



Welcome to La Mano Pottery

The window and gallery spaces at La Mano are always changing, offering us wonderful examples of the creativity and wonder of working with clay. Right now, there are dozens of unique works by a variety of artists, but this month, we have asked three of our colleagues --- **Jesse Lazar**, **Greg Todd**, and **James Tan** --- to display an assortment of their pieces so we all can enjoy the breadth and depth of their craft. We also asked each of them to talk about themselves and their work. Please stop by and have a look. And if you have a comment or question, send it along. We --- and the artists --- would welcome your thoughts.

2009 marks the expansion of our children's clay program with the introduction of one-time workshops. On select Sunday mornings, **Julie Hadley**, one of La Mano's owners and the head of our children's program, teaches a creative clay project which can be completed in the 90 minute period. After the pieces have dried and been fired, the young participants can come back and pick up the finished pieces. The first workshops were very successful and the children's work is remarkable. If you know any young artists who might be interested, let us know.

Registration has begun for the Late Winter 2009 calendar, so check your calendar and give us a call. We have wheel classes and hand building classes for adults, as well as one wheel class for teenagers, and several hand-building classes for younger children. Three of our courses are offered for Korean-speaking students. The calendar is printed below or you can view it on our website.

If you know anyone who might be interested in taking a class, buying some pottery, or just receiving this newsletter, please feel free to forward this on to them.

Thank you for your support of the La Mano community.

LATE WINTER 2009 CLASS SCHEDULE

Wheel Classes

Learn to use the potter's wheel to create bowls, mugs, teapots and more.

All classes are for 8 weeks @ \$300
(+\$20 banked towards firing fees)

Mon. 3/9 - 4/27 6pm - 8pm

Tues AM Wheel Class has open enrollment so that students can start an 8 week session any Tuesday morning 10:30am-12:30 pm.

Tues. 3/3 - 4/21 7pm - 9pm
Wed. 3/4 - 4/22 7pm - 9pm
Thurs. 3/12 - 4/30 7pm - 9pm
Sat. 3/21 - 5/16 10:30am - 12:30pm
Sun. 3/22 - 5/10 11am - 1pm (Korean)
Sun. 3/15 - 5/17 6pm - 8pm (no class 4/12)

Handbuilding Classes

Create unique ceramic pieces using traditional pottery techniques, including pinching, coils and slabs.

All class are for 8 weeks @ \$300
(+\$20 banked towards firing fees)

Tues. 2/17 - 4/7 7pm - 9pm
Wed. 3/11 - 4/29 12:30 - 2:30pm(Korean)
Wed. 3/11 - 4/29 7pm - 9pm(Korean)
Thurs. 3/5 - 4/23 7pm - 9pm
Sat. 3/7 - 4/25 12pm - 2pm

Kids Classes & Workshops

Handbuilding

Wednesday 5-6 year olds
3:30-4:30pm 3/4 - 4/22
8 wks/\$200 (includes firing fees)

Thursday 7years old & up
3:30-4:30pm 3/5 - 4/3
8wks/\$200 (includes firing fees)
(No class on 4/9 - Passover)

Kids WORKSHOPS

Sundays: 10:30-12pm
March 8 -- April 19 -- May 3
\$50 per child (\$75 for 2 siblings)

Teen Wheel Class

Friday Teens
3/6 - 5/1 4pm-6pm
(No class 4/10 Good Friday)
8 weeks @ \$300
(+\$20 banked towards firing fees)

Call 212-627-9450 for more information on classes, special events and sales.
or e-mail us at lamanopottery@verizon.net

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NEW SCHEDULE!

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Beginning with clay...



