

INSIDE: Stepping Up Michiko Takada Winter Pottery Fair Shirley Dunn Open Studios Exhibitions & Opportunities...and more

Cj Jilek, Cross Pollination, Slip cast Porcelain, Wool Fiber, Monofilament, Flocking, 7 x 8 x 8 inches, 2014. Image credit Cj Jilek

Come and step up, out and beyond–experience new world views by Kathryn Wells

The vision of Stepping Up offers conference delegates to this year's Ceramics Triennale the chance to explore what it means to be a potter, maker, ceramic artist and clay worker in a changing world. Three clear themes are explored—one for each day of the Triennale. The first is the changing world of creativity and different ways of making studio and production pots, the second explores ceramics in urban, community and environmental contexts and the third offers insights into sales and marketing.

The conference will be primarily located at the ANU from 9-11 July 2015. The program is structured with talks in the morning at the Manning Clark Lecture Theatre and demonstrations at the Ceramics Workshop at the School of Art in the afternoon. After lunch and a pleasant short walk through the modern ANU campus on the city side, are performances and panel discussions

Prior to the conference, on 6-8 July, delegates have the opportunity to enrol in one of three master classes held at ANU (looking and throwing), Strathnairn Arts (wood kilns) or Canberra Potters Society (experimental forms). Strathnairn Arts will host a welcoming event on Wednesday 8 July in the evening.

Three exciting international keynote speakers will set the tone for each day. These are followed by international and also national speakers from varied disciplines and approaches to ceramics but, each an expert in their field. The program is structured to allow for a healthy half-hour of questions at the end of each morning session. These provide a wonderful opportunity to question the speakers and bring together the ideas covered by the other six speakers.

Tanya Harrod, the UK art historian, will open the conference with an overview of the varied set of values that define studio pottery today and the reemergence of factory production as a place of experimentation for the studio potter. The return of factory production to Asia as a collaborative venture will be discussed by Kevin Murray as a complement to Adil Writer (India) who proposes this time as the Asian Century. The obvious changes

Continued page 3...

CPS AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Watson Arts Centre on Sunday 17 May at 10.30am. The Agenda will be: Minutes of the previous AGM; Committee Reports; Presentation of Financial Accounts Election of new Committee; Other Business.

Anybody wishing to nominate for the Board or as President should send a brief CV and outline of skills they can bring to the Board. Please email our Chair <u>Brad Thomas</u> by 10 May.

CanberraPotters'Society WatsonArtsCentre









From the Director

Welcome to the Stepping Up issue of The Canberra Potter. As the preeminent organisation for pottery and ceramic arts in the ACT region it's only fitting that CPS are deeply involved in this remarkable event. What astounds me is that every three years a different group of dedicated, passionate, clay crazy people can organise a program of speakers, demonstrators and artform luminaries to share their skills, thoughts and talent with us. We've some of the world's leading ceramic arts thinkers, practitioners and makers coming to our backyard! I hope you'll get involved in some or all that's on offer. Step Up—it will never be more affordable or accessible to those in our region.

As you may be aware the ACT Arts Policy Framework is being reviewed and I participated in a public forum where arts administrators, managers, artists and community were invited to give artsACT feedback on the current ACT Arts Policy Framework. The new Framework will articulate goals and purpose for arts organisations in our region. CPS, as a fundamental part of a Key Arts Organisation, must stay engaged with government during this period. It will ensure that we continue to provide our members, students and facility users with the best arts organisation possible.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank our outgoing President, Maryke Henderson for her dedication to the position over the last three years. As the members spokesperson, the President is a pivotal role between members, management and board. She'll still be active helping organise Surround/s, developing cone six glazes, planning our Open Day and attending Steeping Up committee meetings...thank you again Maryke!

Richard Thomas *Director*



From the President

As this is my last President's Report for the newsletter, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the membership, and dedicated staff for their support during my three-year term in this position.

During this time I have seen many changes and growth. While changes will continue to be implemented and while we will be faced with new challenges, I feel that we can be optimistic and excited about the future growth and development of the society that could not happen without the continual financial support of the ACT Government through artsACT.

It was wonderful to welcome our first Director, Richard Thomas. His appointment has seen great inroads to our development plans. With astute marketing we have also realized a substantial increase in the educational program. This is also due to the appointment of Fran Romano to the position of Education Program Manager, allowing for greater outreach to schools and community groups.

