

PANEVĖŽYS INTERNATIONAL CERAMIC SYMPOSIUM

The Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposium has been operating since 1989 as a continuation of National symposiums initiated by Alvydas Pakarklis in 1983, in the Panevėžys Glass factory. Alvydas Pakarklis, a ceramist, was able to foresee and realize the potential of the ceramic facility at the Glass factory. He undertook a number of technical experiments with the approval of the factory management and with special support by direction. The potential of the kiln due to the available temperature (1380 deg. C.) and interior dimensions (height: 1.8 m., floor space: 12 sq. m., and volume: 20 cu. m.) was ideal for executing monumental outdoor ceramic sculpture. Since that time the Glass factory has hosted groups of artists to use its materials and technical equipment during the month of July.



Jolanta Lebednykienė, former Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery director,
Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposium organizer 1990-2016

In 1990 the Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery undertook responsibility for the planning and organization of the symposiums (from 1990 to 2016 symposiums were led by long-time director of the gallery Jolanta Lebednykienė) in cooperation with the Panevėžys Glass factory (later AB “Panevėžio Stiklas”), and from 2006 with the ceramics company “Midenė”. The working technology applied is ceramic sculpture firing at high temperature. The resulting work is suitable for indoor as well as outdoor conditions.



Panevėžys Glass Factory. Inside of the kiln. 1992



Working environment at the Panevėžys Glass Factory. 1996



Studio at the Ceramics Company “Midenė”. Ceramic artists Merce Tiana and Carme Riu de Martin (Spain). 2014

The Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposium occupies a unique position among the events devoted to ceramics in Lithuania and Baltic States. The symposiums have become an international event in every two years. It’s the oldest, continuous creative “laboratory” of ceramics and the venue for the gathering of professionals in a working environment where art is produced.



Ceramics company “Midenė”. Kiln view



Unloading the kiln at the Ceramics Company "Midenė". 2016

The invited artists were offered to create not only pieces for interior but outdoor sculpture and installation as well.



Preparing of wall installation of ceramic artist Itue Ito (Japan), artist Artūras Stančikas, director Jolanta Lebednykienė at the ceramic company "Midenė". 2012

On the recommendation of art critics, the selection committee strives to invite original and unique artists from all over the world. Original and interesting artists are invited to take part and interact during the symposiums.



Rimas VisGirda (USA) at the Ceramics company “Midenė” studio. 2006



Merce Tiana (Spain) at the Ceramics company “Midenė” studio. 2014



Itsue Ito (Japan) at the Ceramics company “Midenė” studio. 2012

The diversity in the ceramic works is due to the ideas, schools, and principles of plasticity foreign artists bring with them, conversely, the same basic material and technology used by the artists, as well as being and working together, fosters some vision of „common“ stylistic features and gives an impression of recurrent and “wandering” similarity to the work.

The twenty one past symposium have hosted 163 artists from 35 countries: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, South Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the USA.



Anthony Stellaccio (USA) and Audrius Janušonis (Lithuania). 2014

The Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery houses 631 pieces of chamotte ceramics, which were created during the ceramic symposiums. The symposiums have generated a unique collection of chamotte ceramics. This unique and only collection of its kind in Lithuania reflects not only local and transient trends in contemporary ceramics, but also a ceramic commonality through ideas, visual peculiarities, features, and developments of form. The works in The Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery are of significant artistic and historic importance, and at present the only such collection in the Baltic States. New ideas and advice provided by ceramists Rimas VisGirda (USA) and Peteris Martinsons (Latvia) to name a few have helped the growth and reputation of the symposium.

The excellent reputation and longevity of the symposium as well as the positive press in Lithuanian and foreign (Australian, German, Greek, French, Irish, Japanese, the Netherlands, Polish, Spanish, Swiss, Taiwanese and American) ceramic art publications is largely due to the careful and thorough organization and planning by the Art Gallery.

During the symposium various public actions, meetings, educational activities to the public are organized in the public spaces of the city.



The promotion action “All City Goes Clay Modeling”. 2014



Jae Gyu Kim (South Korea) shows his technique. 2016

Besides, during the symposiums the international theoretical conferences are held with participation of the symposium attending artists and invited art writers, so valuable theoretical summing-up is made. Ceramics conscious people from various cities of Lithuania come to the conferences as well as to the concluding exhibition at the Gallery to see all the works generated during the symposium.



Conference “Trends of Ceramic Art” at the Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery. 2014



Fire sculpture in the courtyard of the Art Gallery
(by Nina Hole, Denmark and Frederick L. Olsen, USA).
International Ceramic Symposium. 1998

The international center of ceramics being both of cultural and educational importance is beginning to take shape in Panevėžys. The symposiums have become a real university for artists to learn new things, share practical experience and exchange unusually multitudinous informational materials, it is an open program, potential for significant discoveries and finally, an atmosphere that leaves no room for monotony. Besides, professional artists from our country have an exceptional opportunity to meet each other and to bring the results to our national schools.

