2025 MAY

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting: May 13, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre
1064 Wellington Street West, Ottawa

President's Message

May started with a bang with the Ottawa Clay Festival, Spring Sale, and the Annual Juried Exhibition on May 2nd to 4th at the Horticulture Building in Lansdowne Park. The Spring Sale was a tremendous success. The Clay Festival's Throw Down and Wheel and Hand Building Demonstrations are always a huge success. Perhaps the real winner was the new event at the Festival; Adult Clay Play Time! Many folks waited to try their hand at wheel throwing. The Kid's Table is a perennial hit with the little ones. The Annual Juried Exhibition was truly outstanding. If you were not able to see the Exhibition in person, I highly recommend that you look up the Exhibition Catalogue on our website. With tremendous pride, I encourage you to read Sequoia Miller, the Juror's, comments on the last page of the catalogue.

I would like to welcome our seven new members.

I hope that everyone is taking full advantage of our new Ceramic Arts Network membership for all OGP members in good standing.

Congratulations to Liang Dong and Bernadette Lapierre, our winners of the OGP Bursary to attend Fusion Conference 2025, Women in Clay in Kingston, May 30-June 1. We would love to hear back from both of you about your experience at your first Fusion Conference.

We will be having an exciting Hands-on Handle Workshop at our May General Meeting on Tuesday May 13th. at the Hintonburg Community Centre. Doors open at 6:00 pm meeting will start promptly at 6:30 pm. Bring questions, bring any tried and true tips to share, come and try new techniques to make handles and attach them.

Heads up, June is our AGM. It is also our Garage Sale. Start accumulating all those thing you want to get rid of, or items you are looking for. As well we will be selling the entire contents of the OGP Library. Many treasures to found!

See you on Tuesday night.

by Liz Fournier

Sales Committee

Spring Sale May 2-4, 2025 Horticulture Building, Lansdowne Park.
Thank you, and congratulations to the 45 potters in 40 booths. The Spring Sale was another record-breaking event, with over $110,395.00 in gross sales. Everyone, take a bow. The calibre and variety of work was outstanding.

A huge thank you to the Communications Committee. The Advertising and Social Media Post were amazing. Thank you Nancy and Lisa and Dawn.

Thank you to Dave our Webmaster. Thank you to Jocelyn Jenkins and her team on Standards and Education. They make us all look our best. Thank you to Michele Macdonald our treasurer for all her wizardry with crunching those numbers and getting our cheques to us.

Thank you Linda Taylor for the amazing program and keeping our computers running. Thank you to Kathrin Von Dehn for the beautiful Spring inspired hand made decorations strung at the front of the hall.

As always, the Kid's Clay table is a fan favourite, thank you Jocelyn Jenkins and your team of volunteers.

The Throwdown and pottery demonstrations always draw a big crowd. Thank you, Carmen Gervais and the Clay Festival team.

Thank you to all who volunteered to compete in the Throwdown and to demonstrate throwing and hand-building techniques.

Thank you to everyone who brought treats to share with your fellow potters.

Now to the Sale Committee, Ileana Tierney, Erin Morgan and Jane Bryttan who compile all the participants and schedule the Shifts and Jobs and create the Floorplan. Thank you so much.

Holiday Sale December 11-13, 2025

by Liz Fournier

Exhibitions Committee

This year, we were honoured to have Sequoia Miller, Chief Curator and Deputy Director of Toronto's Gardiner Museum, as our juror. It was a great pleasure for all of us, members of the Guild, and the public at large to be present at the Opening ceremony and to listen to his carefully-considered and astute remarks as he described the reasons for the choices he made in granting the awards.

From the mass of People's Choice ballots cast, we were not surprised to see that the winner was Jordan Danger, for her piece 'A Toe in the Water.'

The exhibition is available online, as well as the catalogue, which you may want to send to family and friends. Many of you have already indicated your interest in purchasing a printed copy of the catalogue. Should more of you wish to have a send us an email by May 12, at **exhibitions@ottawaguildofpotters.ca**

Now that the exhibition is behind us, life at the Exhibitions will return to normal. Do consider joining us for our next Pot Talk, to be held mid-June. You might also consider whether you would like to hold a solo Celebrating Clay exhibition, to be held in October. For further details, go to Celebrating Clay Exhibition and to express your interest, send us a note at exhibitions@ottawaguildofpotters.ca.

