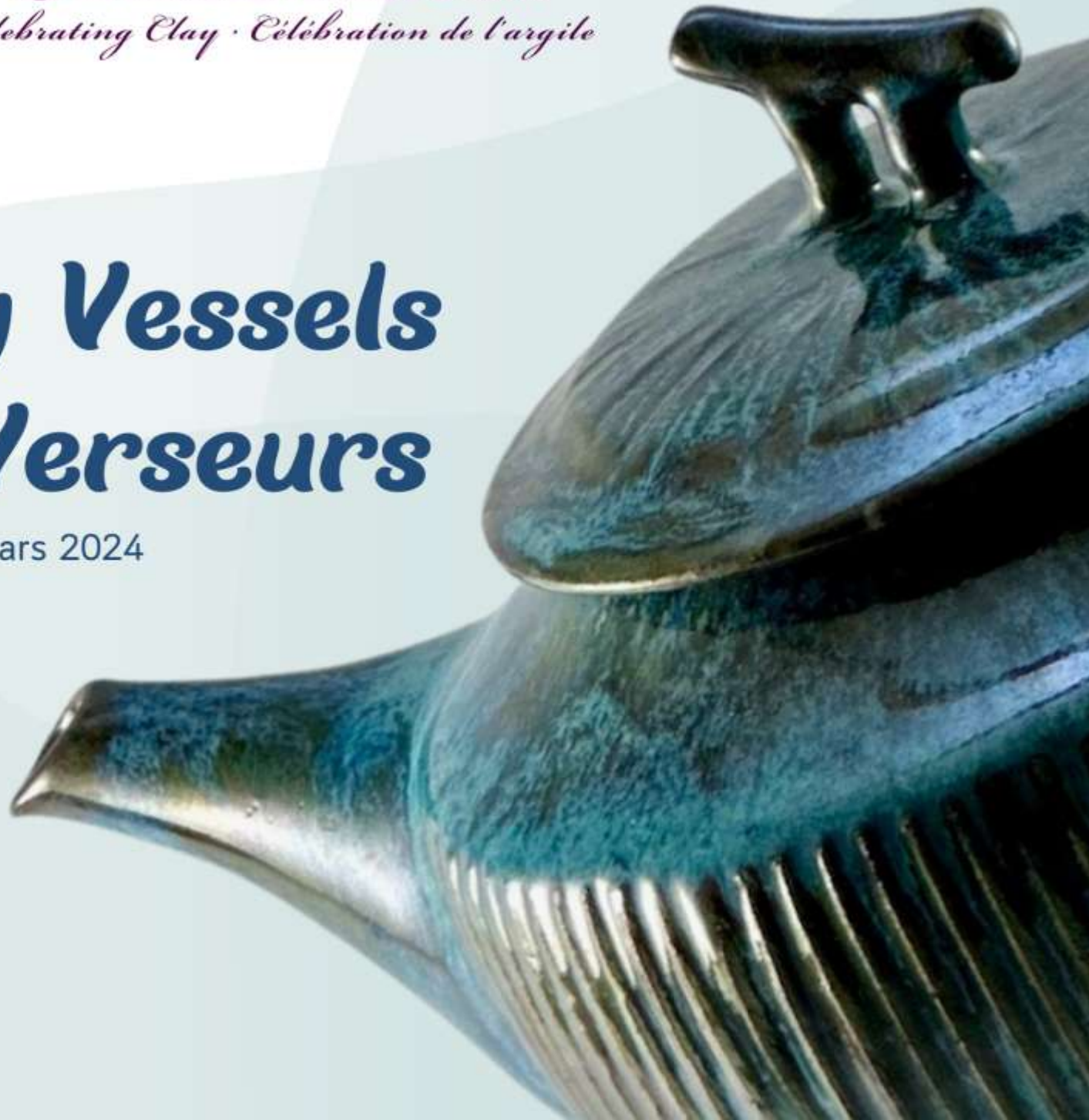
THE OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS
LA GUILDE DES POTIERS D'OTTAWA

*Celebrating Clay · Célébration de l'argile*

# Pouring Vessels
# Vases Verseurs

March · mars 2024



# Celebrating Clay

A special exhibition presented by
the Ottawa Guild of Potters

# Pouring Vessels

March 1-31, 2024

Pouring vessels are a class of forms based on the idea of a common function, namely to serve out or distribute liquid. It is true that any open pot once filled with liquid and then upended will render up its contents. However a pouring vessel will do so with a deliberate and directed intention.

