

Cariboo Potters' Guild Newsletter September 2019

Fall weather means Raku Night is coming up!
The October meeting is traditionally combined with raku firing.
Monday , October 7th at Lesley Lloyd's place
1771 168 Mile Road.
(Log arch at driveway. Up the hill on the right.)
6:30pm. Appie & sweet potluck.
Bring your bisqued clay to glaze! Or enjoy watching others.

Raku generally refers to a type of low-firing process that was inspired by traditional Japanese raku firing. Western-style raku usually involves removing pottery from the kiln while at bright red heat and placing it into containers with combustible materials. Once the materials ignite, the containers are closed. This produces an intense reduction atmosphere which affects the [colors in glazes](#) and clay bodies. The drastic thermal shock also produces cracking (known as crackling since it is deliberate). The original Japanese style of raku is an outgrowth from Buddhist influences in life and especially in the tea ceremony.

The History of Raku

Delving further into [raku's history](#), it dates right back to the early 1550s as mentioned specifically for the Zen Buddhist Masters in their ceremonial teaware. It's been well documented that this was the favored method of ceramics for the Zen Buddhist masters as raku ware touches on many of the things that Zen philosophy embodies, most notably its simplicity and naturalness. Raku firing really is one of the most natural techniques that you can encounter in pottery. In raku firing all of nature's elements are used, earth, fire, air, and water. The earth is used to make the pot, then it's put into a [reduction chamber kiln](#), then plunged into water. The cold water halts the firing process. A lovely fact about raku is that its name literally translates as 'happiness in the accident'.

New Members

Welcome to the guild all new members. Before you have access to using the studio equipment, you are required to have an orientation by our membership chairperson, Barb Fraleigh. Please contact Barb by email barbfraleigh@yahoo.com

Gas Firings

There will be a firing Oct 8/13 depending on weather and production. And another November 18th right before Medieval Market. There will also be a bisque firing at the guild prior to these. Contact Lesley Lloyd to learn more.



Studio Organization

If you have any 'in-progress' projects, or dare I say abandoned ones at the guild, please either move them along or remove them. Space is sooo limited!

Speaking of space, I'd like to promote the idea of having the wheels face the wall with a shelf(8"wide) running the length of the wall so wheel people would have a spot to place their freshly thrown pots.

Another agenda item. It has been mentioned that our extruder is narrow and limits what dies can be used. Maybe we should check out replacing it with something bigger.

Mini Workshops

Thanks Lesley for the raku workshops. Hopefully the process won't be such a mystery for new members, and others who needed a little inspiration.

I have had requests for a number of other minis but need to line up instructors with dates. More information will be sent out soon.

A big thank you to Jill and Daryl, Jude and Art and Simone for doing such a good job of sorting, moving and organizing the studio. It has made the cleaning easier and just a reminder....each time you use the room for anything be sure it is cleaned properly. This includes washing the whole floor mainly for dust control and cleaning the sink. Please take your slop home.

The Stationhouse gallery fundraiser is October 19. Beer fest at TRU. Tickets at the Station house. Should be good. Cole Patenaude band playing.

Events in November include our sale and the Medieval Market. Details at the Raku meeting.



Thanks to everyone for the good wishes & celebration of my new studio.

Christy