## **Selected: Related Activities**

Solo Exhibition "Material and Mind" Chin Chin Gallery, Tainan Taiwan March 7- April 8, 2017 Using Mulberry Paper dipped into the Porcelain/Clay Slip.













Workshop Folding Paper&Clay at Chin Chin Pottery, Tainan, Taiwan December, 2017 Using Mulberry, Corrugated, Galangal Paper to make Ceramic Objects.









#### Critical Ceramic Website: Article by Monica Leap: Watershed Ceramic Arts Center Residency 2007-2008

Modified 10 February 2009

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# **ART**icles

Watershed: Eight Months, Six Lives, One Shared Experience

### Monica Leap



2007 - 2008



Bearded Man Jai



Coco Pot

Tucked away down a dirt road in Mid-Coast Maine, the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts is a place that "provides time and space for serious artists to work." Leaving out the distractions of public classes, work study, bureaucracy of operations, and the pace of city life, Watershed does exactly what it proposes. Artists are given cabins to live in, facilities and kilns, a personal studio space, and lots of snow; there is not much else. Home to six ceramic artists for eight months (September - May), the challenges and the outcomes of each residency cycle is determined by those selected.

Tyler Gulden, Programs Director and Interim Executive Director, said that the 2007 - 2008 collection of six resident artists was the most diverse group he has seen during his tenure. Our group ranged in age from twenty-two to forty, three with MFA's and three with BFA's. In addition, we had strong roots spread from California to Texas, the East Coast, Greece, Ecuador, Thailand, Cambodia, and Africa. The 2007-2008 residents included:

- Misty Gamble, daughter of a puppeteer, created life-sized figurative sculptures; she explored ideas of normalcy in society and womanhood.
- Monica Leap, a potter at heart, played with the simplicity of the calligraphic line to convey growth, strength, and movement on her thrown forms.
- Krisaya Luenganantakul, hailing from Thailand and inspired by her mother, illustrated the beauty of the woman's body and the role of the woman in the home.
- Elisavet Papatheodorou, intrigued by the process bees use



The Artist and His Product Daniel Teran



Time for Breakfast Krisaya Luenganantakul



Time for Breakfast (detail) Krisava Luenganantakul



My Butterfly My Pelvis

- to create homes of honeycomb, entertained the ability of a seemingly ordinary form, multiplied hundreds of times over, to become something greater.
- Daniel Teran, a mold maker and thinker, combined issues of social conscience and self-reflection into his process.
- Adero Willard, a potter, investigated the complexity of an individual's identity through layered and juxtaposed colors, shapes, and forms.

"The Watershed winter residency is really about reflection. We are isolated, and more often than not, snowed in. There is not much sound, the snow muffles most things. That leaves you a lot of time to work and a lot of time to think." says Elisavet Papatheodorou. In a rural setting with an often snowy and icy hill for a driveway, the world became very small. Days would pass where residents would only walk the triangle from the cabins, to the studio, to the kilns, to the studio, and back; that limited environment was a constant reminder that residents were there to make work. As there was little structure, besides the occasional meeting with the office staff and one's self imposed work schedule, residents used their own discretion allocating time. Salad Days Artist Adero Willard described Watershed as a place "designed specifically for artists to make work. Unlike other centers that have a class structure with workshops, events, and lots of people moving through. Watershed is very much about solitude and freedom. From your schedule, to studio, to food, you are on your own.

Due to its open structure and seasonal seclusion, visitors have often found the charm of Watershed to be in its seemingly timeless nature. However, winter residents quickly learned that time still passed, and passed fast. Howard Kottler Funded Resident Misty Gamble said, "If I were to do it again, I would have the clay delivered the day I got here and the research done 3 months prior." Once we were established in the studios, we had to prepare for a Worcester, Massachusetts show, and once the Worcester show was up, we had to prepare for a Port Chester, New York show. When that went up, the Worcester show came down, and when we returned from NCECA in the spring, we had to de-install Port Chester. One month after that it was time to pack and say goodbye.

Although all we did last winter was work in the studios, the residency period was still not enough to realize all of our grand ideas. For each of us, there is a sketchbook full of ideas left to be investigated. Even though we walked in with an "all clay, all

#### Article by Yingge Ceramic Museum Feature: Crossroad: Civilization Southeast Asia, 2009



### Southeast Asian creations on display at the Yingge Ceramics Museum

25 December 2009

Artifacts of a region reflect its history, trade, and culture, By looking at an eartherware that dates back to 1600 B.C., viewers can have a peek into people's lifestyle then, and how their ceramic art was passed on to the 21st century.

Around 240 pieces of ceramic works from 9 Southeast Asian countries are on exhibit at the Yingge Ceramics Museum until the end of February 2010. This is the first time such a comprehensive exhibition from that region is seen in Taiwan, according to the museum director Yu Jan-chi.

"Single-colored glaze and practical applications are the main features of Southeast Asian ceramics," said Yu during an interview with the Taiwan News on December 4, "plates and jars of all sizes are very common."

