

SHARON ART STUDIO

WINTER 2007

YOUR FOSAS DOLLARS AT WORK: *the newest member of the studio*



At Long Last...

The new slab roller arrives. Months ago when the cables on our old slab roller in Ceramics needed replacing once again, the idea of getting a new roller came up. The old slab roller had served us well for many years, but those darn cables (which are \$250 every year or so). A proposal was made to FOSAS which got approved.

This saga all started in late November. The new roller finally arrived late in January. By the time of the arrival the creative juices for slab projects were more than ready. And by the way, we have already sold the old roller.

The new roller doesn't have any cables to replace. And not only is it larger but it is better in a number of ways. Ask any of the ceramics students. Once again the slabs of clay are rolling along. Thank you FOSAS for making this purchase!

- Lynn Wood, Ceramics Staff

2006 Circle of Friends FOSAS Members

A big thank you to our high-end FOSAS members: our Circle of Friends for 2006

Nancy Bouton, Jeanette Dunckel, Janet & Drexel Heater, Gretchen Iverson Sandler, Muriel Kaplan, Julia Kemp, Sarah Lauter, Adrienne Leifer, Clarene Leong, Barbara Libasci, Jean Marcy, Ellen Price, Rod Simmonds, John Straznickas, Barbara Tauber, and Jess Taylor.

Thank you all for your on-going support of FOSAS and the Sharon Art Studio. You are vital members of the Sharon Art Studio community and we are so grateful!

JANUARY 3-MARCH 13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING 2007 OPEN REGISTRATION

Open registration for Spring **YOUTH** classes will be held **Friday, March 2nd** from 4:30-6pm.

Senior and Other-Abled registration will also be held **Friday, March 2nd** from 2-4pm.

Open registration for Spring **ADULT & YOUTH** classes will be held **Saturday, March 3rd** from 12-2pm.



Open registration means there is no pre-registration for class (except for presently enrolled Seniors), so plan to wait in a reg line along with the rest of the public to get a spot in your favorite class. Bring a book, a game, or try your hand at listing the entirety of Pi to help make your wait time go by!

SEE YOU AT REG!

BUDDHA REVEALS HIS SECRETS

by Ellen Soloway

Mosaics, Mixed Media & Outreach Staff

One of my favorite ways to re-energize my life and art is to travel. There's nothing quite like a change of scenery to put a fresh spin on how we see the world and ourselves.

This past spring I took my first trip to the Far East, traveling to South East Asia, specifically Thailand and Cambodia, both predominately Buddhist's nations. In Thailand, Buddhist temples are as plentiful as coffee houses in San Francisco, and no temple would be complete without a statue of Buddha. But, like most Westerners, I knew very little about the specific meaning behind the various gestures of Buddha in his many guises. So, I decided to take time to better familiarize myself and enrich my experience.

Most of the depictions of Buddha in Thailand are based on a series of rules or precepts established in the 3rd century. There are four primary postures: reclining, sitting, standing, and walking, which represent key tenets central to the practice. The standing, sitting, and walking images are associated with Buddha's daily activities, while the reclining refers to Siddhartha's transformation on earth as he awoke into nirvana or enlightenment.

These postures are combined with different positions of the hand and feet to reflect various mudras (or activities). The most common mudra depicted is called Bhumisparsha or "Touching the Earth." This seated position symbolizes Siddhartha in meditation beneath the Bodi tree in India.

He is seated with legs crossed in a lotus position, while his left hand is pointing to the earth. Buddha is pointing to the earth to attract the attention of the Earth goddess, so she would bare witness to his resistance to temptation at the hands of Mara (the purveyor of dark forces). It was after this specific incident that he was said to achieve nirvana.

Another common seated position called "dhyana mudra" has his hands resting together in his lap while his legs are crossed in lotus position. This mudra references seated meditation, central to the practice of many schools of Buddhism. The standing position with right hand raised at shoulder level (abhaya mudra) signifies Buddha's reassurance to his followers of his divine protection.

My trip to South East Asia was another reminder of the complexity and deeper meaning so often over-looked in our day to day life as we race about. Taking a vacation for some of us may be the only time we pause long enough to remind ourselves to smell the flowers.

FUSED GLASS CREATIONS

"I was never interested in Fusing until I saw this showcase display. What terrific work." This has been a frequent comment I have heard during the three weeks the Fused and Slumped Works of advanced students Theresa Farina and Carla Sarvis have been in the main hallway showcase. Theresa has been working in fused glass for about 5 years at the Sharon Studio. She originally wanted to learn to blow glass but settled for fusing when she learned of the expense and rigors of blowing. Theresa's interest in texture lead her to combine iridized and dichroic glass as well as other art glasses into her plates and bowls. She plans carefully the various compatible glass materials she includes so they add interest but no one glass overpowers the others. Carla has always loved tiles and started as a mosaic student at the studio in the fall of 2003. Soon after, she took a fusing workshop and began intertwining her love of mosaic design with the fused process and materials. The results have been intricate and fascinating abstractions that bring up images of landscapes and memories of the work of Gustav Klimt. Although Theresa's and Carla's designs are very different, what they have in common beyond the medium, is an attention to detail, sharp clean lines, and a mature understanding of color. Thank you, Theresa and Carla, for sharing your glass vision with us.

- Constance Flannery, Glass Staff



WE NEED YOUR HELP... to put on the FOSAS fundraiser!