Please come and support the exhibitors in the Student & Teacher Exhibition, opening Thursday 28 May with the official opening on Sunday 31 May at 2pm.

While I may be relinquishing my position as President, I plan to remain active within the society. Currently I'm seeking to form a committee to plan a bigger and better Open Day for later in the year. An initial meeting is planned for Tuesday 26 May at 7pm and I invite interested members to attend or to pass on any thoughts or suggestions that could make this a bigger and better event.

Hoping to see you all at the AGM on Sunday 17 May at 10.30am.

Maryke Henderson *President*

Board & administration

Board

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Contributions are welcome.
Please email copy and images to
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Contact us

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Gallery/Shop hours Thursday–Sunday 10–4 pm

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From cover

in technologies, interdisciplinary innovations and consequences for education in the USA and Australia will be relevant to all delegates with some redefinitions offered by Cj Jilek and Anna Calluori Holcombe (USA), Kate Dunn and Fiona Fell (Australia).



above: Somachai Chareon—contruction

Demonstrations in the afternoon by four Australian ceramic artists: Somchai Chareon, Jo Searle, Gail Nichols, Kenji Uranishi offer examples of techniques for both form (making processes, slip-casting and slab rolling) as well as decorative techniques, including direct printing.



above: Jo Searle-decorative techniques

The work of many potters and ceramic artists is a response to the environment as well as the clay itself. This will be interrogated on a deep level through the opportunity of performance and presentations following the demonstrations. The interdisciplinary perspectives of performance art, photography, and film will be presented by Teri Frame (USA) with the use of clay on the body as art and masks. A photo-documentary on Indian clay makers (where there are more traditional potters than anywhere else in the world) and their traditions, their making and ancient



above: Bhurrnesh Prasad—traditional techniques

philosophies will be presented by Madhvi Subrahmanian, Sharbani Das Gupta, and Adil Writer (India)

Ceramics in an urban context, from both the bricks that shelter us and build our worlds to the clay that nourishes plant foods, is the research focus of the key-note address by Jacques Kaufman (France) on Day Two. Following Kaufman, the themes of social responsibility, community and environment are explored by five ceramicists and potters from Australia and Michelle Lim (Singapore).

Social responsibility is writ large in the importance of Pukatja Pottery for the Ernabella community in central Australia where art skills and associated knowledge have been handed down for thousands of years. This has a connection with Rajasthani traditional potters from Kumhaargram, India where Sandra Bowkett works amongst a village of 700 pottery families.



above: Cameron Williams—large works

Community learning and teaching is the hallmark of Su Brown who began a studio ceramic program for Aranda people at Wallace Rockhole, 120 kilometres west of Alice Springs, Northern Territory in 2011. Each year since then she has towed her caravan from Queensland to stay for four months while she teaches studio ceramics to males or females, young or old, all are welcome in the pottery. Their first exhibition of works in Alice Springs was well received.

In contrast to the Aranda learning new techniques in clay, the 6000 people of Singapore involved in Awaken the Dragon project in 2012 and 2014, were learning their own old techniques of firing clay in dragon kilns, raising awareness of the heritage of ceramics in Singapore.



above: John Tuckwell—porcelain paper clay

These presentations segue into important considerations of cultural context and a reminder of how humans relate to the natural environment. Julie Bartholomew presents examples of clay artists who use the power of clay to draw attention to environmental issues. John Reid suggests clay artists have a powerful role in their aesthetic communications to collaborate with scientists about energy alternatives.

Demonstrations in the afternoon of Day Two will focus on the technologies, skills and traditions of throwing, centering, paper clay and sgraffito. Bhuvnesh Prasad (India), from a long line of potters, will demonstrate the making of a traditional water pot on 'silent' wheels from India, both propelled by a stick. In contrast, Cameron Williams will demonstrate his current thinking on centering and then make a very large pot using multiple sections before finishing it off with



above: Cathy Franzi-sgraffito

the addition of latex sprig moulds. John Tuckwell will demonstrate how he works with porcelain paper clay to build the scaffold and the technical structure for vessels and sculptures.

Cathy Franzi will demonstrate how she creates ceramic vessels that evoke a botanical perspective on natural places using a printmaking approach to composition with sgraffito. Ernabella artists Tjimpuna Williams, Anne Thompson, Milyika Carroll will be demonstrating their way of using the sgraffito technique.

