

# SHARON ART STUDIO

SUMMER 2006



## **DOTTIE LOW: *Breaking the Mold***

Sharon Art Studio ceramic instructor Dottie Low has an exciting upcoming solo exhibition of her work at the Chinese Culture Center opening October 7th. The show, entitled *Breaking the Mold*, will trace Ms. Low's evolution of ceramic work through the years while focusing on three distinct themes: porcelain, raku, and organic textural forms. The exhibition will be broken up into four rooms, each focused on one of her main themes, while the last will house a video demonstrating ceramic teaching and techniques and displaying sample ceramic elements for viewers to interact with.

Dottie Low was born in Hong Kong, but moved to Chinatown by the age of one and has spent the majority of her life in San Francisco. She has worked with and studied clay for nearly 40 years, and has taught ceramic since 1994. Dottie has a deep respect for ceramic practice; she is constantly looking to expand and play with the clay's limitations as well as with her own artistic ones. Her goal is to allow the clay to evolve into the form it most naturally wants to become. Through her subtle manipulations, she believes she assists the clay work itself into being. This show is intended to be a reflection of Dottie's ceramic journey and an opportunity for viewers to deepen their sensibility with clay by looking at it with a fresh eye.

Join us in celebrating Dottie's artistic career and ceramic achievements!

### **DOTTIE LOW: BREAKING THE MOLD**

October 7-November 25, 2006

Opening Reception: **Friday, October 6th** from 6-8pm

**Chinese Culture Center in the Hilton Hotel located in Chinatown**

**750 Kearney Street at Washington**

Exhibition is on view Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

Hotel and street parking available.

*And a warning for all those in Dottie's ceramics classes: according to her, attendance to the show is mandatory for an "A" in her class!*

JULY 5 - SEPTEMBER 12

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FALL SESSION OPEN REGISTRATION

Senior Pre-Registration:

**friday,  
August 25  
2-4pm**

Youth Registration:

**friday,  
August 25  
4:30-6pm**

Adult &  
Youth Registration:

**saturday,  
August 26  
12-2pm**

reminder: This is an  
OPEN REGISTRATION,  
so for those classes you  
know fill quickly, come  
early with a snack and be  
prepared to wait in line!

## Letter from FOSAS re: SUNDAY CLOSURE

The FOSAS Board and Director crafted a memo that went out to all the ceramics students, many of whom have been concerned about the recent decision of the SFR&P to close the Studio on Sundays. We have included the memo in the FOSAS newsletter to illuminate the situation to all at the Studio. At the time of the Summer Newsletter's print date, the meeting with Pat Wiley had not yet occurred. The Friends of Sharon Art Studio will continue to be involved in on-going discussions with the city in regards to the current and future workings of the Sharon Art Studio and will make every effort to share the results of these conversations as they become more concrete.

## Memo to Sharon Art Studio Students - August 2006

### re: ISSUES SURROUNDING SHARON ART STUDIO SUNDAY CLOSURE

As Friends of Sharon Art Studio (FOSAS) Board Members and FOSAS Director we wanted to communicate some important information regarding the Studio. It has come to our attention that there are a number of understandings and misunderstandings regarding the Sunday closure and its affect on Sunday youth classes and ceramics open studio. It is our hope that the following information will help clarify the issue.

## Sunday Youth Classes & Open Studio Closure

**Issue:** May 31, 2006 it was announced that beginning the Summer 06 session, Sundays were to be closed for both the Youth Classes and open studio.

**Background:** The elimination of the Sunday Youth classes and open studio came directly from a mandate issued by the Mayor's office to all SFR&P recreational facilities. It was decided that to save money, all City facilities must close at least one day a week. In order to be in compliance with this mandate - as relayed by SFR&P representative Pat Wiley - the SFR&P Sharon Art Studio staff was forced to look at all its programs and determine what day would be least disruptive to classes and students. Sunday was selected. Notably, due to the youth class cancellations whose fees go to FOSAS, FOSAS will lose a considerable amount of class fees that had already been included in this year's budget. In addition, the fact is that The Sharon Art Studio currently does not have the sufficient instructor staff hours or individuals allocated by the SFR&P to maintain a 7-day a week program in its current form.

