

## “SECRETS OF THE DISC”

### DISH GALLERY + STUDIO EXHIBITION FOR SCOTIABANK NUIT BLANCHE

#### Biographies of Participating Artists

##### BARBARA BANFIELD

Barbara Banfield's talent lies in business and design, regardless of the media. Having owned and operated her own garment manufacturing business, Barbara has turned her creative explorations to clay. She developed skills as potter through courses offered by the City of Toronto at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre before setting up her own studio in the Beach. Currently she is enrolled in the ceramics programme at Sheridan College, has exhibited her work through Toronto Potters, Sheridan College and through other fund-raising groups in her community.

##### EDEN BENDER

At a young age Eden developed various arts programs for children and taught both after school and summer programs. In 1990, Eden received a BFA from York University majoring in sculpture, painting and drawing. Eden relocated to downtown Toronto in 1991 and focused on sculptural works while continuously investigated new materials through specialized courses. Eden's involvement in her community has always been a great source of inspiration and education. Through her volunteer commitments with various non-profit organizations, Eden's work has been influenced by the adversity of the human condition. Recently, her work explores human relationships, compassion and the inner spirit through figurative pieces. Her sculptures often utilize a minimalist colour palette amplifying textured surfaces.

##### CELIA ZVEIBIL BRANDAO

Celia was born and raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she earned a BA in Graphic Design in 1976. She describes herself as a self-taught potter since there was no formal training in ceramics available in Brazil. For the past 15 years she has lived in Canada, much of that time teaching ceramics, working as a studio potter and volunteering with FUSION. Celia has participated in many juried exhibitions in Ontario and also has exhibited in the US.

#### ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

I am an artist dedicated to the creation of functional pottery. I love to design and explore new possibilities for everyday objects. I'm fascinated by shapes and forms and I like to play with textures and surfaces. I'm passionate about what I do."

##### SUSAN CARD

SUSAN CARD (B.H.Ec. B.F.A) has exhibited her work and published articles in ceramics journals since 1989. Her colourful porcelain and sculptural smoke-fired work is commissioned by private and corporate clients and is represented in galleries in Toronto, London, Waterloo, Montreal, and Winnipeg. Her work was featured in the movie "The End of Summer" (MEC Summer Productions Ltd. Partnership, 1995). She produces adaptations of Edo period Japanese tea bowls as an on-going commission for the Royal Ontario Museum Reproductions Shop.

Susan taught Professional Practise to Crafts and Design students at Sheridan College in Oakville for several years and taught pottery for the City of Toronto at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre. Presently an enthusiastic volunteer Board member for the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition and the Collections Committee of Burlington Art Centre, Susan is also a past President of Toronto Potters and former Board Chair of FUSION: The Ontario Clay & Glass Association. In 2006 Susan opened **DISH GALLERY + STUDIO** in the in the Casegoods Warehouse of the Toronto Distillery, **DISH GALLERY + STUDIO** to offer a retail shop, exhibitions, and pottery classes.

#### **ARTIST'S STATEMENT (Susan Card)**

"I enjoy ceramics as a vehicle for timeless communication between people and cultures. It provides a context for reflecting on human activity. The forms I produce are intimate domestic objects, designed as small decorative sculptures to be used as tableware for special occasions. Ceramics express the values of the society that creates them. My pottery reflects the function of hand-crafted objects in our lives and becomes a canvass to explore my artistic concerns of colour, visual space, illusion and perception. Surfaces created celebrate the natural environment through abstract floral decoration and texture."

#### **SHU-CHEN CHENG**

Shu-Chen Cheng is a self-taught ceramic artist who lives in Hamilton. Continuing Education courses at Mohawk College sparked her interest in the raku process. She has exhibited her work at venues in the Toronto and Hamilton area since 2000, including Designer Crafts, the Carnegie Gallery Juried Exhibition, potters' guilds of Burlington, Hamilton and Toronto Biennial Exhibitions, the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition and Muskoka Moose Show. Her award winning raku is wheel thrown and altered or slab built and is sold through the Guildshop in Toronto.

#### **DEREK CHUNG**

DEREK CHUNG has managed his own graphic design studio since graduation from Sheridan College's Graphic Design program in 1981. In the clay community, he has volunteered as President of Durham Potters' Guild since 1995, and served on the FUSION Board in a variety of positions including Director at Large, Board Chair from 2002-2004, President from 2004-2006, and currently is Past President in charge of nominations. He has also taught at Durham College School of Design and Communication Arts and also serves on an Advisory Board for Durham College. Derek Chung provides volunteer graphic design services to FUSION for the website [www.clayandglass.on.ca](http://www.clayandglass.on.ca) and all e-communications, as well as the design of promotional print materials. As President of Durham Potters, Derek was responsible for organizing the 2007 exhibition of work of the Durham Potters Guild at the Station Gallery in Whitby.