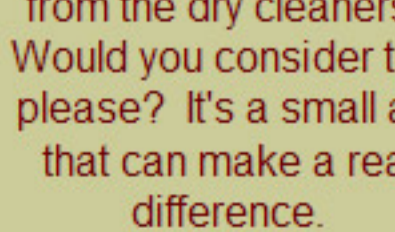
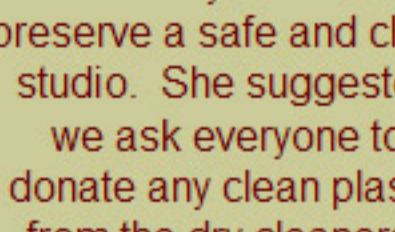
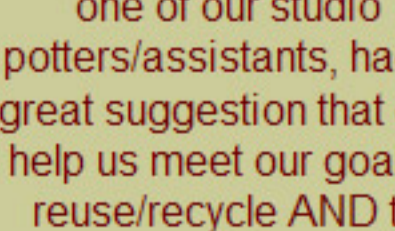
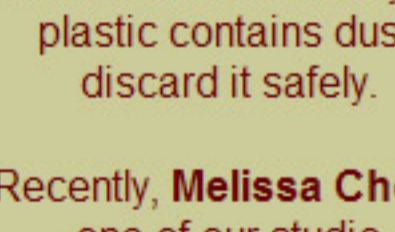
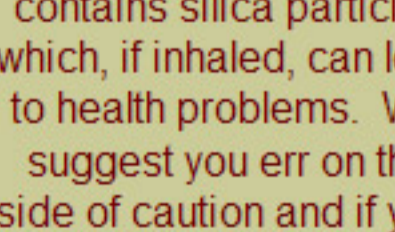
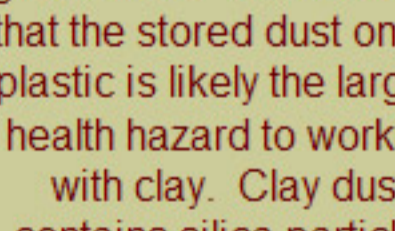
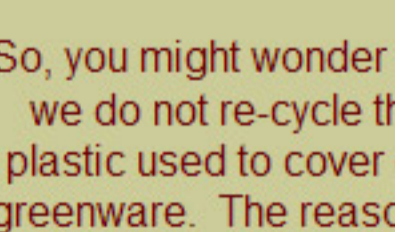
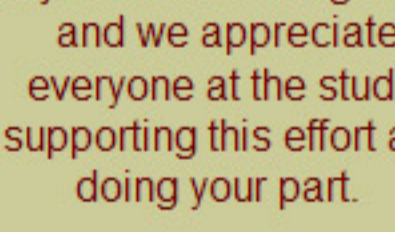
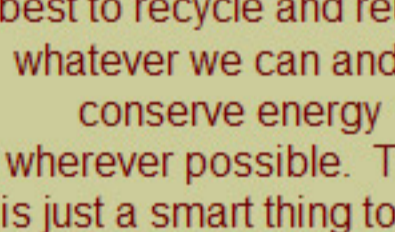
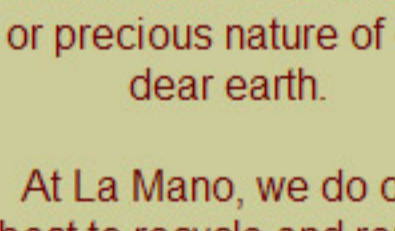
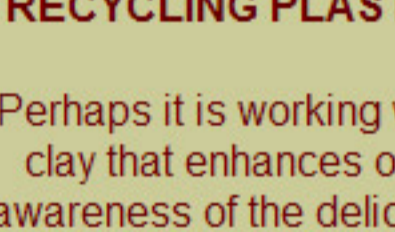
When someone starts to work with clay, the best advice is "practice, practice, practice". Just getting the feel of the clay body in all its stages takes a little time, so putting in some extra time---with a focus of learning the techniques and enjoying the process---can lead to enhanced skill and very satisfying experiences.

Second to practicing and touching clay, another way to learn and gain ideas is to watch others. Most studio potters and advanced students at La Mano are happy to share their ideas, make suggestions, or have beginners watch them at work. Just ask and you will likely have a very enjoyable conversation about clay.