## UPCOMING MEETING TO ADDRESS CLOSURE WITH SFR&P

There will be a Student Meeting with **Pat Wiley from the SFR&P on Wednesday, August 23rd at 7 p.m.** in the Carousal Room at the Studio.

The purpose is to specifically discuss the issues around the Sunday closure.

In addition to this meeting, the FOSAS Board of Directors will be having ongoing talks with the SFR&P about staffing and administrative issues.

About FOSAS role at SAS: The Sharon Art Studio operates through a unique public and private partnership that consists of the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department and the Friends of Sharon Art Studio - a non-profit organization separate and distinct from the San Francisco Park & Recreation Department. Since the SFR&P does not fund any on-site administration, FOSAS employs a 4-day a week Director to oversee marketing and organizational planning (brochures, newsletters, flyers, posters, mailings, paperwork); registration planning and execution, contractual staffing, planning and running the fundraisers, and assisting with the student sales. FOSAS maintains most all the studio equipment including kilns and computers, and provides many class materials such as glazes and on-site supplies. As a separate, non-profit organization FOSAS and its Director have no authority over the Studio's SFR&P instructors, the use of the building, or the one full-time janitor.

We hope that if you have continued concerns about the current state of the studio you will participate in the discussion August 23.

Sincerely yours,

Lani Rovzar, FOSAS Director & Friends of Sharon Art Studio Board of Directors

## Highlight on Art in the Park 2006

by Constance Flannery

"I liked doing pottery the best because it is messy."

"I liked the stained glass window project because it was challenging"

"I liked making the CD covers the best because it let you be creative."

"I think this was the best out of the three years I have been coming to AIP"

These are just some of the comments made by the campers in their evaluation of the 2006 Art in the Park Summer Camp experience. Their parents were equally happy with the program, commenting on the exposure to a variety of art media,(ceramics-hand building and wheel, fused and stained glass, Precious Metal Clay (PMC), drawing and collage) the creativity enticed from the campers, the caring instructors, etc. Many of the campers have come back for 4 and 5 years and ask to be youth workers when they are too old to be campers.

AIP was started in 1993 for youth ages 11-15, an age often overlooked by other programs. There were four sessions of the camp between June 26-August 18th and all together, 120 campers were served. The program ran from 8:30am-12:30pm Monday to Friday, the fees were very reasonable and scholarships were available.

Art in the Park is staffed by Sharon Arts Recreation and Park Instructors and all materials are supplied by our non-profit Friends of Sharon Art Studio

(FOSAS). In order for the studio to accommodate the AIP program, ceramics, glass and fine arts must shift schedules so all adult classes are in the afternoon and evening. Some open studio time, class time and a few FOSAS classes must be sacrificed in the summer for this youth camp. Although no one likes to make these changes, when students and teachers see the happy campers and their wonderful creations, most feel the sacrifices are well worth the results. We are hopeful that Art in the Park will continue to serve young artists and their families for at least another 13 years.

## Crossing Over: SFR&P at the Studio! by Dottie Low & Elizabeth Liu



**KING SIP** was an employee of the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department for the last 24 years. During that time, she advanced from the lowest rank as a temporary assistant gardener to become in 2000, the first Chinese American woman Chief of the Golden Gate Nursery. As Chief of the Nursery, she was responsible for the propagation of most of the plants in 230 of San Francisco's parks.

Her association with the Sharon Art Studio began indirectly when Elizabeth Liu, ceramic instructor, and Katina Price, student and wife of ceramic instructor Len Price both became volunteers of the nursery. There they learned from King how to create and maintain the natural beauty of the park and how to help with the nursery's plant sales.

Upon King's retirement from her position in the nursery in June of 2006, she shifted her enthusiasm to our studio and is now a volunteer in the ceramic department. Art had eluded her in the past, but was never far from her creative visions. She now expresses them through clay.

King has seamlessly transitioned into life at the Studio and found common ground with the community of people here. She looks forward to a happy and creative future at the Sharon Art Studio.



**MR. SHE YUEN WON** was from Canton, China, where he taught physics for 20 years. Upon arriving in the US, he worked in a restaurant for 9 years before entering a custodian training program. He received a total of 4 custodian certificates because he stayed for more classes and volunteered as a translator for new immigrant students. He has been employed by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department for the last 12 years.