#### **JUDY DONALDSON**

JUDY DONALDSON is a Toronto native and a graduate of Georgian College in Ceramics and Glass. Since returning to Waterloo in 1989 after five years in Calgary she has been actively involved with several Ontario arts organizations. Volunteer activities includes Board Chair of FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association, the FUSION Pottery and Glass Sale committee, nine years with the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, five years on the Waterloo Potters' Workshop (WPW) executive including Past President, WPW Board of Directors. She has been on the organizing committees for several clay conferences, has written workshop and exhibiton reviews and technical articles for the Ontario Crafts Council and FUSION Magazine, a feature article for Ceramics Monthly, exhibited in the WPW's annual juried show and several invitational exhibitions and received various awards and scholarships.

#### **KAREN FRANZEN**

KAREN FRANZEN is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and design and the Harbourfront Residency programme. Karen exhibits her work regularly in the Muskoka Moose Show, the Toronto Outdoor art Exhibition and at the Beach Studio Tour. She works with underglaze decoration on earthenware. Inspirations come from beautifully designed textiles, the sunny warm colours of the Mediterranean, and the impressionist painters who celebrate colour. Her painterly styled work was chosen for the window display at the AGO during the Barnes Exhibition of Impressionist art works.

#### **ARTIST'S STATEMENT (Karen Franzen)**

"I make my ceramic objects primarily on the wheel but I also do some handbuilding. My forms are functional and are meant to be used and enjoyed. Each piece is hand painted and even on the bottom which adds an element of surprise and delight. They are colourful, humorous and full of personal stories."

#### **JUDITH GRAHAM**

Judith graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts in Slavic Languages and Literature, and also holds a diploma in teaching Japanese Calligraphy. She is a self-taught potter and has participated in many international juried exhibitions. She was actively involved with Toronto Potters as Treasurer for many years and with the Burlington Potters' Guild as exhibitions co-ordinator, volunteered with the Ontario Crafts Council as Chair of the Resource Centre, and has served FUSION as a member of the Exhibition and Silent Auction Committee.

Graham describes her work as "deconstructionist pieces, where the conventional form is taken to a different level as regards function. Matt surfaces further emphasize non-function; thus, in addition, creating a composition of forms. Adding found metal objects, such as nails or rusted iron addresses the relationship and compliment that exists between the compositional elements of iron, clay and glaze."

#### **DEBORAH JOHNSTON**

DEBORAH JOHNSTON has been involved with hands-on creative activities since graduating from Centennial College in 1995, where she studied Apparel Pattern Design. She developed her skills in ceramics through a series of studio courses taken at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre since 1998. Her interest in design also led her to explore watercolour painting at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre and Japanese Ink Painting at the Momiji Centre in Toronto. Since 2003 she has exhibited her work through pottery guild exhibitions and has taught courses in making Small Animal Sculptures. An image of her sculptural works was published in 2006 in *500 Animals in Clay* by Lark Books, New York, N.Y.

#### **GABRIELLE KAUFFMAN**

Inspired by her wooded surroundings, Gabrielle Kauffman's pottery exhibits textures, colours and patterns based on natural forms and lines. Her studio overlooks a forested ravine on the banks of the Humber River in Etobicoke, where she creates functional pottery based on that of historical Dutch works. Beautiful in its simplicity of form and decoration, all of Gabrielle's work is microwave and dishwasher safe. Gabrielle was trained at Central Technical School, George Brown College and the Ontario College of Art and Design. Gabrielle donates 50% of all her pottery proceeds to the Canadian Food for Children charity.

#### **IRIT LEPKIN**

Israeli-born Canadian, ceramicist Irit Lepkin, holds a B.A. in Art from Haifa University in Israel and is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. Lepkin engages in an artistic duet with earthenware clay. The soft directness and immediacy of clay lead her to choose this medium as her primary tool of expression. Pieces are hand-built from red or white earthenware and decorated with under-glazes and oxides enhanced by textured glaze. At once personal, psychological and universal, the work unlocks meanings beyond itself and ourselves. Her works are never to be read literally. Inevitably, what one sees initially takes on a whole new meaning as one moves beyond the patina and realizes the inescapable psychological condition of the modern world underscored by her imaginative manipulation of the medium. She uses rusted barbed wire to accentuate mixed messages, and juxtaposes the softness of the clay to the harshness of reality. Although some of the sculptures are small in scale, they are powerful in emotional evocation. In her work, Lepkin attempts to mirror the human predicament.