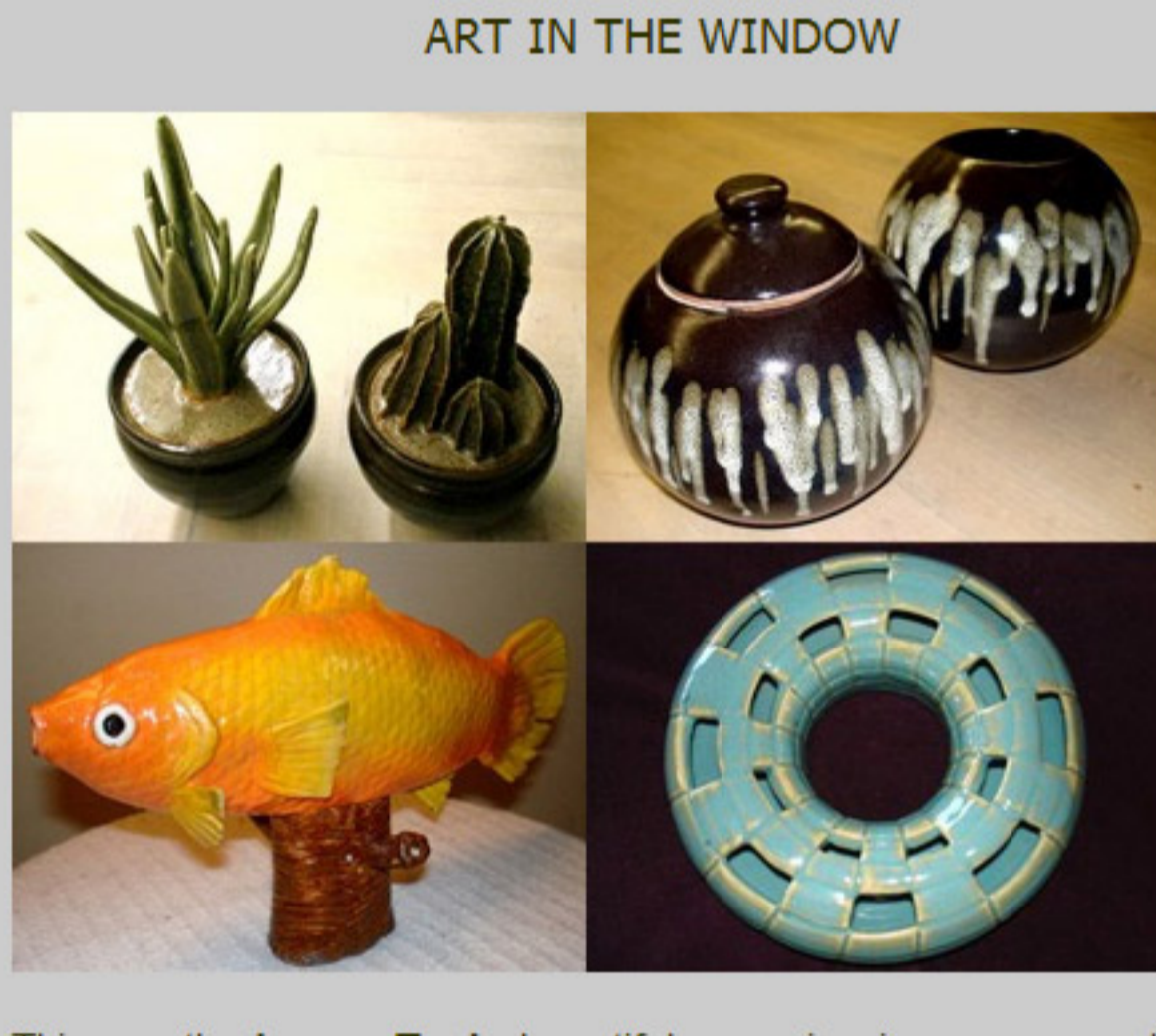
With busy schedules, we all seem a little short on time, so this month's suggestion is to watch people making ceramics on-line. Several accomplished artists have series of short videos on YOUTUBE and other places in which they break down projects and techniques into practical steps.

Simon Leach, **Peter T. Wang**, and **Tom See** are three very generous instructors with on-line presence. If you have artists you enjoy watching or other suggestions you would like to share, let us know.

On the daily...



