



From the President's desk!

Welcome to the Christmas 2021 issue of 'PATNZ' Create the official newsletter of Porcelain Art Teachers NZ *Inspire, Inform, Educate!*

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Hello Fellow Artists

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. This will be the last newsletter for 2021. What a year it has been. We have all managed to stay safe and hopefully you are all in good health.

Whatever 2022 has in store for us is guess work. I know that whatever that is we will all muster on and make the best of it.

I wish each and every one of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A preview of what's in our Newsletter

- Unit Standard update.
- Hutt Valley Porcelain Art Association
- Article from Sandra Bernaitis Queensland
- Painting tips with Monica Martin

Unit Standards Updates

This year's "Unit Standards" judging took place on Saturday 13th November 2021. As with previous years this was at Sandra Austin's home in Maungaraki. The day began at 10.00am ending with the AGM.

The results for this year's Unit Standards were good with 12 pieces passing out of 16 entries. A very good effort was made by everyone.

I myself look forward to next year's entries with anticipation.

Pictures of two pieces with marks over 90%. A very good effort. Photo quality not as good as hoped.



Maria King



Chui Shirley Hui-Ling

AGM

As usual this followed the Unit Standard judging in November. It was held at Sandra Austin's home -- 45 Oakleigh Street Maungaraki. We wish more of you can attend as it would add a variety of ideas and give our regulars more insight into what we are thinking here in Hutt Valley. Perhaps your own Association can do a fund raiser to help a member get to the meeting in 2022. We would love more input. All members are welcome to attend but please advise Sandra if you intend to join us.

IPAT Magazine

Early this year Sandra was asked to submit some photos and a short promo of herself for IPAT. Which she did. They indicated the piece would probably not be published until 2022. So, imagine her surprise when opening the October/November/December 2021 addition to find that photos of her pieces plus promo were published. Sandra is very grateful and humbled by this. This publicity also helps inform IPAT members around the world that there are still Porcelain Painters active in New Zealand. Please go online to look at their magazine and note that they also welcome new members.



Regional Round Up

Hutt Valley Porcelain Art

What a year indeed! Like every one we have been trying to organise events while coping with COVID19. With such a small membership it is essential we have our painters working toward exhibition pieces throughout the year. This year we were booked to have our Annual Exhibition in August/September but alas it was unable to go ahead - then we were asked if we would like to utilise the small 'Huia' gallery in October/November sharing with artist Nicky Kane so it was back to finalising preparations once again. Then two weeks before due date the Gallery Manager moved us to the larger 'Odlin' Gallery. My initial thoughts were "How on earth is this going to work as we only have 10 active painters?"

We are fortunate as a group to have had many international artists visit and members attend overseas seminars etc. So I called on members and hoped we would have enough exquisite pieces to bolster our display. Well it worked and we had a lovely display of our own current work and pieces showing different and unusual techniques. People who came through were appreciative of these works.

As expected numbers were down due to folk staying home and not being out and about if they didn't need to be.

2021 ended with a fabulous Christmas lunch at the Rustic Kitchen at Te Marua – what a fabulous place to eat and relax and have plenty of cheer –



it was peaceful and enabled us all to have great conversations with out the hum drum of today's cafes. Nine of us enjoyed Ham & Lamb with cauliflower in white sauce, multi greens and roast veges of every kind imaginable it was just fab and finished with the most delicious Plum Duff with brandy sauce or Pav and fresh fruit salad and cream. Coffee etc. to finish.

Hopefully now after a few weeks we will be refreshed and have had plenty of sunshine to begin again on painting great pieces for November 2022.

*Merry Christmas every one -
Monica*



Christine Handley



Lorianne Harlem



Sandra Austin



Painting with Monica!

Firing: #1:

On viewing exhibition and Unit Standards pieces of 2021 it has become obvious that painters are unaware of the necessity of firing a high first fire – this enables the flux loaded pigment to sink under the clear glaze and shine. My thoughts on this conundrum is that most painters today buy second hand kilns which when moved to their new homes the thermostats have altered during transportation. So the first thing you should do when buying a kiln is - you should place it in a warm, dry and permanent place – turn it on and ensure that the elements are all working. When satisfied call an electrician and have the kiln recalibrated.

I think this is the reason many pieces are matt/dull.

If not fired high enough on the first fire (800°C) your painting will be matt/dull and even if subsequent fires are high the glaze will never return.

I hope this helps those of you struggling to get a high glaze. More on firing next time. *Monica*

Advertise in our Events Calendar



Don't forget our newsletter is all about YOU! We want you be involved with the creative input of producing our online newsletter and events calendar which is also printed for artists and friends who do not have regular access to a computer. So if you know anyone who would love to receive our newsletter by snail mail please email me sandra@artonporcelain.co.nz or pop over and use our contact form on our website.

We would like to extend an open invitation for anyone to send us details of any events you would like included in our newsletter



The magical heart of ArtOnPorcelainNZ beats with Encouragement, Love of our Art, Respect, and Kindness to All! Please keep that in the forefront of your thinking.

Sandra Austin President PATNZ

Camel Teapot by Sandra Bernaitis



One bright sunny day the doorbell rang and to my surprise a package from across the Tasman arrived. Opening the box revealed a beautiful camel teapot from my good friend Sandra Austin – a gift for my 70th. This challenge sat on my studio desk for nearly two years before completion. Hopefully, I did my unique gift justice.

After doing some research I found most rugs on camels are usually maroon or red. I also learned it is a smart, intelligent animal, the most obedient creature among the large livestock and often referred to as the ship of the desert.

As there were distinct markings on the teapot I decided to use them to advantage. I always give animals eyes to start with as I feel that is when they come to life. The colours I used were Christmas Red, Silky Matt Gold, Black and Blood Red. I recommend Fay Good Christmas Red for airbrushing as it always stays true to colour when fired.



I fired the red first leaving areas blank for the other colours. I used circle and square stickers which you pull off carefully once you have airbrushed and before you fire. If the red doesn't fire even or deep enough repeat this step. It can depend on the porcelain. I fire my work at 780 degrees with the top separate.

The gold is next using the other side of the circle and masking out the other areas you want gold. This method gives you perfect circles of gold. The little squares with checks were also panned on now. Photo below.



Next firing was the black and I started penning on designs in the gold areas. I use MX54 and lavender oil for penning as I find it easy to use and dries hard so you can lean on it and do more penning without smudging anything. I also scratched designs in the darker colours where needed.

Next firing was the blood red and I continued with the penning. The last firings are touching up any areas that may be needed. Some of the penning was done upside down because of the shape of the piece. Note : Red cover coat can leave a stain on the gold. I use blue PVC or re-use the circles to cover the gold once it is fired.

During COVID I challenged myself to paint many of my hidden treasures. Not only did I enjoy it, but think it kept my sanity in difficult times. I'm sure many of you did the same.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sandra Bernaitis - sandravernaitis@bigpond.com

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Pablo Picasso