### **LESLEY MCINALLY**

Graduating in 1994, Lesley gained her honours degree in ceramic design from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, Scotland. Following a brief period managing Pitlochry Pottery she set up her own studio in Glasgow and developed a successful career as a full time ceramic artist producing both functional and sculptural work exhibiting and selling through galleries and gift shops throughout the UK. In search of adventure, new experiences and better weather, Lesley closed her studio, sold up and immigrated with her partner to Canada in 2004. Having taken a step away from the studio and relocating to Canada, Lesley was able to re-evaluate her approach to clay and the direction she wanted to take it. "Landscape, seascape, weather and it's effects have always had an enormous influence on my work and moving to another country with such a different climate and wonderfully dramatic seasons has played an enormous role on my current body of ceramics". Lesley's work can be found in her new shop 'DRIFT CERAMIC ART' in the village of Cookstown, as well as in several Toronto galleries.

### **GERRI ORWIN**

GERRI ORWIN, a volunteer clay instructor to seniors, is a retiree from a career in Film and Music Production in the Advertising and Documentary fields, in Toronto and New York. She is connected in the larger Toronto clay community through her volunteer work for the Gardiner Museum Shop and through her position of Central Regional Representative for FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association.

### **CORY PINASSI**

Cory Pinassi was born and raised in California. In 1974 she emigrated to Teheran, Iran. Later she moved to London, England for a time before making her current home in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada in 1980. Cory's teaching experience in art includes one year as a high school instructor in San Bernardino, California, and three years as Director of Elementary Art in Iranzamin International School in Teheran. Early experience and education in clothing design lent to her approach to clay through the slab construction method. Raku firing was her chosen technique for firing, having found its immediacy, physicality and margin of unpredictability enticing. She is currently developing new work in oxidation high -fired porcelain.

### **BARBARA ROSE**

Barbara Rose, a retired teacher, has recently graduated (2008) from the ceramics programme of Sheridan College. Since 2004 Barbara has exhibited her award winning work in the Hamilton area at the Carnegie Gallery and in Toronto at the Gardiner Museum and in the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition. Her recent work garnered two awards in "Fireworks", the Biennial Travelling Exhibition of FUSION members' work.

### **LINDA ROSEN**

Linda Rosen moved to Ontario in 1970 after graduation from Pratt Institute in NYC. Ceramics and teaching have been twin fascinations ever since she established her first working studio in Myrtle Station. A past President of Toronto Potters, Linda has also contributed on the provincial level to the clay community through service on the Board of Fusion: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association. Her current roles as a full time Ceramic Technician at Northern Secondary School and as a Continuing Education Instructor, for the Toronto District School Board, allow her to indulge her wide ranging ceramic interests and provide an excuse for continued in-depth study of unexplored ceramic territory. An award winning artist who has participated in many juried exhibitions, Linda has exhibited her work recently at Distill Gallery (Toronto) and the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery (Waterloo).

## **DAVID SCHEMBRI**

Working with clay for the past ten years, David Schembri has explored many styles of handbuilding and throwing on the wheel. Recently, David has begun to create new art by combining handbuilt raku fired ceramics with aluminum. With a background in Graphic Design, David brings a unique aesthetic to his art. Texture, distressed glazes and smoke contrast against angular, polished metal. David looks forward to further experimentation, creating unconventional and distinctive works of art.

## **MARGAUX SMITH**

A 16-year-old cat enthusiast from Toronto, Margaux Smith attends Etobicoke School of the Arts, and specializes in portraits. She has shown her work at the Augusta House and other student galleries in Toronto. Margaux has also done website art for Leslie Feist and t-shirt design for friends' bands. She aspires to be a not-starving-artist, and perhaps a part-time-midwife. Margaux also enjoys springtime, weekends, freak folk, adventures, and Tetris.

## **BRENDA SULLIVAN**

Brenda Sullivan has owned and operated a ceramic studio for 36 years. Her current studio, Dragon Clay Productions, is located in Port Hope, ON. Educated in ceramics programmes in Quebec (John Abbott College and Mac Donald College), Brenda also studied mould-making at the OCAD. She has taught both teens and adults and has exhibited her work since 1988, garnering several awards. She has retailed her work through many juried shows since 1978 and through galleries such as the Gardiner Museum and Distill Gallery, Toronto and in Port Hope.

