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# Body of Work

Editorial by Genez Malebranche

At the September 18th CDA meeting, Suzanne Cowan and Lesley Hildreth talked about the upcoming members' show at the Courthouse Galleries in 2012. When Suzanne explained that there was no particular theme, but each artist was expected to submit 6 pieces that represented their "Body of Work," some people felt a need for clarification. Different aspects of the topic were discussed – make a "set" of six, six things that all look alike, six of the same style, etc. But no one really nailed a clear and concise answer. I understand their difficulty, because there are so many different ways to create a "body of work" that it defies definition.

I participated in An Occasion for the Arts in Williamsburg on October 1st and 2nd, and the ceramics judge had a long talk with me about this very subject. She felt that, although my technique was well developed and executed, my work didn't have any particular direction. As I looked around at the art in my booth, I knew that she was right. Some pieces were horse-hair with a definite southwestern flavor, others were raku with an oriental flair, still others were naked-raku with an art-nouveau feel to the designs (I thought I was doing good by leaving out my high-fire functional work!). My work is very diverse because I enjoy making all these different kinds of things. But she urged me to pick a direction and stick to it. She said that it wouldn't even matter if I mixed up my techniques, as long as my direction was the same – so I could put oriental horse-hair, raku and naked raku all in the same booth, and it would be OK, as long as it all looked oriental.

*(Continued on [page 4](#))*

**Please contact Lynne Bailey IMMEDIATELY if you wish to attend the Jennifer McCurdy workshop. Otherwise, it could be cancelled. Lynne's email is [lynnebells@gmail.com](mailto:lynnebells@gmail.com). Her phone is 757-376-3174**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16 CDA Board meeting 2:00 pm,  
General meeting 3:00 pm,  
Demo - Paper Resist with Slip  
by Chris Stevens

November 4 - 6 Demo/Hands-on with Jennifer  
McCurdy (details [page 2](#))

20 CDA Board meeting 2:00 pm,  
General meeting 3:00 pm,  
Hoffheimer Building, VWC.  
Cold Finishes by Barbara K.

December Holiday Party (date to be  
determined) Can you host the  
party? Please let Ray know.

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**“Testing the Limits of Porcelain in  
Thrown, Altered, and Carved Sculptures”  
with Jennifer McCurdy**

**Demo Friday, November 4th, 2011**

at Virginia Wesleyan’s FA-9 Theatre

**Hands On Saturday & Sunday, November 5th & 6th**

Ceramic Studio, Hoffheimer Bldg.

**Demo - \$45 • Hands-On (includes demo) - \$120**

Jennifer received a BFA from Michigan State University in 1979 and then learned how to formulate and throw porcelain at Florida Atlantic University under John McCoy in 1980. She has been selling her porcelain in art shows and galleries for the last thirty years, and her work is included in the collections of several museums, including the Smithsonian Renwick Gallery in Washington, DC.

She maintains a studio in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. Her focus on the reflective and bone-like quality of the bare porcelain has led her to explore the light and shadow of the clay forms, resulting in a unique melding of line and structure. She is looking forward to sharing some of the tricks she has learned along the way – tricks of the trade, and tricks of porcelain. Perspective students are encouraged to review Jennifer’s website at [www.jennifer-mccurdy.com](http://www.jennifer-mccurdy.com).

Jennifer will demonstrate by throwing a cylinder and after the cylinder is formed, she will demonstrate the technique of “dry throwing”, using two metal ribs to create the shape of the piece. Next, she will show her technique of altering these pieces off the wheel to create soft shadow and movement.

In the afternoon, she will demonstrate carving techniques on leather hard porcelain, on pieces she has previously prepared, but similar to the work she threw in the morning. Then she will briefly demonstrate sanding techniques, and discuss firing strategies for porcelain.

*Continued on [page 3...](#)*



**To attend a workshop, please make your check payable to CDA, specify which workshop you are paying for, and mail it to:**

**Lynne Bailey  
140 E. Canvasback Drive  
Currituck, NC 27929**

**Questions? Email Lynne at  
[lynnebells@gmail.com](mailto:lynnebells@gmail.com)  
or call her at 757-376-3174.**

**Please Note: Workshop registration fees are non-refundable, unless the workshop fills up and someone on the waiting list can fill your space.**

# MORE WORKSHOP NEWS

*Jennifer McCurdy, continued...*

Material Requirements for the hands on participants will be listed on the website as well, but they are as follows:

- ◇ 25lb cone 10 porcelain
- ◇ Kemper #R3 trimming tool or similar
- ◇ #11 Xacto knife
- ◇ Kemper WS little wire tool
- soft leaded pencil
- ◇ 1" and 2" tapered sponge "Poly Brush", made in the USA (hobby shop or Walmart....do not get the "Made in China" sponge brushes found in the paint department)
- ◇ Scotch-Brite green scouring pad
- ◇ metal ribs
- ◇ 3" elephant ear sponge both for throwing and sanding
- ◇ wire
- ◇ needle tool
- ◇ particle respirator or fine particle mask
- ◇ cosmetic brush or the like (to brush away dust during the sanding process)
- ◇ bucket for water