The FOSAS fundraiser is a very important component to the sustainability of the Sharon Art Studio and we hope you will be joining us April 29th. We also need your help as volunteers and in procuring donations for the event! Please contact Lani at 415.753.7005 or lani@sharonartstudio.org if you can help with any of the following:

Food Prep (Friday or Saturday before the event)

Volunteer Duties (the day of the event)

Decorations

Large Wine Donation

Gift Certificates to Local Businesses (shops, restaurants, performance tickets, etc)

High Quality Artwork



Mark Your Calendars!
Joie de Vivre
*A Springtime Art Auction & Fundraiser
for the Sharon Art Studio
in Golden Gate Park*

SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH, 2007
TWO TO SIX O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

\$25 FOSAS MEMBERS \$30 GENERAL PUBLIC

Join us in celebrating the Joy of Life with a wonderful Parisian bistro and art nouveau inspired fundraiser party in our turn of the century building. Enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres, wine and refreshments, live music, raffle, and a silent auction of spectacular artwork.

- Festive attire encouraged -

WWW.SHARONARTSTUDIO.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 415.753.7005

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Question: What's happening in this picture?



Answer: Dinner by candlelight,
of course, at the Sharon Studio.

Lynn Wood, ceramic instructor, threw out the project to her students last October and they rose to the challenge. By the December holiday pot luck almost all her daytime students and a couple of interlopers (students from other instructors) had made candlesticks, lanterns, tea light holders and oil lamps. All the light pieces were placed in a row down the middle of the large handbuilding table and several regal candlelight pot lucks were enjoyed by all. You know what the topic of conversation was! Lynn had purchased some sheets of pure beeswax inexpensively at a feed store in Santa Rosa and had made several demo candlestick sizes and shapes. 300 sheets later, the raku, high fire, thrown and handbuilt candleholders of a variety of clay bodies were finished and admired by all. Is this living or what?

- Constance Flannery

LETTER from the DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Sharon Art Studio members,

I am happy to report that because of the on-going efforts of the FOSAS staff, FOSAS board, SFR&P instructors and managers, as well as student support, we have successfully been able to negotiate a new 20 hour a week city staff position for the Sharon Art Studio! While the city is just now beginning to post for the position and then will be entering into interviews and the hiring process (all of which are lengthy), we will this year be able to re-open the studio on Sundays. Thank you to everybody who helped generate this joyous accomplishment. We will keep you informed as to the progress of the hiring and will hopefully be introducing you to Sharon Art Studio's newest staff member very soon!

Sincerely,
Lani Rovzar, FOSAS Director



NAME: SUSAN STROLIS

BACKGROUND: Susan has always had a passion for craft. As a graduate of Rutgers University, she holds a degree to teach art to grades K-12. She worked at the V. Breier Contemporary and Traditional Crafts Gallery for nearly 20 years and was the director. Susan has also served as a secretary on the board of the California Crafts Museum, San Francisco. Her most recent artistic success was the creation of two 8-foot palm trees made from found objects. One tree is made entirely of trash from her household: used tea bags, aluminum soda cans, and an old Newsom campaign sign. Both trees were exhibited at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art in a show called "Creatures of Magic and Myth." Susan also currently volunteers for the Friends of Sharon Art Studio board.

NUMBER OF YEARS AT THE STUDIO: As a ceramics student, I took three summer sessions with Patty and have been steady with Lynn since July 2006.

WHAT IS YOUR STUDIO AFFILIATION? (Student, Instructor, Volunteer, etc.) Student.

WHO DO YOU LOOK TO FOR INSPIRATION IN YOUR ART? Vincent Van Gogh has always been a favorite artist of mine for his passion and use of color and expressive strokes.

WHAT BOOK IS CURRENTLY AT YOUR BEDSIDE? Currently there are three: "The Unofficial Guide to Starting a Business Online" by Jason Rich; Julia Child's "My Life in France," and "The American Crow and the Common Raven" by Lawrence Kilham.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF DAY AND WHY? Sunset. It is a winding down time, a transition to the rest of the day. When I can, I like to take a moment to be quiet and enjoy the ever-changing sky.

IF YOU COULD TAKE AND/OR TEACH ANOTHER CLASS AT THE STUDIO WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY? Figure drawing. My first artistic passion is drawing. I remember enjoying my figure drawing class at Rutgers. I even modeled for a little bit until I got a terrible flu. I still do quick sketches -- usually while in transit on a bus.

COMMUNITY THRIFT REALLY HELPS US OUT! Help them help FOSAS (and feel good too)!

Last year, through Community Thrift's non-profit alliance program, the Friends of Sharon Art Studio was gifted over \$860, solely by students donating their used goods to Community Thrift and applying the donation to the FOSAS account #65!

Community Thrift is located at 623 Valencia Street (between 17th & 18th streets). Donations are accepted 10am-5pm, 7 days a week at the side receiving door on Syamore Alley. Questions? - call Community Thrift Store at 415-861-4910.

FRIENDS OF SHARON ART STUDIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jean Marcy, President; **Julia Kemp**, Secretary; **Jess Taylor**, Treasurer; **Constance Flannery**, SFR&P Staff Representative; **Lani Rovzar**, FOSAS Director; **Jessica Barbieri**, **Hal Beilan**; **Valerie Dougherty**; **Mary Dunbar**; **Cynthia Major**; **Mary McCrohan**; **Mei Lie Wong**.



**FRIENDS OF
Sharon Art Studio**
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