In December 2015 the Ceramic Art Pavilion dedicated to works generated during Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposiums was opened. Linked with the main building of the Panevėžys Civic Art Gallery by the glass walkway this modern building has become the international and local tourist attraction.



Ceramic Art Pavilion, Panevėžys. 2015

According to ceramic artist Rimas VisGirda (USA) and Gerda Gruber, no matter how interesting are the clay objects created during the symposium, even more valuable are the impressions which each participant takes with him. From cultural differences and intellectual interaction emerges a new personal vision that participating artists take home to internalize and assimilate into their work and to disseminate to their colleagues and their public.

The goal of organizers is the development of an international ceramic center that would operate year round. The vision includes the residential centre with own working areas for artists. So, the importance of symposium cannot be overstated and could have a new additional progression.

During the Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposiums (from 1989 to 2016) there worked 163 ceramics artists from 35 countries:

AUSTRALIA

1. Greg Daly 1997
2. Steve Davies 2000
3. Mitsuo Shoji 1995
4. Richard Tarrant 1993

AUSTRIA

1. Maria Baumgartner 1993, 1998
2. Mela Ilse 1994
3. Franz Suess 1994
4. Toghrul Dadashov 2004

BELARUS

1. Yauheni Adzinohanka 2014
2. Valery Kaltyhin 2016

CANADA

1. Anita Indra Dumins 1991

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. Elzbieta Grosseova 2000
2. Ludmila Kovarikova 2002
3. Iva Ouhrabkova 2002

DENMARK

1. Nina Hole (1941-2016) 1998
2. Anders Ruhwald 2002

ESTONIA

1. Haja Eist 1999
2. Made Evalo 1991
3. Irja Kandler 1990
4. Kersti Laanmaa 1992
5. Urmas Puhkan 1996
6. Ulle Rajasalu 1990, 1991
7. Annika Teder 1997
8. Helle Videvik 1993

GERMANY

1. Otto Almstadt 1991
2. Renate Hahn 1996

GREECE

1. Kostas Tarkassis 1998

FINLAND

1. Janne Lappalainen 2001

FRANCE

1. Dominique Bajard 1997
2. Elisabeth le Retif 1999

HUNGARY

1. Katlin Hogye 1989



X Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposium 1998.
Participants by the Panevėžys Glass Factory

IRAN

1. Rojhane Hosseini 2014

IRELAND

1. Kieran Behan 1994
2. Michael Moore 1997

IZRAEL

1. Vita Katavičiūtė 2008

ITALY

1. Daniela Chinellato 1995
2. Vincenzo Dino Patroni 1994
3. Giancarlo Scapin (1943-2013) 1993, 1998

JAPAN

1. Makoto Hatori 1996,1998
2. Itsue Ito 2014
3. Norio Shibata 2004

LATVIA

1. Juris Bergins 1990
2. Inese Brants 1994, 2008
3. Ilze Emse-Grinberga 2010
4. Imants Klidzejs 1993
5. Normunds Langis 1999
6. Martinsons Peteris (1931-2013) 1990, 1991, 1998
7. Sanita Mickus 2004
8. Arnis Pelšs 1992
9. Dainis Pundurs 1995
10. Ilona Romule 1991
11. Aris Seglinš 1990

LITHUANIA

1. Juozas Adomonis 1999
2. Romualdas Aleliūnas (1960-2016) 1989,1990,1992,1994,1998, 2001, 2006, 2012
3. Valdas Aničas 1989, 1990
4. Jonas Arčikauskas 1992, 2001
5. Vilija Balčiūnienė 1989,1990,1992,1994,1996,1998,2000, 2008
6. Nora Blaževičiūtė 1996
7. Eugenijus Čibinskas 1989,1990,1991,1993,1998, 2004, 2006,2008,2010,2014
8. Nerutė Čiukšienė 1989, 1990,1993,1995, 1998, 2000,2002,2004, 2008
9. Tomas-Jurgis Daunoravičius 1989, 1990
10. Saulius Dirsė 1999
11. Arūnas Gedminas 1997
12. Dalia Genvainytė-Arčikauskienė 2001
13. Ona Grigaitė 1993
14. Rytas Jakimavičius 1997
15. Audrius Janušonis 1996, 2002, 2014
16. Jurgita Jasinskaitė 2010
17. Hilbertas Jatkevičius 1996
18. Ramutė Juršienė 1994
19. Virginija Juršienė 1991
20. Marija Karaliūtė 2000
21. Kristina Karkaitė-Mazūrienė 1997
22. Algimantas Kazlauskas 1993
23. Aldona Keturakienė 1997
24. Jūratė Kirtiklytė 2002
25. Jolanta Kvašytė 1996