Elizabeth Davies, Joanna Richardson

Juror's Comments:

The Annual Juried Exhibition of the Ottawa Guild of Potters represents an opportunity to consider the state of studio ceramics in the Ottawa region. With this exhibition, we can observe a dynamic and varied community, committed to artistic exploration, excellence, and an engagement with the public.

Among the numerous regional, medium-specific guilds found across Canada, the Ottawa Guild of Potters maintains a vibrant community. Guild members gather around a shared interest and area of expertise, offering mutual understanding, support, and appreciation. As a guild, members also generate opportunities to share their work, cultivating an audience beyond the makers.

The Juried Exhibition brings outside critical reflection while highlighting some of the most accomplished work of the group. The level of accomplishment evident in the works submitted for consideration was very high. Many more works would have had a welcome place in the exhibition than space allowed. It is clear that Guild members are serious and committed artists, seeking to develop their expressive potential within the aspect of ceramics that they are working.

In addition to the quality and seriousness evident in the works, I was impressed by the range of aesthetic approaches. Some members embraced working within specific ceramic traditions, while others sought to break entirely new ground. Some referenced and drew from ancestral identities and practices, while others addressed complex social issues. This range speaks to the health of both the Guild and the community, offering viewers multiple entry points into the incredible variety within ceramics. Thank you for entrusting me with your work and for being receptive to my feedback. Balancing internal conviction and openness to outside input is critical, and this type of endeavor hopefully helps to do just that. All Guild members, whether or not they have work in the show, can be proud of their and their peers' accomplishment. Together, you will continue to build a strong ceramics community in the Ottawa region and share this spectacular medium with your community.

Sequoia Miller

Membership Committee Report

We now have a total of 184 members. Of those 133 members have renewed, most taking advantage of the early bird fee. Please welcome the members who joined in April.

Jessica Aylsworth
Artist Bio: I do a little bit of everything: both sculptural and function, handbuilding and wheel, and sometimes all mixed together. Sculpting is my main passion. I love how sculpture allows for an imagination of narrative and life beyond the physical sculptural object. My work often integrates or hybridizes different animals, plants and scenes from nature. My functional work often depicts whimsical animals through the addition of sculpture or illustrations. When I can, I love doing thrown and altered pieces, as this brings a bit of sculptural puzzle solving into functional work.
Artist Inspiration: I am inspired by nature. When I'm on hikes or at my cottage, my eyes are always on the lookout for natural treasures or inspiration. This could be finding a skull or shell, seeing lichen or fungi, or noticing similarities in forms between different animals and plants. In my sculptural work, I like to bring together different natural forms, highlighting similarities or differences to create a narrative. With my functional work I enjoy pairing animals and plants into series emphasizing connection between the natural world.

Marc Garneau
Artist Bio: My wife took me to a date night at Loam Studio, and I fell in love with pottery. Afterwards, I took some classes and have been enjoying it for just over 1 year. I am also a woodturner and working on combining both mediums to make unique pieces.
Artist Inspiration: I love to give texture to the clay using my homemade rollers, stamps or stencils/stickers
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/creations_marc_garneau/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/marc.garneau1

Robyn Coutts
Artist Bio: Hi, I'm Robyn (aka Glitterkween). I make functional pottery inspired by the sparkle and joy of glitter. I've been learning and working with clay since 2019, and started selling my work in 2024. I've always been a creative person—I've worked as a graphic designer for about 10 years, and used to run my own esthetics business. These days, my 9-5 is in marketing, which can be pretty high stress, so pottery has become a really grounding and calming outlet for me.
Artist Inspiration: I consider myself still fairly new to pottery and am still learning what my technique would be. I enjoy working with porcelain and tend to lean into the Barbieesque esthetic with a modern deco vibe for my pieces. What I love most about working with clay is that it lets me slow down, work with my hands, and still find ways to add a bit of sparkle into people's lives.
Studio Name: Glitterkween Ceramics
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/glitterkween.ceramics
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/glitterkweenceramics
Website URL: https://www.etsy.com/shop/GlitterkweenCeramics

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Membership Committee Report (cont'd)

Julie Monette
Artist Bio: I have been a fan of pottery my entire life, however a serious head injury has left me with a memory disability. As a result, I need to relearn how to make pottery every six weeks. I am a member of a local studio with artists that support my efforts and allow me to experiment with creativity at my own pace. As I come from a background in art, I am using my experience with pottery to learn and try to keep my memory alive. It is a form of therapy that soothes the need to create despite my limitations since having a major surgery nearly a decade ago.
Artist Inspiration: Wood-fired Kiln and atmospheric firings. I'm especially interested in Aboriginal techniques and earthenware pottery. My goal is to build a wood-burning kiln.
Studio Name: Serendipity Pottery 8

Jess Menchions
Artist Bio: I am a returning potter after a 30-year hiatus. Like riding a bicycle, my muscle memory has endured. I have a City and Guilds certificate in studio pottery that I was able to achieve while I was living in London U.K. My potting journey can now continue with an emphasis on skill-building and mastery.
Artist Inspiration: The tradition of English majolica and the Arts and Crafts movement. Bernard Leach and William de Morgan are my strongest influences.