Pouring vessels are found in almost every period and in every culture. The ancient Greeks had their amphorae and oinochoai for wine. The 17th century Chinese made elegant, handle-less kendi for hygenically directing water through a long spout directly into the mouth. The rhyton was a conical container used in ancient Persia, frequently formed in the shape of an animal's head, and could be used to drink from, or to pour drinks at a table. Since very early days in Europe, sturdy jugs and pitchers were used for water, milk or beer. And of course there is the ubiquitous and multiform teapot used to brew tea as well as to distribute it.

While sharing this common intention, vessels can take many shapes and forms. The mouth and lips can take the form of a sharp beak, a smooth round curve or the trefoil shape of an ivy leaf. Handles can be long and high, short, round or square-- or not present at all if the vessel itself is meant to be held and tipped. A pouring vessel may or may not have a lid or stopper. It may even be a fountain. A pouring vessel doesn't even need to be used for the purpose its form suggests. It can hold a bouquet of live flowers. It can be filled with fluffy cotton balls in a bathroom or it can sit on a mantelpiece as a piece of pure art or decoration, without ever containing a drop of any liquid.

Indeed American potter Sarah Wells Roland confesses that it is not the use of a pouring vessel (what she calls "a container with the purpose of giving away") but rather the nature of the form that fascinates her. "The upward motion, the negative spaces, lift off the surface, the distribution of weight, the fluidity of motion, the openness and the closed shape, all these things intrigue me." It is a fascination shared by potters, collectors and users of ceramic objects all over the globe, as well as by the Exhibition Committee of the Ottawa Guild of Potters.

We hope this exhibition will provide you with an entertaining and insightful glimpse into how contemporary Ottawa potters approach this at once common and extraordinary form.

Exhibitions committee
Elizabeth Davies, Joanna Richardson , Nadine Argo, Alison Welsh, Liz Kunkel

# Participating Artists

Sue-Ann Blakely

Ada Brzeski

Kathryn Howlett

Jocelyn Jenkins

Hengameh Kamalrad

Will Kealy

Karen Kurtzrock

Amélie Lavigne

Barbara Minish

Christina Stapper

Lucy Willemsen

All photos by artist

# Sue-Ann Blakely: *Marine serenity*

Your eyes will be drawn to the runny glaze on this teapot which is a blend of blues reminiscent of a tranquil ocean on a calm day. The glaze appears to flow freely, creating organic patterns that dance across the teapot's body, each run captures the essence of movement and fluidity.

**Material:** Cone 6 stoneware
**Method:** Multiple layers of base, crystalline and ashes glazes, fired in oxidation.
**Dimensions:** Height: 17 cm, width: 20 cm, depth: 11 cm

# Ada Brzeski: *The milkmaid and her pail*

Jug illustration based on a fable by de La Fontaine

**Material:** Stoneware clay fired at cone 6 oxidation
**Method:** Thrown pot with coloured slip design and clear glaze
**Dimensions:** Height: 20 cm, Width: 15 cm

# Kathryn Howlett: *Water Dropper*

A small water dropper for sumi-e or water colour painting. Water drop release is controlled by a finger on the top opening. The vessel is based on ancient water droppers but updated with an ergonomic shape.

**Material:** Cone 6 white porcelain
**Method:** Wheel thrown and compressed to create a sleeker shape; finger depressions; hand made spout was then added; glazed and fired to cone 6 in oxidation.
**Dimensions:** Height: 5.5 cm, length: 7.5 cm, width: 6 cm

# Kathryn Howlett: *Small water pitcher*

This small pitcher was designed to be used to fill up a single cup coffee maker with water, but could be used for other purposes.

**Material:** White cone 6 porcelain
**Method:** Wheel thrown, altered to add hand made spout and pulled handle; single glaze base with an additional two glazes for the stripe; fired to cone 6.
**Dimensions:** Height: 10 cm, width with handle: 12 cm, width without handle: 9 cm

# Kathryn Howlett: *Fluted water dropper*

This little water dropper is for adding drops of water to ground ink for sumi-e painting.
Drops are controlled by a finger covering the top opening. It is based on ancient droppers but updated with art deco styling and fluting for a better grip. Sumi-e is carved in Japanese on the bottom.

**Material:** cone 6 white porcelain
**Method:** Wheel thrown, fluted, handmade spout added, shino glaze, fired to cone 6 in oxidation.
**Dimensions:** Height 5.5 cm, width 7.5 cm

# Jocelyn Jenkins: *Tea with a Crab*

Sgraffito teapot with ocean imagery and sculpted knob. Holds 3-4 servings.

**Material:** Cone 6 porcelain, slip, underglaze and transparent glaze
**Method:** Scraffito design through slip, hand painted underglaze and tinted transparent glaze.
**Dimensions:** Height: 18 cm, Width: 23 cm, Depth: 13 cm

# Hengameh Kamalrad: *Blue Persia Model*

My vessel is reminiscent of some Persian art pieces. I imagine using it to pour refreshing sharbat and being in unity with everyone at the table.

