

Local Clay General Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2007

In attendance: Kay Irish, Leslie Friedman, Michael Fromme, Deborah Duck, Fran Gosar, Linna Muschlitz, Maryanne & Dan Smith, Merry Newcomer, Mary Briggs, Paula MacCullen, Rhoda Fleischman, Susan Fishel, Elaine Pruett, Katie Swenson, Celine Swenson-Harris, Avi Harriman, Melinda King, Wayne Lambert

Discussion: How do you prepare for Taxes?

- Quicken or Quick Books Pro with separate categories. Can use in conjunction with TurboTax to file directly with IRS. File Maker Pro is another package. These software packages allow you to download credit card and checking info into categories like Raw Materials or Cost of Goods. LCC has classes to learn Quicken/Quick Books
- Filing cabinet system with separate months. Envelope system to separate categories. Green ledger system with receipts in file folders. Separate folders for galleries, shows, receipts, festivals
- Call AARP for free tax service
- Excel Spread sheet
- Separate business account with credit card and checkbook.
- Take inventory at start of year, end of year, and before major shows. Can track prices (items sold at original price or discount). Can also keep track of inventory using photos stored on computer, memory stick, CD.
- If you have a cramp in your belly at tax time, find an artist-friendly tax preparer. Tax preparers find deductions and always save the artist more money than the price of their fee. Some tax deduction categories we might not have considered include Laundry (detergent, electricity, water), shoes destroyed by the kickwheel, home office/studio/glaze room.
- The IRS allows a business three losses in five years. If you lose money more than three times, the business reverts back to "hobby" status and past deductions become expenses on your next tax return.
- If you should be audited by the IRS, remember that they audit on an item-by-item basis. You can offset an item that they disallow by showing that you didn't claim an item that you could've claimed, even if the values are very different.

Frank made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Mary seconded.

ClayFest Report – Paula announced the Trainee positions available: Webmaster Trainee currently open and Treasurer Trainee open beginning next year. Members of the ClayFest Steering Committee as well as all officers of Local Clay are guaranteed a ClayFest booth as well as a 5% discount on ClayFest commissions.

Empty Bowls – The Throw-A-Thon will be held on March 31 and April 1 at LCC with clay provided by Georgies. Lunch will be provided. Students will glaze the pots.

Clay in Ed – Forms may be downloaded from the Local Clay website. You can hold a Clay in Ed class at a school, community center, senior center, neighborhood, scouts meeting. The school typically provides the materials. Clay in Ed pays the trainer

\$25/hour. Linna also announced that the Laurel Hill Auction for chronic mental illness will be held on June 1. They are currently soliciting artists to present pieces, and will pay the artists 75% of the proceeds for their piece.

Workshops – Mary is currently looking at a list of local and national artists for this year's workshops, and is researching their fees and availability. Her list includes Clary Illian (author of *The Potter's Workbook*), Linda Christianson, Ron Meyers, Vince Pitelka. She's considering two large workshops to be held at LCC, which has matched funds in the past. There are many excellent potters/sculptors in Oregon, and Mary may go to Showcase in May to see who else might be available. She's also considering holding short demonstrations at the end of meetings, which we've done in the past.

The Jordan Schnitzer Museum has the following lectures coming up:

Artist Presentation: Richard Notkin

Wednesday, April 4, 6 p.m.

Internationally acclaimed ceramist Richard Notkin will present a lecture on his work. He is well known for his socio-critical tile mural "The Gift" and his sculptural re-interpretations of the Chinese Yixing teapot. Notkin is on the board of the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana and has won several awards, including National Endowment for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowships in 1981 and 1988, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award in 1991 and a Jerry Metcalf Foundation Artist Fellowship in 1999.

Korean Celadon Demonstration

Saturday, April 7, 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to observe "From the Fire" artist You Heh Ja, professor of ceramics at Ewha University in Seoul, Korea and one of the artists featured in the exhibition as she demonstrates ceramic techniques for Korean celadon. Visitors are welcome to work observe and then to create a vase utilizing the traditional techniques and styles that Professor You demonstrates. FREE.

Scholarships - Avi, Frank and Deborah are organizing Local Clay Scholarships for a graduating senior (probably \$500) and several smaller grants for local workshops. They'll design an application form to send to art teachers in Lane, Linn and other nearby counties.

New Business:

Regarding dues deadline, Paula stated: For 2007, people interested in applying to ClayFest have until April 15 to join Local Clay, and pay \$30 penalty at the time of sending an application to ClayFest. Anyone applying to Local Clay can join anytime with no penalty. Deborah moved, Mary seconded. The motion passed.

Remember – fines are tax deductible!

Michael moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rhoda seconded. The next meeting will be held on May 23 at Georgies, 6:30 pm.

Leslie Friedman