Margaret Sherwin
Artist Bio: I am a solo amateur potter, having done classes in Ottawa on and off for the past 13 years. Recently, while in Thunder Bay for Teacher's College, I began throwing again and have completely fell back in love, working as much as I can. I am also interested in learning how to teach ceramics and move beyond throwing into my "discomfort" zone of hand building and attachments. My current work is mostly repeated basic functional forms that aim at consistency, and my decorative style is illustrative with underglazes and my nature-inspired with regular glazes.
Artist Inspiration: In my work, my visual inspiration is mainly simple forms that make functional sense and unite angles and curves. I am more interested in creating works that become parts of people's everyday lives such as cups, plates, and bowls, than I am in creating decorative pieces. For glazing, I am inspired heavily by nature and flora, as well as gems and minerals. I'm also interested in learning more about recreating historical pots, using techniques that were used in the past to better understand the potters that created the artifacts that still exist today.

Aleks Flannery
Artist Bio: I started throwing clay six years ago after taking a spin-the-wheel workshop at Hintonburg Pottery. During the pandemic I took a hiatus from the studio, but started hand-building with polymer and air dry clay at home and incorporating it into my wall art for a whole new multimedia aesthetic and flow. I returned to the studio and it was like I never left. My passion for throwing has only grown and now I'm in a teacher training program.
Artist Inspiration: With my art, I try to re-create joyful, interesting glimmers from everyday life for audiences to bring home and treasure and experience repeatedly. I want to create pieces that feel alive with fluidity and texture, that make people want to reach out and touch. Potters with their variety of life experiences, and good naturedness, their variety of technique and care is all inspiring to me.
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/art_of.the.matter/
Website URL: https://www.artofthematter.shop/

by Carol Holmes-Kerr

Follow us on social media: **Instagram @ottawapotters**
Facebook @ottawaguildofpotters
And join our MEMBERS ONLY Facebook group:
The Ottawa Guild of Potters Members Group
It's a place for Guild members to connect and share.

What a weekend at the Clay Festival, Spring Sale, Annual Juried Exhibition!
Much fun was had by all... potters, friends, adults and kids. Our Festival is gaining momentum and becoming known as a spring must-do in Ottawa. Thanks to everyone who helped us spread the word, through your email lists, social media and by putting posters in your local haunts. And thanks to sale participants for sending us beautiful photos of wonderful pottery that grace our socials, that's what entices folks to come!

At the sale, we took lots more photos which will be used in future– potters with their pots; action shots of demos, throw down, adult playtime on the wheel, kids' clay table; happy potters working the cash and lots and lots of beautiful pottery. Thank you to Mehrbod Pegah (son of Anahita Osivand) who took photos for us, and members Nadine Argo and Elizabeth Davies who also sent us pics.

Nice comments received, by Insta and in writing:
"Really glad I made the trek... met and saw work of so many great makers" @divinecraft_lakefield
"That looks so hard!" (About the blindfold challenge) @adventures_in_greenland
"What a fun afternoon!"
"Masì cho!" ("thank you" in the Tlicho language spoken by the Tłı̨chǫ people in NWT.)

Instagram paid ad details FYI:
Ad Run: April 11- May 2 2025
Total Ad cost= $149.41
Views 47,666
(Number of times content was displayed.)
90% of views from non-followers!

So we're reaching lots of new people :)
This is a very effective and efficient way to promote our Festival.

Now that our big spring event is done
We will be slowing down a bit through the summer, doing some fun social media posts.
But we will be hard at work on our **website refresh**, which will be our focus. Lots of work to do!

Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butter & Dawn McLeod

Activities & Programs

Ottawa Clay Festival Activities

Throwdown
The very popular throwdown was back this year, on May 3rd, and drew very large and interactive crowds to the demonstration stage! There was CTV Ottawa coverage on Friday morning with Amy Bell and myself on the morning show, and a CTV crew came to Lansdowne to film the Throw Down on Saturday. This year's success was thanks to the amazing people who supported it. A huge thank you goes out to my co-organizer and guest judge, Christine Chesser, as well as the people who instigated the Ottawa Clay Festival, guest judge Amy Bell and co-MC Barb Minish.