**Material:** Low fire clay and cone 04 blue glaze
**Method:** Wheel throwing and hand building.
**Dimensions:** 15 cm X 17 cm X 13 cm

# Will Kealy: *Teapot*

Mid sized teapot with a capacity of approximately 4 cups.

**Material:** Cone 6 Stoneware
**Method:** Wheel thrown and altered. Underglaze application with clear glaze top coat.
**Dimensions:** Height: 21 cm, width: 23 cm, depth: 15 cm

# Karen Kurtzrock: *Jug and Goblets*

Hand built jug and goblets. Formed with multiple pieces. Decoration using a hand-made stamp. Iron oxide wash with 2 different glazes. Jug holds 4 cups or 1 litre and each goblet holds 1 cup or 250 ml.

**Material:** Cone 6 stoneware.
**Method:** Hand built, stamped decoration, fired in cone 6 oxidation.
**Dimensions:** Jug: Height 20 cm, width at base: 10 cm  Goblets: Height 16 cm, width 9 cm

# Karen Kurtzrock: *Teapot*

Stoneware thrown, altered teapot. Holds 4 cups or 32 ounces of liquid. Some handbuilt embellishments.

**Material:** Stoneware, cone 6 oxidation
**Method:** Wheel thrown, clear glaze, coloured underglaze decoration, iron oxide wash.
**Dimensions:** Height 24 cm Width 13 cm. Holds 1 litre of liquid.

# Amélie Lavigne: *Winter Sunrise Pitcher*

Art nouveau inspired pitcher made on wheel with a pulled handle and fired with blue-gold glaze.

**Material:** Earthenware.
**Method:** Wheel thrown and fired with blue-gold glaze.
**Dimensions:** Height: 19.5 cm  Width: 15.5 cm  Depth: 15 cm

# Barbara Minish: *Loutro series: pitcher*

The shape of this large pitcher is another variation on the classic Grecian urn. The blue-green glazing highlighting flowing between the dark brown ridges of the fluting recalls the colours of the Mediterranean Sea contrasted against the rugged southern shoreline of Crete.

**Material:** Cone 6 Stoneware
**Method:** Fluted dark stoneware, copper carbonate rich glaze, fired in oxidation
**Dimensions:** Length: 23 cm (spout to handle), Width: 16 cm, Height: 22 cm

# Barbara Minish: *Loutro series - teapot*

This shape of the body of this teapot is a variation of shape I have been drawn to and explored in many of my pieces - that of a classic Grecian urn. The blue-green glazing over rugged, dark clay was inspired by the colour of the sea and coastline I saw along the southern shores of Crete.

**Material:** Cone 6 Stoneware
**Method:** Wheel thrown dark stoneware glazed with a combination of copper carbonate rich glazes to enhance the fluted surfaces of the pot. Fired in oxidation.
**Dimensions:** Length: 25 cm (spout to handle), Width: 16 cm, Height: 16 cm

# Christina Stapper: *Tea Set*

A three piece tea set done in a 'Landscape' glaze.
My landscape glaze has reminded people in all parts of our beautiful country of skies, trees, mountains and other landscapes. I chose to apply this evocative glazing to my tea set, as the ritual of tea is something that also ties a lot of us together, to something familiar.

**Material:** Stoneware speckled clay, fired to cone 6.
**Method:** Wheel thrown, hand painted. teapot, creamer, sugar pot.
**Dimensions: Height** 14 cm, width: 23 cm from spout to handle, depth: 14 cm

# Lucy Willemsen: *Even Pixies Love the Water*

Where there is water there is life. In this fountain sculpture life abounds amongst the fungi at the rocky edge of the pond.

**Material:** Cone 6, stoneware, glaze
**Method:** Hand built, sculpted
**Dimensions:** Width: 12", height: 8"

# Lucy Willemsen: *Climbing the Birch*

This pitcher is done in my signature birch bark style and this little gnome wants to see what's inside!

**Material:** Cone 6, speckled stoneware, glaze, underglaze
**Method:** Wheel thrown and altered, hand built hollow handle and gnome.
**Dimensions:** Width: 4 1/2", height: 10 1/2"

# Lucy Willemsen: *Trailing Grasses*

Beautiful trailing grasses and undulating handle adorn this delicately green glazed jug.

**Material:** Cone 6, stoneware, glaze
**Method:** Wheel thrown, hand built handle with applied sculpted grasses.
**Dimensions:** Width: 6", height: 9 1/2"

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