## Mark Hewitt 2 day Demo January 21-22 2012 in the Theater at VWC Hoffheimer Hall.

**Price to be determined.**

Mark and his work were featured extensively in the recent nationwide PBS TV series, "Craft in America," and he is looking forward to two exhibitions of his big pots, the first, starting February 2010, at the Nasher Museum, at Duke University in Durham, NC, [http://www.nasher.duke.edu/exhibitions\\_hewitt.php](http://www.nasher.duke.edu/exhibitions_hewitt.php) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDixGhX4r1O> and the second, starting January 2011, at the Ogden Museum in New Orleans.



**Stay Tuned...**

## CDA SHOWS

### Virginia Beach Central Library Show Thanksgiving Weekend

**There is still room in the library show on Sat and Sun November 26 and 27. There should be room for 20 potters, but we only have 17 tables in the room. Three people will have to bring their own tables. The first 17 potters to send in their check will be given the available tables. The cost to do the show will be \$25.00 each. CDA will take 6% of all sales.**

**The set up time will be 8:30 a.m. on Nov 26th (Sat) and the show times will be Sat 10:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. till 4: p.m.**

**Robert may need someone to take over this show as he may be out of town.**

**Please make checks payable to CDA and mail them to**

**Robert Hitt  
1205 Old Kempsville Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CDA OFFICERS NEEDED!

**Our group cannot exist if no one steps up. So please contact Angie Tripp at 472-9345 or email her at [a\\_carmines@yahoo.com](mailto:a_carmines@yahoo.com) if you would be willing to serve as a CDA officer or Chairperson.**

## COOKBOOK PROJECT UPDATE

We would like to thank all of the CDA members who are so generously loaning us platters, bowls and serving dishes for our kitchen testing dinners. We have enjoyed meeting you and admire your wonderful talent and open hearts! The dinners have been a great success, with featured food from countries like Afghanistan, Columbia, Benin, Belgium and others.

"Season one" of kitchen testing recipes will end in November. "Season two" begins in January and we are already booking Saturday evening dinners. We have many more recipes to make and serve, so if you are interested in participating, email us for details.

Thank you again for sharing your artistry with us.

Regina Abbott & Olafur Haraldsson

[experiencefood.intl@gmail.com](mailto:experiencefood.intl@gmail.com)

## FOR SALE

Working OLYMPIC KILN #283IT 30" wide and 26" tall. It has a kiln sitter and one hanging element. It comes with 12 half shelves and over 100 pieces of kiln furniture ranging from 1/2" to 10". Asking \$350.00 for everything.

**If interested, contact Jane Valtin,**

709 Yorkshire Dr., VA Beach, VA 23452.

Phone 631-5813. e-mail - [jcvaltin@verizon.net](mailto:jcvaltin@verizon.net).

## EMPTY BOWLS 2012 UPDATE

It's never too early to make bowls.

So please sign up for our next

## BOWL ROLL

**on Saturday, October 15, from 9:00-12:00**

**at Lynnhaven studio.**

Wheel throwers and hand-builders welcome!

**Call Robert Hitt if you plan to attend.**

**495-0052**

*(Editorial "Body of Work" continued from page 1)*

Someone who enjoyed carving on her pots could make pots of all different shapes sizes and techniques, but as long as they were all carved, the theme would carry through the body of work. Someone who loved to use copper raku glazes could make items of all different shapes, sizes and uses, but if they all had the same copper glaze on them, the theme would follow through the entire body of his work. A sculptor who enjoyed raku and low-fire finishes as well as high-fire could sculpt similar figures but use any finishing technique he or she desired. The figures themselves would carry the theme through the body of work.

Some people have such a strong style imprinted in their work that you can take one look and just "tell" it was made by them. Lesley Hildreth's faces come to mind. They have different expressions, and they don't look alike, but you can recognize Lesley's hand in their creation. Ann Ruel is another person whose work is easily recognized. She has a style that is all her own, and it carries through all of her beautiful work. A more famous example is Ron Meyers. No matter the shape or size of his pottery, his illustrations are unmistakable.

Although I don't plan to stop making Art Nouveau, Oriental, or Southwestern style pottery any time soon, I can pick one style and make six pieces that follow that style. I'm not sure what style I'll pick, but if I force myself, I can make six pieces that will look cohesive enough that the viewer will be able to tell that the same person made all six. I can't speak for Suzanne or Lesley, and I certainly can't speak for whoever will be judging the show, but I believe that is what is meant by "A Body of Work."

—Genev