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| 26. Dalia Laučkaitė-Jakimavičienė | 2000 |
| 27. Jovita Laurušaitė | 2002 |
| 28. Juozas Lebednykas | 1995, 1999, 2001, 2004 |
| 29. Nomedą Marčėnaitė | 1994 |
| 30. Gintaras Martinionis (1956-2017) | 1992 |
| 31. Giedrius Mazūras | 2006 |
| 32. Kęstutis Musteikis | 2006 |
| 33. Eglė Einikytė-Narkevičienė | 2016 |
| 34. Alfridas Pajuodis | 1989 |
| 35. Alvydas Pakarklis | 1990, 1998, 2008 |
| 36. Valdas Pukevičius | 2012 |
| 37. Egidijus Radvenskąs | 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000,2004, 2006, 2010 |
| 38. Gvidas Raudonius | 2006 |
| 39. Arūnas Rutkus | 1989 |
| 40. Remigijus Sederevičius | 2004 |
| 41. Aldona Skudraitė | 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993,1998 |
| 42. Rimantas Skuodis (1951-2015) | 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993,1995, 1997,2001 |
| 43. Aldona Jonuškaitė-Šaltenienė | 1995, 2002 |
| 44. Egidijus Šimatonis | 1999 |
| 45. Rūta Šipalytė | 2001, 2016 |
| 46. Gintautas Šveikauskas | 1989, 1990 |
| 47. Vytautas Tallat-Kelpša | 1989 |
| 48. Kostas Urbanavičius | 1995, 2004 |
| 49. Neringa Zemko | 2000 |



Participants of XIV Panevėžys International Ceramic Symposium 2002

MEXICO

1. Rosario Guillermo Agvilar 1998, 2008
2. Gloria Carrasco 2012

THE NETHERLANDS

1. Henk Kuizenga 2000
2. Hans Meeuwsen 1995
3. Paulien Ploeger 2006
4. Martin Willems 1996

NEW ZEALAND

1. Graham Hay 2002

NORWAY

1. Eve Lis Eikrem 2001
2. Kirsti Grotmol 1999
3. Astrid Heimer 1993

POLAND

1. Marek Jakuszewski 2000
2. Michal Puszczynski 2012
3. Ewa Zamorska 1999
4. Jan Zamorski 1999

ROMANIA

1. Arina Ailincai 2014
2. Ciprian Ariciu 2014

RUSSIA

1. Tatiana Punans 2010
2. Olga Ravinskaya 2010
3. Sergey Sorinsky 2012
4. Aleksandr Zadorin (1941-2006) 1997
5. Grigorii Molchanov 2016

SPAIN

1. Nuria Alba Alegret 1996
2. Marisa Herron 1992
3. Lluís Soler Llambrich 1996
4. Carme Riu de Martin 2014
5. Angeles Roca Banuls 1992
6. Mercedes Sebastian 1992
7. Merce Tiana 2014

SOUTH KOREA

1. Seung-Ho Yang 1995
2. Jae Gyu kim 2016

SWEDEN

1. Edita Rydhag 1999, 2008

SWITZERLAND

1. Luisa Figini 1994, 1998
2. Barbara Meyer 1994

TAWAN

1. Hwang Jeng-daw 2001
2. Yu-Ying Huang 2006

TURKEY

1. Zerrin Ersoy Bilir 2000
2. Figen Isiktan 2008

UKRAINE

1. Ihor Bereza	2010
2. Tamara Bereza	2012
3. Yuriy Musatov	2016
4. Nataliya Zuban	2016
UNITED KINGDOM	
1. Mel Mars	1996
2. Steve Mattison	2002
3. Audrey Richardson	1999
4. Meri Wells	2002
USA	
1. David Alban	1997, 1999
2. Philip G. Cornelius (1934-2015)	1989, 1992, 1998
3. David L. Gamble	2000
4. Yih-Wen Kuo	1995, 1998
5. Billy Ray Mangham	2006
6. Kirk S. Mangus (1952-2013)	2001
7. Patriciu (Patrick) Mateescu	2004
8. Berry Matthews	1997
9. Shigeru Miyamoto	1995
10. Frederick Olsen	1993, 1998
11. Thomas Orr	1991, 1998
12. Heidi Preuss Grew	2014
13. Kristina Simane	1990
14. Anthony Stellaccio	2014
15. Michael (Mic) Stowell	1991
16. Billie Jean Theide	2008
17. Rimas VisGirda	1989, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2004, 2006

All used photographs are from the Art Gallery archive