The throwdown had wheel and handbuilding activities. Anne Nicols was on stage and literally worked against the clock (heehee) and in 2 hours handbuilt a grandmother clock, which featured an impressive amount of "attitude". What a feat, and a great introduction to the public on the process of handbuilding as well as the talent and work that goes into making a complex piece. Anne drew a crowd of onlookers, as she always does, and was absolutely charming. Thank you so much!

I also want to shout out the fabulously fun, courageous and talented wheel participants, some of whom are very early in their pottery journey but didn't let that stop them from getting on that stage:

- **Remmy Ackert-Fraser**
- **Lisa Binkowski**
- **Gaia Chernushenko**
- **Liang Dong**
- **Anvita Gupta**
- **Tara Hamilton**
- **Katherine King**
- **Lael Morgan**
- **Meagan Pethick**
- **Christina Stapper**

They threw blindfolded, off the hump, fast and furious, trimmed and decorated under pressure and one intrepid duo (looking at you Meagan and Katherine) threw 5 kg (11 lbs) each in a "who can throw taller" face off. It was a fantastic showcase of friendly competition and the talent at the Guild.

Demonstrations
We held three demonstrations this year, featuring the creative talents of Lee-Ann O'Neill, Anna Macquistan and Christine Chesser. The pieces they made were left on display all day and drew lots of attention, along with requests for where classes are available! You made it look so enticing, thank you all for your time and sharing your knowledge with the crowds that gathered around you while you worked. Another fantastic showcase of Guild talent and friendliness.

Adult Play Time!
This was a new activity this year, and was it popular!!! I was joined by Christine Chesser and Lael Morgan to give adults a quick turn at the wheel, where they were shown how to open up and pull the walls of a small vessel. We centered the clay for them and then they got their hands dirty! Around 40 people were able to participate and there were significant line ups to participate. People loved the chance to feel the clay and understand the process, and came away commenting on how difficult it was. I want to recognize the tremendous contributions of Lael and Christine in making this a successful new activity.

Coming Up:

- **May 13th monthly meeting:** Pulling handles hands-on activity! We'll provide leather hard mug bodies and clay so you can try different techniques to make handles under the guidance of some handle experts from the Guild.
- **June 10th Annual General Meeting:** In addition to the usual pot-luck, we will be organizing a garage sale so you can trade, sell, barter and benefit from the stashes of your fellow guild members. Mark your calendar, you're going to want to be there!

We'll be sending a survey this summer to get your ideas and input on what we should do in the coming year, stay tuned!
As always, I'm interested in your ongoing feedback and ideas – you can reach me at activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca.

by Carmen Gervais

A Note from Anne Nicol

I'm a ceramic artist who discovered the art of overglaze painting (china painting) in 2021, and since then, I've become a proud member of both the **Leeds China Painters** and the **Rideau Guild of Porcelain Artists**. These guilds have been incredibly generous with their knowledge, time, and materials—each gathering is a chance to learn, share, and grow.

I've been truly captivated by the way overglaze painting can transform a fired ceramic piece into a rich, expressive storytelling surface. The members are also deeply skilled in using **lustres**, **decals**, and other finishing techniques that add depth and brilliance to each piece.

I hope you'll join us to experience this remarkable and evolving art form in action.

This photo is a piece I will be painting at the school. Taught by Francesca Predolini from Italy.

We'd love to see you there—to connect, exchange ideas, and celebrate the artistry that bridges our shared passion for ceramics.

A special thanks to LOAM CLAY STUDIO for firing all the porcelain pieces each day!

***Please note**: If you are sensitive to turpentine, lavender, clove, or other strong scents, this environment may not be suitable for you.*

Porcelain Artists of CANADA Inc. Peintres sur porcelaine du CANADA Inc.

🎨 **You're Invited!**
Visit the Canadian School of Porcelain Art
Wednesday, June 18, 2025
Algonquin College – Food & Conference Centre, Salons A & B

See Artists at Work – Porcelain Painting in Progress
Join us during the 4-day Annual School of Porcelain Art, where artists from around the world gather to practice and teach the delicate craft of china painting.

🖌️ **Best time to visit: After 12:30 PM**
📅 **Wednesday, June 18, 2025**
🎨 **Classes run daily from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

On this third day of their projects, artists will be deep into the layering process, showcasing how colour and technique evolve through multiple firings. From traditional portraits to contemporary designs—there's something inspiring for everyone to see.

