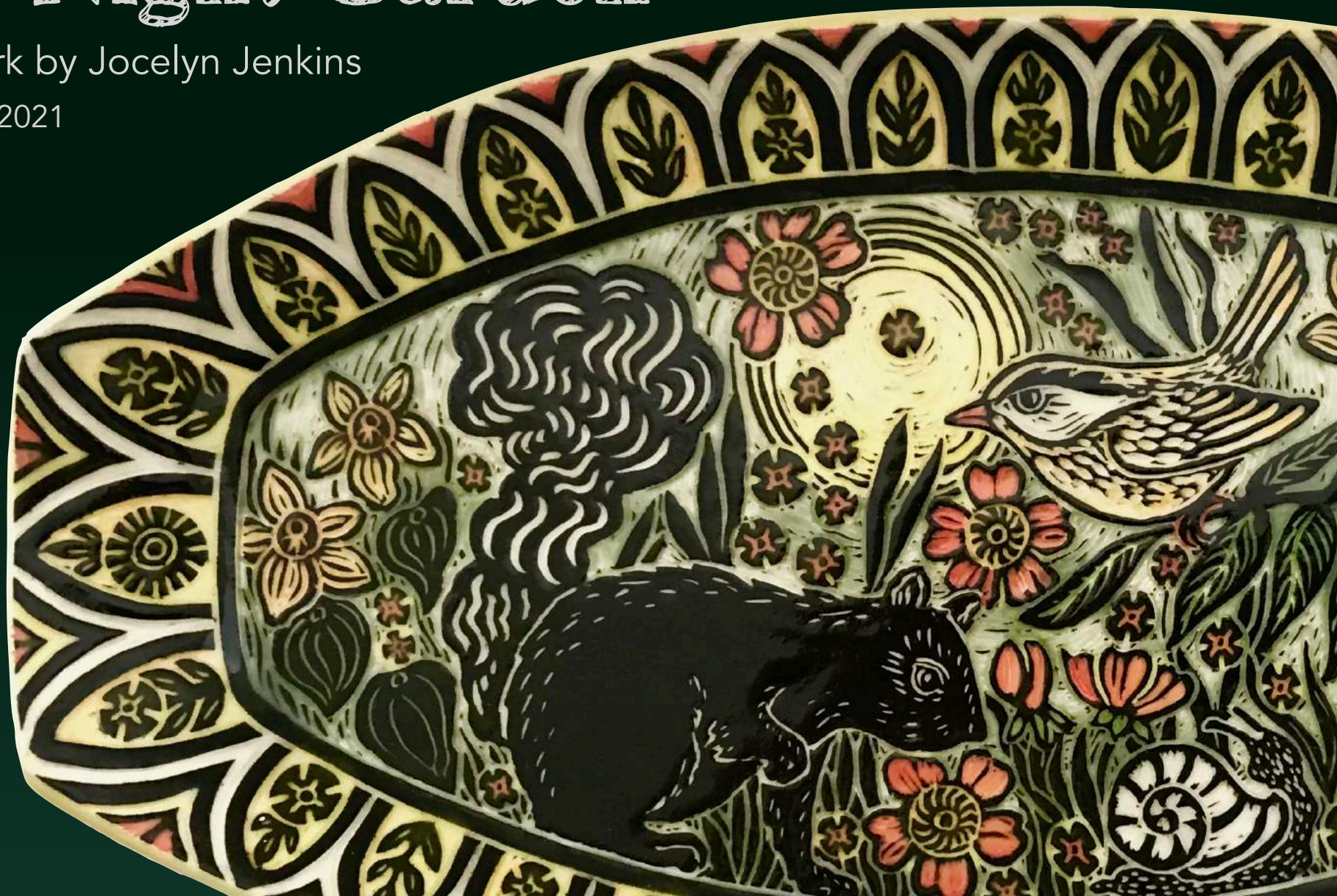
Celebrating Clay A special exhibition presented by the Ottawa Guild of Potters

The Night Garden

Work by Jocelyn Jenkins

July 2021



OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

The Night Garden

The inspiration for this work is very literal. The light spilling from the house or from garden lights picks out flowers in the garden, painting them with daytime-brilliance in jewel tones against the dark. Since it was the contrast between the jewel tones and the dark that drew me, the design dispenses with the middle tones of shadows, moving away from the light. This had two effects which were important to me: it dials up the contrast between the flowers and the background and it collapses the depth of the image, making the flowers less naturalistic and more a decorative element, much like the borders. Repetition of the same flowers and shapes also contributes to making the design feel less naturalistic and more decorative.

The surface decoration on this series brings together two elements I've been playing with on functional surfaces for years: borders and floral imagery from the garden. On these pieces the flowers float on a dark background while the borders are permitted to creep over the pot, sometimes taking up as much room as the images themselves. In the past, I have used a restrained palate to calm pieces with an abundance of detail. This time I wanted to see how much pattern and colour I could get away with!