We have come to know Mr. Won through his diligent and caring nature. He has single handedly maintained the upkeep of our studio and we are very grateful for his many years of service. He also helped solve the green water mystery a few years ago.

Since his retirement from the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department in July 2006, Mr. Won has become a jewelry student in Richard Leaf's class. Aside from babysitting his granddaughter, he has been taking tennis lessons and reading the news over the internet. He is looking forward to enjoying an active retirement. You can say hello to him in the jewelry room on Wednesday afternoons.

## MAN DISCOVERS WHEEL (after 25 years!)



John Caselli, a nine year ceramics veteran of the Sharon Art Studio and a long time hand builder, finally tried his hand at throwing - much to the amazement of his instructor Lynn Wood and fellow class mates. As an art major at the University of Nevada at Reno, John had experimented with throwing on the wheel, but the practice didn't take. He instead developed his ceramic masterpieces through hand building, a process that was more immediately gratifying to John. However, after a 25 year hiatus from the wheel, this summer term John observed a demonstration by Lynn of an alternative process of throwing a plate. With some encouragement from Lynn, John decided to give the process a try, and succeeded in making some great pieces! John says he now has the patience needed for the wheel that he didn't have years back. This patience in combination with his skills from many years of hand building has lead John to a new and creative ceramic practice through wheel working. We wait to see what John creates next!



**NAME:** DOLORES R. GRAY

**NUMBER OF YEARS AT THE STUDIO:** *A year and a half. I began with the Art in the Park summer program and continued through the year, subbing for a variety of instructors and taking classes. I am teaching glass classes again in Art in the Park and am enjoying myself tremendously.*

**WHAT IS YOUR STUDIO AFFILIATION? (Student, Instructor, Volunteer, etc.)** *Instructor. I teach glass and pottery to adults and children and am learning as much as I am teaching.*

**WHO DO YOU LOOK TO FOR INSPIRATION IN YOUR ART?** *Joseph Cornell, Betye Saar, and Faith Ringgold are the artists who most inspire my work. Cornell's exquisitely crafted boxes and collages create fascinating surreal glimpses into other worldly places that I adore. Saar's reclaimed use and deconstruction of black memorabilia and tchotchkes in her mixed-media assemblages address issues of slavery, segregation, and racism. Ringgold's dramatic movement from narrative painting to narrative story quilts while combining painting, written text, and fiber arts inspires me to delve into my own family narrative in my work.*

**WHAT BOOK IS CURRENTLY AT YOUR BEDSIDE?** *My book pile is currently about ten deep. I keep misplacing the current book I am reading so I have about two to three started. My summer fun reads include mostly detective and mystery books, such as Janet Evanovich's "Twelve Sharp," Patricia Cornwell's "Predator," Lisa Scottoline's "Devil's Corner," Walter Mosley's "Cinnamon Kiss," Edward P. Jones' "The Known World," and Jasper Fforde's "Something Rotten." My book pile also includes "And Not Afraid to Dare: Ten Stories of AA Women," "The Power of Pride: Stylemakers and Rulebreakers of the Harlem Renaissance," "Eats, Shoots and Leaves," "Photographic Possibilities: The Expressive Use of Ideas, Materials, and Processes," "Pictures and Tears," and "Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad."*

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TIME OF DAY AND WHY?** *I actually enjoy two times of the day. I am an early morning person and wake at about 5:30. I enjoy the quiet and calmness that surrounds the early morning hours before everyone begins rushing full tilt to the end of the day. I also get a second boost of energy late at night and love to stay up and work on my art. It's a time of day when the phone stops ringing and there are no more interruptions that intrude on following through on creative thoughts and ideas.*

**IF YOU COULD TAKE AND/OR TEACH ANOTHER CLASS AT THE STUDIO WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?** *I would take a pottery class. I have always wanted to work on the wheel and throw pots. I have started making small shapes, and I am learning to let go of my obsessive tendencies for perfection and let the clay be itself.*

## FRIENDS OF SHARON ART STUDIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jean Marcy, President; John Kolb, Treasurer; Julia Kemp, Secretary; Connie Flannery, SFR&P Staff Representative; Lani Rovzar, FOSAS Director; Jessica Barbieri; Hal Beilan; Mary Dunbar; Cynthia Major; Mary McCrohan; Jess Taylor



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