Ask for Anne or Patricia
We'd be delighted to welcome you, guide you through the workspaces, and answer any questions.

🌐 Learn more: www.canadianschoolofporcelainart.ca
🌐 https://www.facebook.com/groups/71926099007/

Announcement from Marie P. Drolet

Intensive Summer Workshops

The perfect Summer Camp for adults!

Muraï Céramique is presenting 3 different intensive 5-day workshops for beginners and intermediate potters. We are located in the glorious Gatineau Hills, 10 minutes north of Wakefield.

July 7-11 : enjoy 5 mornings with Veronique Caron Bossé to learn the basics of pottery. No experience required.

July 14-18: Marie Drolet (Muraï Céramique and L'atelier de l'Aube), Michelle Lemire (Solart Céramique) and Kathrin Von Dehn will join forces for this 5 days (9 am-4 pm) of exploration on your artistic process, throwing large pieces and specific handbuilding techniques. For intermediate potters.

July 28-August 1st: Marie Drolet (Muraï Céramique and L'atelier de l'Aube), Janet Keefe (Snailpace pottery), Maria Moldovan, and Marie-Hélène Cormier (Yamayama) will be teaching this 5 days (9 am-4 pm) on exploration of your artistic process, coiling larger pieces, portrait making and stamps design. For intermediate potters.

To see all the details: https://www.muraiceramique.com/pages/thematic-courses

Introduction aux glaçures (cours en français seulement)

Créer ses propres glaçures comporte de nombreux avantages: originalité, contrôle sur le résultat, réduction des coûts, etc. Ce cours de 4 sessions vise à vous donner des outils importants dans votre première approche de la création de glaçure. L'univers des glaçures est immensément vaste et intimidant pour les non-initiés comme on y parle de chimie… pourtant avec certains repères simples, il est possible de commencer son exploration et de s'éviter plusieurs erreurs ou recherches infructueuses.

Les mardis de 17h30 à 20h, du 19 Août au 9 Septembre 2025 (4 mardis).

Pour plus d'information : https://www.muraiceramique.com/products/introduction-aux-glacures-introduction-to-glazes