The color of Thai celadon is derived from iron. It is a technique that has been used for a long time in the country and Thai ceramists are very good at it.

Bencharong literally means five colors. It is the most exuberant of ceramics found in Thalland, according to Things Thai, a book in English presenting 62 everyday items from Thailand, including religious and devetional items, food,





The five colors are usually red, yellow, green, blue and black, but designers nowadays may apply up to eight colors. Bencharong wares require several firing, the colored enamels being added over the glaze each time, wrote Tanistha Dansilp and Michael Freeman, both authors of the book.

"The five-color technique originated in China, and the Bencharong wares were made for orders from China, with the theme of the Thai royal family," Yu added.

"European buyers had difficulties acquiring blue and white porcelain directly from China," she said, "so they bought from ones exported to Vietnam instead."

The trade itnerary Yu mentioned is the famous martime silk road, which begins a southeast China, goes along the East China Sea, the Indian Closan, the Middle East, and reaches, China Sea, the Indian Closan, the Middle East, and reaches, Mediteramen and Egypt. Trade activities sever at its peak during the Song and Yuan Dynasty in Chinese history, from the 10th to the 14th century.

The route was used by Chinese merchants to export silk, ceramic, tea leaves, lacquer, and spices, and to frade in woolen textiles, glass ware, and ivory from the West.

Southeast Asia has played a significant role in promoting trading activities between East and West. The voyages of Ming Dynasty General Zheng He further broadened the rand made Chinese ceramics known to the world.

Among more than two hundred exhibits, on thing special to the eyes of ceramic enthusiasts like Yu is Kendi, a pot without any handle.

Kendi appeared in about the 8th century for ceremonial use They usually have long-necks and short spouts. The Brahmans and Buddhists used Kendi to distribute blessed water, and the Muslims later used them to contain water for prayers in washing their hands.

"You have to hold it with both hands since a Kendi has no handle, therefore ceramic scholars think a Kendi was for ceremonial use," said Yu as she pointed at a 13th century Marbled Ware Kendi found in Thailand.

"Its marble pattern shows it was made by mixing clay of different colors."

Different styles of Kendi are on display at the exhibition including Celadon Kendi, Unglazed Kendi, and Brown



Marbled Ware Kendi from the 13th century found in Thailand





and-White Glazed Kendi. Time, geography, and customs influenced the technique applied to make them.

#### Back to the future

Entering the Exhibition Room number 4, visitors are Entering the Extinence Room number 4, visitors are transported to the future when they view the works of contemporary ceramists right after seeing 200 - 300 year-old exhibits in the previous rooms. Contemporary ceramists in Southeast Asia break the principles of pragmatism in the past and create based on concepts they find noteworthy in life.

"Different concepts such as ceramics used as containers, love for nature, human relationships, traditions, and various contemporary ideas are seen in the works of 15 artists from Thaland, Philipines, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia," said Curator Chen Ting-Issuan.

For example, Searching for Fleas by Indonesian female rol example, searching for releas by indunestal rentale ceramist like Wartika Burhan shows three women of different ages searching for fleas in each other's scalps, an ordinary scene in daily life for the artist whose ceramic works usually have female bodies as subjects.

Similar messages are seen in Krisaya Luenganantakul's Yellow Garden and My Butterliy, My Pelvis. The former is a uterus-shaped arrangement of yellow flowers and the latter are butterflies nesting in what looks like the pelvic bone.

Her inspiration comes from the role of the female as being both procreator and procurer. "The uterus signifies the universe, and the pelvis represents how marvelous life is," notes Luenganantakul in a catalogue.

Besides feminine themes, a sense of humor can be easily Besides ireminine tiermens, a sense on navino can se search detected in the Dog Series by Wasinbures Supanichworaparch whose 5 pieces of puppy figures have different poses, one lifting a leg to give the impression that it is about to urinate, and the other squats down to do a major operation.

Not far away from these pupples stands an adorable looking rabbit that visitors can hardly miss for its indigo-colored ears and shining red lips. Those who walk closer and read the explanatory tag would find out that this was how Vipoo Srivilasa, the creator, wanted to interpret the images of Chinese ladies in the Ming Dynasty Tombs.

"These figures in the tomb tell me how human beings indulge res and live in extravagance," notes Srivilasa in the catalogue.

Titled For the Future Series, Srivilasa expresses his concern for Thailand's coral reefs and ecc-system, his hometown, and Australia which he now calls home.

"It hasn't been long since ceramists in Southeast Asia started to make contemporary pieces," Yu said. "As we can see they are learning and improving through imitation and experiment."

"A visit to this exhibition will give you a new perspective of Southeast Asia."

#### Link

To learn more about the exhibition, please visit:



For the Future Series is an expression of Thai ceramist Vipco Srivilasa's perceptions of Chinese ladies as depicted in the Ming Dynasty Tombs. Vipoo Srivilasa' in the Ming Dyr