At the end of Day Two, the question of how social responsibility, community



above: Ernabella artist Tjimpuna Williams

and environment fits in with curatorial practices and competitions will be the pointy end of a discussed. This will be in the context of Ceramics Biennales in East Asia by panelists: Wendy Gers (South Africa), Shuling Chiang (Taiwan), Jane Milosch (USA), Jia-Haur Liang (Taiwan) and Elizabeth Perrill (USA).

Day Three addresses the hoary chestnut of sales and marketing—with Mike Goldmark (UK) offering some pearls as well as throwing in a few nuts about how he succeeded in becoming one of the world's leading sellers of studio pottery.

Marketing online is addressed by three speakers. Carol Epp (Canada) emphasis

the importance of growing ceramic maker communities online, Ben Carter (USA) discusses how to connect with new audiences online and Lia Tajcnar (Australia) presents on social media as a tool.

Public art offers other options for ceramic artists and Lesley Baker (USA) offers examples of how artists can be part of this part of the market. Fred Olsen (USA) offers his tips for surviving as a ceramicist and potter outside of the ceramics teaching professions and the worlds of the ceramic suppliers, product design and ceramic engineering.

The truism of demand spurring on supply is examined closely by Anna Maas (Australia) in terms of desire on the part of the collector and the role of the gallery worker to build relationships with customers, based on shared information, discussions, knowledge and trust.

Demonstrations on Day Three will offer a range of styles, forms, processes and skills that inform the work of ceramic artists whose works are in high demand. CJ Jilek (USA) offers transformations in clay and Australian ceramic artists Peng Qian, Bev Hogg and Janet Fieldhouse offer insights into the process of fabric clay, wall relief and carving respectively. Michael Doolan (Australia) looks at motif, images and characters.

The last panel session of the Conference will be led by author Cory Taylor who is based in both Arita, Japan and Brisbane, Australia. Taylor will lead a conversation with Kenji Uranishi, Vipoo Srivilasa and Kirsten Coelho who have all separately been on residency in Arita and they will speak of their recent experiences of working there and the opportunities for collaboration and success with designers.

To give reality to the talk, exhibitions in all the major public and private gallery spaces in Canberra, across the ACT Arts Centres and at Pop-Up shops in down town Braddon by a myriad of ceramics artists, potters and clay workers will showcase wares for sale to the ceramic buying public.

No doubt conference delegates will be inspired, stimulated and transformed by the events they experience. How this might be resolved in their new world view will be subject of hot conversation at the Conference Dinner –to be held at the National Museum of Australia. What a treat!



Stepping Up(date) Australian Ceramics Triennale 2015

Canberra, Associated Program commences 6 July Conference 9–11 July 2015

Canberra Potters' Society is a host partner for this exciting ceramic arts event. Our Director, President and a Society Life Member are on the organisation committee. This is an important event, not only to the partners involved but on a national level. It will present Canberra and our region as a significant ceramic arts and pottery hub for all practicing, emerging and established artists, educators and supporting organisations.

Juz Kitson will be running a three day workshop at the Watson Arts Centre leading up to the conference on 6-9 July. She will be the CPS Artist-in-Residence from 8 June leading up to the Triennale.

Carol Ep and Ben Carter will be presenting during the conference on the topics of online marketing and the importance of social media in building ceramic communities.

We are very excited to announce that Ben and Carol will be staying on after the conference to lead the CPS Winter School program as skilled an innovative artists in their own right. Information for this school will be available in the coming weeks.

Several major exhibitions will be associated with the conference so check the Triennale website for details. Next Issue—Exhibitions!

Managing Organisation

Craft ACT Craft & Design Centre Jasmine, Project Manager project@craftact.org.au Phone 02 6262 9333

<u>australianceramicstriennale.com</u>

Partners

Craft ACT: Craft & Design Centre Australian National University Strathnairn Arts Canberra Potters' Society The Australian Ceramics Assc.

Strathnairn Open Day

Join the Strathnairn Arts' community on Sunday 17 May as we welcome you to Strathnairn Arts

Our studio holders will open their studios, giving you a glimpse into their art practices. There will be demonstrations and works for sale from print making to ceramics, textiles, sculpture and mixed media works. This year we will also officially open our Squares 2015 exhibition.

