

NPA Newsheet N°3 Summer 1991

Editor: Janet Edmondson

The Old Vicarage, Thorpe Thewles, Stockton-on-Tees. Tel: 0740 30938

Letter from the Editor

The highlight of the last few weeks for the NPA has undoubtedly been the wonderful day at Cleveland College of Art & Design with Walter Keeler and Takeshi Yasuda. Their joint talk and demonstration was very well attended and greatly enjoyed by all who were there. Our thanks to David Greaves for organising the event.

Our main thoughts turn now to Ripon in September when we expect an even bigger and better camp with plenty of lively talks, demonstrations and discussions. Do not forget bookings must be made by August 23rd.

It is good to hear that the NPA net is spreading far and wide, and we're pleased to learn about Maggie Berkowitz' trip to Japan - see this issue. We want to hear about any such trips or awards so please keep the information coming.

My only other plea in this newsheet concerns a new photo index, as it is our intention to produce a 1992 edition. The new index will keep more or less the same format as before and we hope as many people as possible will contribute entries. There will be more details in the next newsheet but please start preparing the information. We will need a *good quality black & white* photo of you and another of your work plus a brief written resumé of your work. Name and address for sending this info will be given in the next issue. If you are having photos taken of your work and the quality is good enough, why not send some updated photos for our slide index as well?

All that remains is for me to wish you all a good summer and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Ripon in September.

Janet Edmondson, Editor

Committee Update

A skeleton committee attended the meeting at the house of Isabel Denyer, 20th April 1991.

It was reported that the first stage of the annual exhibition will now open at the Ladygate Gallery, Beverley on 29th September 1991 and will run for five weeks.

Grant application to Yorkshire Arts has

been conditionally approved. Contributions are forthcoming towards events in the North West from NWA.

Discussion ensued about the various grant systems now used by RAB's and the meeting recognised the need to adapt present practices involved in the planning and accounting for events in order to receive continued support.

Final planning for Ripon is underway. Posters, booking forms etc are printed and being distributed. A live band has been engaged and arrangements for tiered seating made, advertising is on schedule and places are already being booked.

The lecture/demo occurring at Preston Polytechnic as the committee sat had not been well enough publicised.

The joint demo for the following week by Takeshi Yasuda and Walter Keeler at Cleveland College of Art & Design was predictably sold out.

The Firing event is all set for 29 June at Syl Macros pottery, Alston, Cumbria.

The search for a letter heading and logo continues, as a design competition. Deadline for entries is set at 20 July when final and absolute decisions will be made.

A written report from Paul Scott announced that the next clay supplement is underway and looking good. Paul also affirmed the curtailment of his committee activities apart from editorship of the clay supplement owing to new and extensive personal commitments.

After lunch the committee resumed with a general discussion about Association objectives. This covered the following:

Annual Camp - Increasingly successful principal event requiring steady development and new initiative in order to evolve and improve consistently.

Exhibitions - A significant contribution which might be extended beyond the existing selected show into more regular small scale local & distant initiatives.

One Day Events - The programme should in future reflect the associations' main preoccupation with annual Camp and Exhibition timed for autumn and concentrate on more cost-effective events in the first part of the year.

Newsheet - Felt to be an essential aid to



Takeshi Yasuda see Pottery Demonstration, below

ensuring and establishing communication within the membership.

Photographic Index - Considered as having a potentially major role in promoting members. New edition proposed on a 3-yearly basis. Format and distribution to be based on our by now extensive past experience.

Membership - The proforma membership application to be redesigned to include a simple promotional leaflet - to be discussed further.

Meeting closed at 3.00pm.

Next meeting June 1.

Pottery Demonstration

by

Walter Keeler & Takeshi Yasuda

An audience of more than a hundred gathered at Cleveland College of Art & Design on May 4 to hear and see these two well-known potters. Each began by describing his career and development, with well chosen slides for illustration. Walter Keeler taught on the pottery course at Harrow in its 'golden era' in the late sixties and early seventies and now lives and pots in a beautiful property in South Wales. While tracing the development of his distinctive 'metallic' stoneware he emphasised the importance of function in his designs, referring to his brief departure in the 1970's into stylistic pottery as an aberration. Takeshi Yasuda's pilgrimage has been more complex: beginning in Japan as an apprentice before having his own workshop, moving to this country in his twenties and experiencing a lay-off of five years from potting while he had to struggle with depression, before re-entering the fray with fresh enthusiasm, new vigour and a sense of self realisation, all of which can now be clearly seen in his work. Both potters then demonstrated their art in tandem, with sharply distinctive styles contrasting and complementing each other in a stimulating



Walter Koeler

and instructive way.

