamped texture to clay lizards, inspired by the book, Lizards for Lunch.

[Send Melissa a message if you're excited to get involved.](#)

## JURY SESSION

Sunday, October 29, 2023

[Register](#)

SPACE IS LIMITED to the first 12 SACA applicants. If you want to be placed on the wait-list, complete the entire application, pay the fee, and the Jury Coordinator will notify you if the session can accommodate you. The registration fee will be refunded if there is no room. Walk-ins are not accepted on the day of the session.

[Read more about Jury Sessions](#)

It is strongly urged that you [download and review a copy of the Jury Guidelines](#). They will help you understand the judging requirements and prepare accordingly.

### Jury Session Details

Jury Session Date: October 29, 2023

Registration Closes: October 26, 2023

Location: [The Romero House Pottery at TMA, 102 W Washington Street](#)



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