Interested in adding work to a groundhog woodfiring?

Strathnairn Arts will be hosting a firing in the groundhog kiln in late May. Students from Gungahlin College, under the supervision of ceramist Craig Edwards, will be packing the kiln on Friday 29 May with the kiln to be cracked on Monday 1 June.

There will be space for works by other potters in this firing - please contact our Program Coordinator via email info@ strathnairn.com.au to discuss space and pricing by Saturday 23 May.

Inspired by the Ceramic Triennale?

Strathnairn Arts will be running Kiln August over the whole month as we fire every one of our kilns. There will be fantastic opportunities for potters and ceramists to add work to our electric, gas, salt, raku and woodfire kilns.

Our artists in residence Col Minogue and Robert Sanderson will be running a workshop across the weekends of the 15+16 and 22+23 August, firing our modified Bourry box kiln.

So don't miss the chance to experiment in our new Fast Freddy, the Olsen groundhog, our wonderful gas Morris kiln, our Bourry box kiln and even to try your hand on some salt glazes.





Artist-in-Residence Michiko Takada

by Sara Hogwood

Michiko Takada first came to Canberra about 15 years ago thanks to an exchange program between her university and the ANU. At that time she was still fairly new to pottery but she dreamt of coming back to Canberra one day. Now that she has established her own style she felt that the time was right for a return and to see what difference using Australian clay would make to her works.

After graduating from Kyoto University of Art and Design in 2003 with a Master's Degree, Michiko developed a fascination with how spaces create interesting and beautiful structures. This led to her passion for creating three-dimensional 'space structures', which she describes as the spaces that appear when clay threads are intertwined and then those spaces are themselves intertwined.

Michiko's space structures are created in a variety of ways: wrapping cotton

thread dipped in clay slip around balloons creates hollow shapes while running slipped thread around nails hammered into a board mimics weaving and can be used to create items traditionally made from softer materials, such as handbags, jumpers and draped cloth. Great care is taken in choosing the correct size thread and placement to create the finish that Michiko wants. Even so, while she usually gets pleasant surprises from the kiln she also, she says, gets some miserable failures! Either way, she finds it wonderful to see how the clay changes its characteristics in the firing process. The burning off of the cotton threads in the kiln often leaves hollow spaces and even though these are not visible from

the outside, they are important to Michiko.











Review: Mudlarks Strathnairn Hidemi Tokutake

Mudlarks at the Café Gallery Strathnairn 19 February – 15 March

Review by Kathryn Wells

Mudlarks at the Café Gallery Strathnairn by four members of the Claybodies collective represents a dialogue about contemporary art practice in the Canberra region and the creations of work in clay that explore the natural environment in the region.

Mudlarks is a strong visceral and haptic exploration of the nature and creation of clay from earth itself. The term mudlark derives from playing in the mud as well as the mudlark birds that build their bowl-shaped nests of mud. The exhibition draws together: Stephanie Hunt, Ingrid Adler, Gwenna Green, and Jacqueline Lewis, each with strength and movement.

Gwenna Green's conical, spherical, cylindrical and rectangular prism forms in earthenware are decorated in a slight, soft, scrappy and subtle fashion of entangled bush with leaf litter and fern growth emphasised by the underglaze brush work and clear overglaze. The role of play in the creative act of making ceramic artworks is clearly visible in the layering of slips and clays with terra sigillatta brush stroke glazes in the stoneware vases and bowls of Jacqueline Lewis.

Ingrid Adler's spherical forms connect to the creation of clay itself with their shape, landscape textures and glazes, stoneware and granite, to create her Vessel Moon Rocks and Strata. Stephanie Hunt's play with abstractive designs on delicate jugs, bowls and holders of slip-cast porcelain. As well as spiral and reeds shapes, heavier stoneware bowls, reflect upon both the interior and external worlds in a rural landscape.

Hidemi Tokutake at the Watson Arts Centre Gallery March 12—29

by Janet DeBoos—Her exhibition opening address.

