

## **Cariboo Potters' Guild Newsletter October 2020**

Some things seem normal, others not so much. The poplar leaves are turning yellow and the fall sale planning is underway. Wait!!! It's this week!

Yup, a month ahead of usual. Good thing we haven't ever called it the Christmas Sale.

Ours will be one of only a few seasonal sales this year, with no Medieval Market.

Quite a few members have been busy making pots, and some will be selling for the first time. New ideas & styles always enrich our group.

### **Sale**

Signup sheets have been posted. It's not too late to contact Lesley or Colleen & offer. It looks like we will be lucky with nice fall weather.



Ready for the sale? Maybe not. 😞

This week I watched a video of Tom Coleman unloading a kiln. He unloaded some amazing work, but in the mix were a couple of vases whose glaze had run beyond making it possible to salvage the pots. It helped me feel better about mine.

### **Pinholes**

These annoying little craters plague us all. Some have smooth edges which are more forgiving, while others are sharp. The variables responsible for creating them are many.

Bisque firing: most of us now bisque to cone 04 to increase the burning out of clay impurities. In the dark ages I bisqued at cone 08. I don't remember having more pinholes. Some high fire potters bisque as cool as cone 010. Tom Coleman says that the higher heat provides the opportunity for all those impurities to burn through the glaze & heal over. Clay bodies vary. Over firing: I have 2 glazes that will pinhole if they get too hot for too long (slow cool). A slow cool firing can also provide an opportunity for pinholes to heal.

Ingredients: ash glazes are prone to pinholing. Rutile off-gases late in the firing & can cause pinholes.

Dust: if your pots have dust / clay dust on them. Wiping pots is better than washing as when the water is sucked into the bisque, it can also suck in dust.

Other? Feel free to add to this list.

Get the picture? This flaw is beyond annoying and there is not one direct cause.

Some can be eliminated by grinding & re-firing.

### **October Meeting**

Our October meeting will be Monday October 5 at 7pm in the upstairs room at the Art Centre.

We can have 25 people socially distanced. Part of the meeting will be addressing the filling of vacant executive positions. We are in need of a treasurer and a kiln master. The kiln master will organize and oversee the firings. It will be exciting with our new kiln!

Following the meeting there will be chance to “show and tell” something you are excited about in your recent work.

We will see new faces in Secretary, Treasurer and Kiln Master positions but the rest of the

executive is willing to stay on for this year.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting as it will be a chance to say Thank You and so long to

Lorna. (From Buff)

TTFN, Christy