After an excellent lunch we all repaired to the Cleveland Crafts Centre to see the exhibition of their work, with a further opportunity for them to discuss their pots and answer questions. As an indication of the response they engendered, at the end of the afternoon only one or two pots remained unsold and I suspect there were members like me who wished they had reached for their cheque books earlier!

Thanks to David and Kate Greaves for their hard work in organising a most enjoyable day.

Mark Denyer

Clay Magazine

As I mentioned in the last Newsheet Paul Scott is still looking for back copies of Clay Magazine. He has had some response to that request but still needs more...

Thanks to those who replied to my request for old 'Clay' magazines. I have managed to see issues 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 - ie from Oct 1978 to Sept 1982. I would like to see issues 1, 2, 3, 12 and any other number 17 up to the first 'Clay' supplement in Artists Newsletter, March 1984. If you have copies you can lend me, (I will return them), please ring me on 06973 61706.

The original purpose of my scouring old 'Clays' was to see if any articles were suitable for re-publication in Artists Newsletters 'Fact Packs'. This now seems unlikely - few articles were of the kind we could use. However, we hope to do information sheets on say 'buying a kiln', 'using propane gas', 'building kilns' etc - watch out for details.

To go back to old 'Clay' issues and newsletters, the NPA does not possess a complete collection of these. As editor of 'Clay' I would like to see a complete collection of 'Clays' kept for reference - I have kept at least two copies of each supplement. If you have old 'Clays' you would be happy to donate for an NPA official collection please get in touch.

Paul Scott

Maggie Berkowitz

NPA member Maggie Berkowitz wrote to me just before Easter with details of a working trip to Japan. Maggie is to spend three months working in a tile factory after spending the first week at the IAC conference at Shigaraki. Her visit is being co-funded by NA and the Ibsstock Brick Co.

Maggie works producing painted pictures on industrially produced tiles by applying and firing glazes. Her work includes floors for Rossall School, Lancs; a Dragon game for a childrens holiday farm in Wales, and an illustrated 'Labyrinth' for Digithurst Ltd in Royston, Herts. Her most recent work was an 8' panel for the Rowntree Trust Family fund, in York (see photo).

Maggie has promised us a talk with slides on her return so details of this will appear in future events in either the Autumn or Spring Newsheet.



Maggie Berkowitz

Potclays One-Day Seminars

Tuesday 20 August

Electric kiln control, operation and maintenance

Wednesday 21 August

Glazing and Firing

Thursday 22 August

Throwing, turning and handbuilding

Wednesday 4 December

Slip preparation and casting

Thursday 5 December

Safety in Ceramic Education

More details and application forms are available from:

Potclays Ltd, Brickkiln Lane, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

Tel: 0782 219616. Fax: 0782 286506.

Education

Cleveland College of Art & Design,
Green Lane, Middlesbrough.
Tel: 0642 821441 ext 228

Part-time Certificate in Design Crafts

Duration: Three years part-time
Commencement: September
Areas of Specialisation: Studio Ceramics/
Pottery; Jewellery/Silversmithing;
Wood/Furniture

This course is intended to provide the more advanced student with the opportunity to develop a personal approach to the design and making of functional, decorative or sculptural objects in the areas of studio ceramics, jewellery and silversmithing, wood/furniture. The college has excellent studio/workshop and library resources, and facilities. Students at this level are likely to have already determined a specialism which they wish to pursue but mixed discipline groups meet together for basic drawing, visits to exhibitions and special lectures. Students can discuss individual requirements with full-time and visiting lecturers who have specialist skills in 3D design, craft processes and techniques, marketing and business advice where relevant.

If interested, you are invited to fill in a Design Crafts Course application form and we will arrange an interview to which we would ask you to bring examples of 3D craftwork and any drawings, plans, etc. which you have made. Current students range from 18 to 80 year olds and include for example: the retired, the unemployed, adult education class students wanting a more advanced level. Former students have successfully set up their own small craft business or progressed to full-time further and higher education courses. A special feature of part-time courses at this college is that students have, by arrangement, access to the same professional advice as full-time students.

You will be expected to attend a minimum of nine hours per week. This will normally be made up of one full day (Tuesdays) in the practical workshops and one half day (Thursday afternoons) in Visual Studies. Visual Studies comprises an introduction to objective drawing and basic design exercises to develop visual awareness. There may be opportunities to infill on other full-time course classes by negotiation.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact David Greaves (Course Coordinator or Studio Ceramics), Sam Campion (Wood/Furniture), or Julie Whitelaw (Jewellery/Silversmithing).