## **ROBERT TÊTU**

Têtu has been a professional ceramist for 30 years, winning many awards and showing his work in dozens of solo and group exhibitions during that time. In 1975, he established Beechwood Pottery in an historic general store near Seaforth, Ontario, after attending courses at the Ontario College of Art. He produces lines of stoneware and porcelain pottery, specializing in custom dinner services and liturgical pieces. His porcelain work, inspired by the forms of Oriental ceramics (Yuan, Sung and Ming Dynasties, and Korean folk pottery), is wheel-thrown with extremely thin walls. When fired to high temperature (2400 degrees F) in the potter's 40 cubic foot gas kiln, the finished work is translucent, light in colour and weight, yet strong. In 1996, Têtu spent 5 weeks at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada, experimenting with porcelain pottery high-fired in a wood-burning kiln. Current works resulting from these experiments utilize traditional "Shino" glazes.

Têtu has presented workshops in ceramics to Ontario and Quebec potters' groups and for FUSION: the Ontario Clay and Glass Association. He has been an instructor at Canadore College Summer School of the Arts in North Bay, Ontario, teaches summer workshops in his own studio, and is also known for his illustrated talks about his international travels. Têtu's porcelain is included in private and public art collections, notably, the Governments of Ontario and Brazil, and the permanent collections of the Potters' Guild of Hamilton and Region, the Waterloo Potters' Workshop, and The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo, Canada. Têtu has served on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Crafts Council, as President of FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association, as a juror for the Ontario Arts Council, is past Chairman of the international Studio Potter Network, and continues to work as an advisor to Potters for Peace, an organization devoted to nurturing the potter's trade in such countries as Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba, Ghana and Mexico.

## **WENDY VERVOORT**

Wendy Vervoort is a graduate of Sheridan College, School of Crafts and Design in the ceramics program. Her award winning work, which she continues to explore has been exhibited widely and is in permanent and private collections. Wendy has been an active participant in her community as a craftsperson and instructor of ceramics for adults and children.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I have been engaged in an ongoing exploration employing various materials with clay. My intuitive approach to this combination, pre and/or post firing, imparts a relationship between the objects' form and the materials' symbolism. Storytelling plays an important role in my work. Often these pieces give me an opportunity to reflect on issues around personal history, culture, shared values, my hopes and dreams.

Years ago I had the opportunity to teach a clay program to a group of homeschoolers. Within this group there were three children with a hereditary degenerative eye disease all from the same family. The oldest was already completely blind. From this experience came the idea of creating objects that incorporated Braille. Whether I applied clay onto the surface or embedded metal balls into the clay, I discovered that the Braille achieved a very tactile surface texture along with adding a visually appealing aesthetic to my forms. A secret for some, a language for others, I continue to enjoy the challenge of creating clay objects that communicate with Braille embedded messages.

## **ANDREA VULETIN**

Andrea is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design. Her studio is located in Chatham Ontario where she is involved with the Thames Art Gallery in organizing the exhibitions for the local potters' guild. In 2006 she was the curator for the Powerplay Exhibition at the Gallery.

## **CATHERINE WEIR**

Catherine Weir has developed her elegantly-crafted, decorative "shadow crackle" raku pieces to high art. Her forms often incorporate gold lustre into black and white design elements, resulting in unique pieces. Catherine has taught at Dundas Valley School of Art and currently teaches at Mohawk College in Stony Creek. She has exhibited her award-winning work through the Potters Guild of Hamilton and Region Biennial Juried Exhibitions and sales, FUSION Pottery and Glass Show and several galleries including the Gardiner Museum in Toronto. She is also a regular guest artist on "Beyond the Valley Studio Tour" in Dundas.

## **CHERYL WYRE**

Cheryl Wyre is a graduate of the ceramics programme of Sheridan College of Art, Craft and Design. Her skills as a potter were further developed through pottery courses at Canadore College in North Bay and the Ontario College of Art. Cheryl has exhibited her work through FUSION Fireworks Travelling Biennial Exhibitions and the Pottery and Glass Show, Toronto Potters Juried Exhibitions and sales, Cabbagetown Arts and Crafts Show, the Burlington Potters' Guild Biennial Exhibition: "Celebrations", and the Japanese Canadian Artisan Exhibitions.