I have included two pieces in this exhibition that were not strictly part of the Night Garden series, but they were on the path that led to and away from this work. The first is a repeat of a bottle I made for an exhibition years ago. When I began work on this series, the floral elements and the borders I used on the bottle moved in new directions. As I began to make more pieces in different shapes, storytelling elements began to make an appearance in the form of small creatures distributed among the floral elements. Evening in the Garden is a tray which carries on from this work in the sense that imagery steps back towards naturalism and storytelling.

Jocelyn Jenkins

Garden Bottle with Snail Stopper

This bottle is a clear predecessor to the Night Garden series in its use of borders and choice of imagery.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown bottle and stopper with modelled knob, sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 9½"h x 4½"d, 1lb 15oz

Night Garden Large Servings I

Large serving bowl with all-over decoration and citrine accents.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 4½”h x 9½”d, 3lbs

Night Garden Large Servings II

Large serving bowl with all-over decoration and citrine accents.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 3¾”h x 9”d, 3lbs

Night Garden Large Servings III

Large serving bowl with all-over decoration and citrine accents.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight : 3¼”h x 9”d bowl, 3lbs

Night Garden Mid-size Serving I

Medium serving bowl with all-over decoration and coral accents.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 3¼”h x 8”d bowl, 2lbs 6oz

Night Garden Mid-size Serving II

Medium serving bowl with all-over decoration and coral accents.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 3¼”h x 8”d bowl, 2lbs 6oz

Night Garden Small Servings

Small serving bowl with all-over decoration and tangerine accents.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 2¾”h x 7”d, 1lb 6oz

Night Garden Small Bowl Set

Set of six bowls with all-over decoration and citrine accents.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: each about 2⅝"h x 4¾”d, about 12oz each

Night Garden Jar

Lidded pot with birds, ferns, and flowers.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 5½"h x 5½”d, 2lbs 2oz

Night Garden Vase I

Garden abundance to contain your flowers.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and modelled detail, and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 6”h x 4½”d, 10oz

Night Garden Vase II

Garden abundance to contain your flowers.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 6”h x 4½”d, 10oz

Song in the Night Garden

Pair of mugs celebrating birdsong in the dark garden.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 3¾”h x 3½”w x 5”l, 12oz each

Night Garden Tea

Lidded mug for tea with small snack saucer.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Thrown with sgraffito and modelled knob, and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 4¾”h x 4”w x 5¼”l, mug and lid 1lb 1oz, saucer 5oz

Night Garden Trivets I and II

Trivet I with a bird and Trivet II with a white mouse.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Handbuilt with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: ¼”h x 4¾”w x 7”l, 9oz each

Night Garden Tray

Jewel tones in the garden against a velvety darkness.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Handbuilt with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 1"h x 14½"w x 7½”l, 1lb 8oz

Evening in the Garden Tray

Over the months of playing with the same colours and images, Night Garden began to evolve.

Material: Cone 6 stoneware with slip, underglaze and glaze.
Method: Handbuilt with sgraffito and hand-painted underglaze and glaze.
Dimensions / Weight: 1"h x 14½"d x 7½”l, 1lb 8oz

The Ottawa Guild of Potters is proud to present Jocelyn Jenkins' *Night Garden*, the Guild's first virtual Celebrating Clay exhibition. Almost a year and half has passed since COVID broke out, putting a stop to the series of 22 in-person exhibitions the OGP held between 2017 and 2019, at Galerie Coté Créations. We are so pleased to continue with these exhibitions, now in a virtual capacity.

Ceramics are tactile and three-dimensional, and a virtual exhibition viewed on a flat screen can be frustrating. However, Jocelyn's pots vibrate with patterns and imagery; with a rustle of foliage you catch a glimpse of a warbler, in the moonlight you see a mouse dart by. In the damp scent of a cool summer's night, you feel the brush of leaves and perhaps the flutter of a moths' wings. Suddenly you're not sitting at your computer desk anymore. The deep black background of Jocelyn's pots lure you further into this garden, lush and mysterious.

Many thanks go to our webmaster, Dave Drapeau, for his utter technological brilliance, and Maria Moldovan for her beautiful poster design. Special thanks to Jocelyn Jenkins for being our first virtual Celebrating Clay artist and working with us through the process.

We hope you enjoyed your wander through the Night Garden.

OGP Exhibitions Committee

Elizabeth Davies, Isobel Salole, Joanna Richardson

Jocelyn Jenkins

Jocelyn Jenkins turned from engineering to ceramics more than a decade ago. While she lives and works in Ottawa, she has strong ties to the Maritimes. Both places furnish natural images that repeat throughout her ceramic work. Jocelyn spends roughly half her time teaching and running a community studio and the other half creating her own work. Jocelyn's work consists of functional pieces as well as objects that have a less utilitarian existence.

Jocelyn has a background in printmaking and painting: as time goes on, both of these interests have more and more influence on her ceramic work.

> "Originally the form of a vessel or an object claimed my attention. Lately, I am pushing these forms to provide surfaces to decorate using sgraffito or underglaze brushwork. More and more often, I find myself extracting figures from the two-dimensional work and giving them leave to express themselves in three-dimensional form."

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