Demi To (Hidemi Tokutake) in her installation represents the core of what being an artist is all about. In a relatively short time she has arrived in Canberra, settled into the visiting artist studio at WAC and produced a substantial body of work that has responded to her new environment. She has observed her surroundings, made close examination of local flora and fauna—particularly the latter through close encounters with blue tongue lizards, kangaroos and mudwasps—and then processed all this through the repetitive handwork that characterises so much of the ceramic process. This seemingly easy handwork is the embodiment of skill, and can only be achieved through many hours, much practice, and a sensitivity to material.

This sensitivity is not just present in her techniques, but also in her thoughtful observations. In earlier work Demi had the realisation that the interiors of her work were more interesting than the outsides—that they reflected the labour of the ceramic artist's handwork-each coil, each pinch of the clay, each layer representing an act in time that made each vessel a repository of that time. It was a repository that had endurance because of the essential nature of the ceramic medium and deserved to be displayed and celebrated, and so was made a feature of the exteriors of the work.

In the same observant and thoughtful way, Demi has used a more subtle palette than her Sydney work, and has 'channelled' her Canberra experience through her work.

The installation—although comprised of multiple pieces—is a single work. At the end of this show, the sold pieces will each go to their new homes all over Canberra, but the work will always remain conceptually unified, although existing in a 'distibruted' form. I commend you all to take the same amount of care in looking at this work, and buying a piece, so that you will always have your own 'souvenir' to stimulate memory of the whole. With that I ask you to join with me in congratulating Demi, and I declare the exhibition opened.

Shop member profile

Shirley Dunn

I only joined the Potters Place cooperative this year, although I have been a potter for a long time. I have a broad art background and I have experimented with a wide range of art techniques. I worked as a high school art teacher until my retirement after which I decide to concentrate on ceramics. Raku firing has been a recent interest since I made a kiln to use at home and you will see my fruit, plates and platters in the shop.

My inspiration often comes from the environment but I am also fascinated with ancient cultures and societies. The idea for ceramic fruit began in Italy by studying the work of the 15th century sculptor *Luca della Robbia*. I find ceramics an art form with endless possibilities and my work changes to suit new concepts and ideas. I am experimenting with some new work at present which you will see later this year.





Winter Pottery Fair Calling Notice

It's time to get your name in if you'd like to participate in this year's winter fair in June. You can register as a participant by emailing admin@canberrapotters.com.au or phoning 6241 1670. Remember that it's first come, first served so get your name in early.

New participants are always welcome. If you're thinking about taking part for the first time you'll need a copy of the pottery fair handbook, available at http://www.canberrapotters.com.au/c_membership.html.

The all-important information:

Set-up: Tuesday 16 June between 9.30am and 2.30pm. Gallery spaces will be pre-allocated.

Open: Thursday 18 to Sunday 28 June; Thursday to Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Fees: Participation fees (\$15) can be paid at set-up. Commission on sales will be the usual 22%.

Take-down: Sunday 28 June 4-5pm or Monday 29 June 9.30-11am.



Paul Dumetz Cat on display at last year's Winter Fair

Student & Teacher Exhibition

The quality of exhibits in our annual Student & Teacher Exhibition seems to get better each year. This annual display is a chance to share in and celebrate the work of the many students, adults and children, who attend CPS pottery classes.

Accompanying the student exhibits will be works by the very creative teachers and classroom staff. There are sure to be many wonderful exhibits and some very worthy award winners.

The Student & Teacher Exhibition will open 28 May until 14 June 10am—4pm Thursday to Sunday.

Look for entry forms at CPS or ask your teachers.

Award presentation will take place at 2pm on Sunday 31 May. We'd love to see you there!

Open Studios

The Third National Open Studios event the Australian Ceramics Open Studios 2015 Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 August.

Before we are overrun with spring fairs, we will warm our studios, open the doors and welcome the locals in to see what we make.

Whether you have a newly established or well-known studio, if you are an inner city group, a regional potter or in the suburbs, everyone is welcome to apply.

To participate, you (or your group) need to be a member of The Australian Ceramics Association (TACA) and have public liability insurance.

A Certificate of Currency showing public liability cover for the dates of the event is required. Those who have liability insurance with TACA are

Participation fee: \$35 (for a single person studio); add \$10 for each extra person who is selling their work.