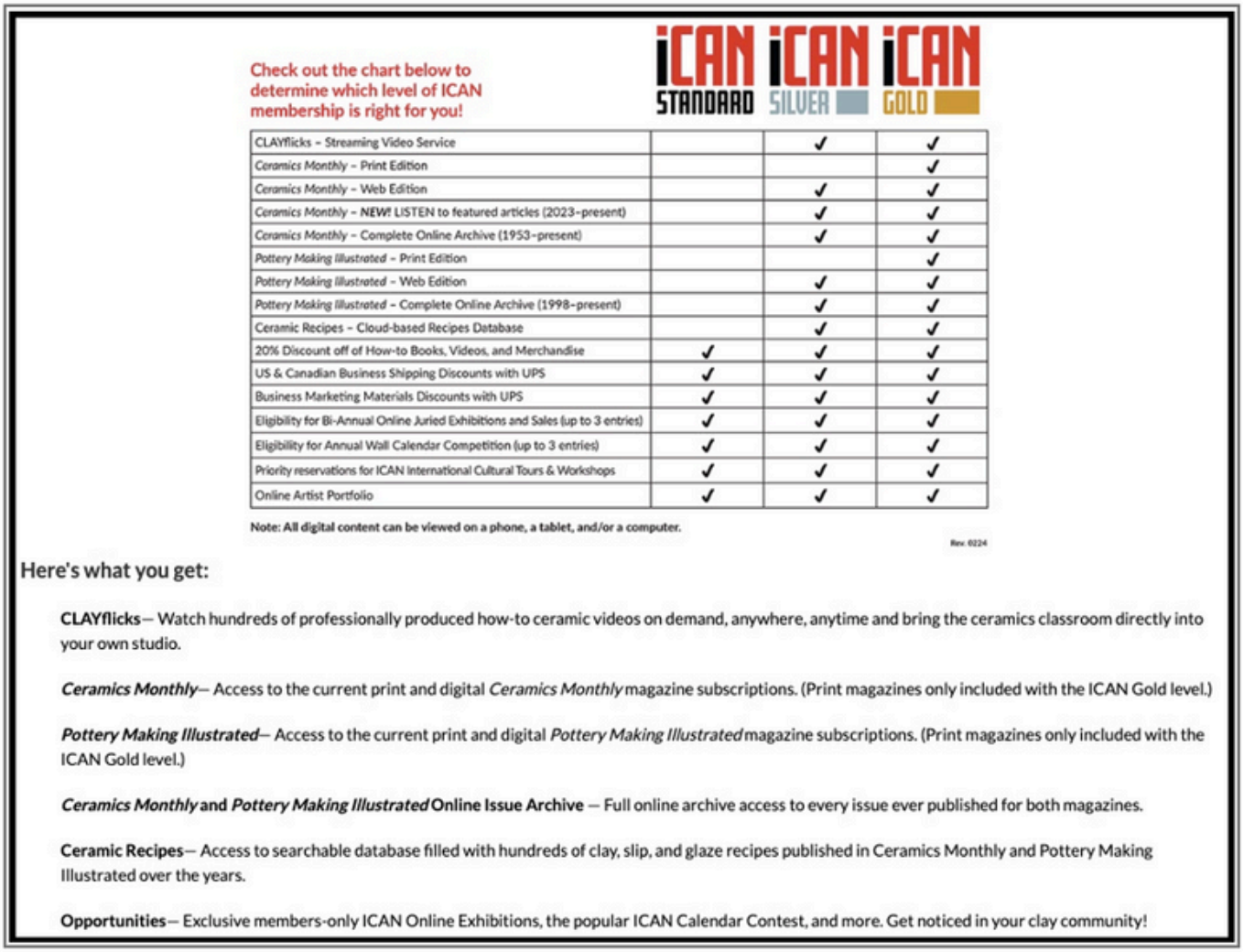
Ceramic Arts Network Membership

The Guild has purchased a corporate membership to the Ceramic Arts Network (CAN). This new membership will give you access to all the material they have on their site, including current and back issues of Ceramic Arts Monthly and Pottery Illustrated, all of their videos, and any other information.

How will this work?

Each year, when you renew your Guild membership, you will receive a special discount code that will give you access to the account you set up for a year. The Guild will pay for this membership in advance, so you will not have to pay anything. You will receive an email with a special URL that brings you to a page where you will set up an account. We have purchased the **Silver** option that doesn't include paper copies of the two publications.

by Natalie Gosselin



Check out the chart below to determine which level of ICAN membership is right for you!

	ICAN STANDARD	ICAN SILVER	ICAN GOLD
CLAYflicks – Streaming Video Service		✓	✓
Ceramics Monthly – Print Edition			✓
Ceramics Monthly – Web Edition		✓	✓
Ceramics Monthly – **NEW!** LISTEN to featured articles (2023–present)		✓	✓
Ceramics Monthly – Complete Online Archive (1953–present)		✓	✓
Pottery Making Illustrated – Print Edition			✓
Pottery Making Illustrated – Web Edition		✓	✓
Pottery Making Illustrated – Complete Online Archive (1998–present)		✓	✓
Ceramic Recipes – Cloud-based Recipes Database		✓	✓
20% Discount off of How-to Books, Videos, and Merchandise	✓	✓	✓
US & Canadian Business Shipping Discounts with UPS	✓	✓	✓
Business Marketing Materials Discounts with UPS	✓	✓	✓
Eligibility for Bi-Annual Online Juried Exhibitions and Sales (up to 3 entries)	✓	✓	✓
Eligibility for Annual Wall Calendar Competition (up to 3 entries)	✓	✓	✓
Priority reservations for ICAN International Cultural Tours & Workshops	✓	✓	✓
Online Artist Portfolio	✓	✓	✓

Note: All digital content can be viewed on a phone, a tablet, and/or a computer.

Rev. 0224

Here's what you get:

CLAYflicks— Watch hundreds of professionally produced how-to ceramic videos on demand, anywhere, anytime and bring the ceramics classroom directly into your own studio.

Ceramics Monthly— Access to the current print and digital *Ceramics Monthly* magazine subscriptions. (Print magazines only included with the ICAN Gold level.)

Pottery Making Illustrated— Access to the current print and digital *Pottery Making Illustrated* magazine subscriptions. (Print magazines only included with the ICAN Gold level.)

***Ceramics Monthly* and *Pottery Making Illustrated* Online Issue Archive** — Full online archive access to every issue ever published for both magazines.

Ceramic Recipes— Access to searchable database filled with hundreds of clay, slip, and glaze recipes published in Ceramics Monthly and Pottery Making Illustrated over the years.

Opportunities— Exclusive members-only ICAN Online Exhibitions, the popular ICAN Calendar Contest, and more. Get noticed in your clay community!