ART IN THE WINDOW



This month, **James Tan's** beautiful ceramic pieces are on display in the front window at La Mano. Recently, we asked James to speak with us about his work. Here is what he said:

"One of the things I love about La Mano is the diverse group of people that works and plays there. I'm constantly inspired by not just the more seasoned artists but also the ones who are new to pottery and see things with a fresher eye. My hope is not just to elevate my skills and artistry but also to be someone who inspires others to do the same. My teachers, **Sarah Sabourin** and **Nic DeStefano**, have both challenged me to try new things on the wheel and hand building and I enjoy both disciplines equally. **Jonathan Bergman**, my partner, is my biggest inspiration. His enthusiasm reminds me of the possibilities that working in clay has to offer and it's because of him that I started studying pottery again after a 7-year hiatus.

Working with clay allows me to create with my hands, which is what advertising art direction (what I do during my day job) used to do before the advent of the computer. I feel I've grown leaps and bounds in the year I've spent at La Mano but feel that there's yet still so much more to learn. May that feeling never go away!"

ART IN THE GALLERY

Featured in the gallery at La Mano right now is the work of **Jessie Lazar** and **Gregory Todd**, two amazing artists with very different styles. Stop by and feast your eyes on this beautiful functional pottery.

When we asked Jessie what inspires her art, she told us: "It's hard to name a single thing that inspires me. I find inspiration in all kinds of beauty, and sometimes in ugliness. I often recognize beauty in strange places- in a gutter, on a billboard, tiny gems that are hidden and exhilarating when I see them. I love antiques and flea markets where my goal is to unearth treasure. Sometimes, I'll watch a film and leave forgetting the story altogether, but fascinated by a color or form I saw. At other times, a conversation or an article will make me think and have an influence on my work.

I love and admire crafts that don't seem possible or practical anymore --- like old doorknobs and hinges or stone mason facades.

When I design and make Jewelry (my full time job), these are the approaches and techniques that excite me the most. And, these same techniques are the ones I most enjoy at La Mano. Refined lines and ornate decoration are an inspiring part of these processes for me. So, I concentrate on slow, detailed carving and learning to manipulate ceramic tools, which are often an exercise in patience and concentration.

Most of all, I think the always supportive and incredibly productive environment at La Mano inspires me. The people are so committed to their work and it's all so beautiful - I just want to do it too!"

And when we asked Greg about his work, here is what he said: "I started learning to throw pots almost 20 years ago. I think I was attracted to pottery because I can't draw! I have become fascinated with the concept of form and the space it encloses. I think that is why bowls are my favorite because they are one of the most basic forms - the cupped hands. I think the greatest compliment I can receive is "It can hold things."

My day (and sometimes night) job is as a physician. I am an attorney-physician internist who teaches internal medicine residents - new doctors to become compassionate physicians. I also provide consultation services in Bioethics. I spend time helping patients and families deal with the many issues that arise at the end of life. I love my job, but sometimes it can be very stressful. Pottery provides a great distraction. I share many pieces with friends and family while telling them that they are "sharing in my therapy."

These three people are part of the wonderful mosaic of talented, caring people at La Mano --- each with his/her own reasons for choosing clay as a creative outlet. In future newsletters and displays in the gallery and window, we will focus on the work and words of our valued friends.



RECYCLING PLASTIC

Perhaps it is working with clay that enhances our awareness of the delicacy or precious nature of our dear earth.

At La Mano, we do our best to recycle and reuse whatever we can and to conserve energy wherever possible. This is just a smart thing to do and we appreciate everyone at the studio supporting this effort and doing your part.

So, you might wonder why we do not re-cycle the plastic used to cover our greenware. The reason is that the stored dust on old plastic is likely the largest health hazard to working with clay. Clay dust contains silica particles which, if inhaled, can lead to health problems. We suggest you err on the side of caution and if your plastic contains dust, discard it safely.

Recently, **Melissa Chow**, one of our studio potters/assistants, had a great suggestion that can help us meet our goal to reuse/recycle AND to preserve a safe and clean studio. She suggested we ask everyone to donate any clean plastic from the dry cleaners. Would you consider this please? It's a small act that can make a real difference.