For information visit: https://australianceramics.wordpress.com/2015/03/19/acos-2015-participation-fee-payment/

Diary dates

May

Classes

Term 2 Classes for Adults and Children commence 2 May

Michiko Takada Exhibition May 7—24

Works created prior and during Michiko's Watson residency

AGM

May 17 Sunday at 10.30am Refreshments

Strathnairn Open Day May 17 Sunday

Exhibitions, Refreshments and Open Studios

Student & Teacher Exhibition 28 May—14 June

Awards presented Sunday 31 May

June

AIR Juz Kitson 8 June—12 July New arrival lead up to Triennale

Winter Pottery Fair 18—28 June

Registrations open now!

Watson Arts Centre is a Key Arts Organisation supported by the ACT government and run by Canberra Potters' Society. We offer:

Classes for children and adults across all levels of ceramic practice. Workshops, Summer Schools and Kids' Holiday classes are available too.

Studios where tenancy applications are always welcome from emerging and established ceramic artists.

Artist-in-Residence program including studio and residence facilities to national and international visiting artists.

Gallery hosting a ceramic focused exhibition program.

Shop with a range of pottery and ceramics to suit all tastes and budgets.

The gallery and shop are open Thursday to Sunday 10am–4pm and most public holidays.

For further information on all programs, events and available facilities please visit

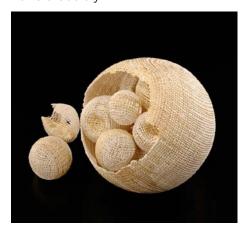
canberrapotters.com.au

Exhibitions

Michiko Takada Watson Arts Centre Gallery 7–24 May 2015

Opens 6pm 7 May by Greg Daly

This exhibition will feature the work completed by Michiko prior to and during her residency at Canberra Potters' Society.



Bogs and Fens: Artist-in-Residence Subversive Botanica—Julie Bartholomew Pioneer Lanscapes—Kate Ward Craft ACT: Craft & Design Centre Gallery 10 April—16 May

Three exhibitions inspired by residency experiences in our national parks, floral investigation, and a residency at Hill End during 2013.



Echoes in Time—Vivian Lightfoot Belconnen Arts Centre 16 May—17 June Opening 2pm Saturday 16 May by David Hunt. Meet the artist 3pm Saturday 30 May

In this exhibition of ceramics and mixed media, Lightfoot explores ancestral links and pays homage to their principals, bravery and initiative.

Within—Tracey Mitchell & Julie Pennington China Clay, Clovelly NSW 6 May—7 June Opening 9 May 3-5pm



Opportunities

Canberra Glassworks Expressions of Interest for Production Range

Seeking EOI's from Canberra and region artists and designers for the design of a production range for the Glassworks.

canberraglassworks.com

Asialink Arts Residencies

2016 round information session Wednesday 13 May 2015 6pm The Street Theatre Canberra RSVP essential

c.powell@asialink.unimelb.edu.au

The 4th Ceramics Exhibition in Changchun City in 2015

Information and to register interest mail to:

cctaoyi@sina.com

The Aust. National Brooch Show 2015

Contemporary artists are invited to submit up to 4 brooches (small wearable artworks) for the exhibition. Both 2D & 3D works can be submitted. The deadline for receipt of entries 22 May 2015.

contemporaryartsociety.org.au

Craft ACT Associate Member Tier

This tier accommodates the needs of emerging and established artists in obtaining insurance—for their every-day professional practice and exhibitions or markets.

gwenyth.macnamara@craftact.org.au

Clunes Ceramic Award Closing dates for entries 27 July

To all ceramic artists. Entry forms are now available for the 2015 award. Major prize \$10,000 peoples' choice \$2,000.

clunesceramicaward.com.au

Radford Art Show Invitation to exhibit Registrations close 8 May.

surveymonkey.com/s/Artshow-rego

Australian Ceramics Open Studios 15 & 16 August 2015 EOI deadline Friday 15 May

The third national open studios event. Welcome the locals in to see what we make. You must be a TACA member to participate.

australianceramics.com

City of Hobart Art Prize Entries Close: Midnight (EST) Monday 1st June, 2015 Information & Enquiries

03 6238 2430 artprize@hobartcity.com.au

Sponsorship Opportunities—Canberra Potters Society is actively seeking ways to enhance exisiting sponsor relationships and to engage with new sponsors. If you would like to discuss how you might partner with CPS please contact **Richard Thomas** on 02 6241 1670 or director@canberrapotters.com.au

In 2015 the Members' Exhibition was supported by

















