

September, 2024

GVR Clay Studio of Green Valley

A Green Valley Recreation Hobby Club



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Julie Jacques

Summer is waning down and October will bring the return of cooler weather. The studio has been a wonderful respite from the hot weather.

We made it through monsoons with only a few leaks and a couple of flooding events on the patio.

Our Intro to Clay Studio classes continue to fill within minutes of going on line by GVR. Check the Education bulletin for information on classes and workshops that are available in the studio. Wednesday mornings three of our sculptors hold a sculpture workshop which is a great opportunity to get started in sculpting. We are always looking for

members who are interested in teaching the Intro Class, workshops and clay related classes. See Al Koss or any Education Committee member.

Each year we replace 3 of our 9 board members. We currently have 4 applications for the 3 positions. Applications are available on our web-site and are due November 1.

The Glaze Committee is doing a fantastic job of testing new glazes and finding great replacements for discontinued glazes. The latest find is a replacement for Ancient Copper. They seem to be having way too much fun!!!!

The Stewardship committee is cleaning the studio twice a month on Monday mornings. They do such a great job at keeping our studio dust free and tidy. Please do your part to keep your storage space clean. If you are displaying art in a window, that needs to be dusted by you since we are not allowed to move other people's work.

Please remember that politics are not discussed in the studio. However, when the dust settles after November 5, we do want your political signs. We use them to make wearboards. Please put them in the handbuilding

room.

Til next month,

Julie

Somehow when Julie left on vacation to Spain, her rabbits multiplied in the kiln.



A thought on originality from a retired art teacher.

By Denise LeCount OBrien

My career started before the internet and the proliferation of images and ideas. We never traced images for use but certainly copied famous works of arts to learn techniques. If you visit the Louvre in Paris, you will be amazed at the number of artists set up copying a master work of art. It has been a trusted method to learn a technique. The problem arises when this image is “sold.” We all have seen countless posters and paintings of Van Gogh’s Sunflowers for sale. Understanding that Van Gogh has been dead for a very long time, if someone were to try to sell a painting as a Van Gogh, it is forgery. There have been master forgers out there throughout history. A lot of them were caught and imprisoned.

An example I used in my advanced art classroom when talking about copying work and copyright infringement, pertains to a photograph that was turned into a logo. The iconic horses on the Kentucky license plates in the 1990’s were based on a logo of the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington which itself was based on a picture of semi-wild horses taken by an award winning German horse photographer named Peter Thomann. The photographer had visited Kentucky Horse Park in the

1960’s where his work was shown in their gallery.

After the show he returned to Europe and did not return for many years. Much to his surprise and dismay, when he returned he was overwhelmed with his image on Kentucky license plates and throughout the Horse Park.



The image was withdrawn from use when the photographer sued for copyright infringement. An attorney for the artist demanded a “cease and desist” order. Anyone using a copyrighted image needs to negotiate for that use with the copyright holder or stop using the property upon demand. Thomann could have sued for a cash settlement but did not want to hurt the horse park financially. Kentucky and the park have since changed their logo.

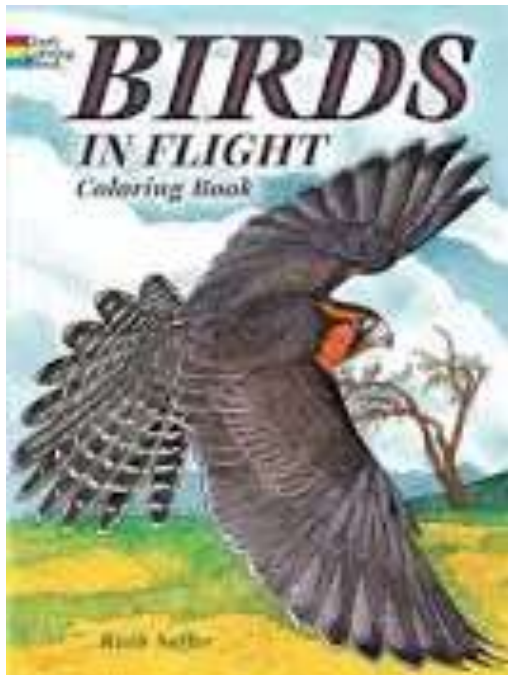


Since the internet is full of images created by artists and used commercially to help sell their products, we are inundated with ideas. Copying work, like copying master works of art, is an acceptable method to learn technique. However, reproducing someone else’s idea is not our original idea. Reproducing artists’ work, who are making a living selling their original ideas, is crossing over a shadowy line. Certainly we learn a lot from each other in our clay studio.

We teach each other what we know.

We Americans have been known for our creativity. We come up with the ideas and we then pay someone else to manufacture them. The Chinese are masters of technique and quality craftsmanship. Our companies are in constant litigation with the Chinese over their stealing of our ideas.

So we need to push ourselves to come up with our own ideas. Buy a sketchbook and start designing your own ideas after you have mastered a technique. I was asked recently where I got my idea for a project I was working on and I said, “out of my head.” Now I’m sure my idea is not unique as I have been influenced by images I have seen in thousands of galleries and museums all over the world. But I sketched it out and measured out my patterns and gave it a try.



A brief reassuring word about the use of clip art: I love Dover Coloring Books. The publishers buy the rights of images for their coloring books, then they in turn sell the images to the consumer. When you purchase the books, you purchase the right to use those clip art images. Clip art is big business and the original artists are paid for their work.

I encourage you all to think outside of the box (the internet). Take more risks and be more creative. We all do wonderful work in the studio and I love what I see going on around me. Please take this little article with a grain of salt and do not think I’m lecturing you on copying images. But understand that when someone in the studio comes up with their own unique idea it is not a good idea to copy their work without their permission. I might take it as a compliment, as the old saying goes, “copying is the sincerest form of flattery”. Someone else may not.

Another successful Intro to Clay Studio Class, taught by Sue Peetoom and Christen Hansen.



Hannah and Karen with Sue on their cylinders.

Christine works with Cheryl on attaching the base to her cylinder.





See anyone you know? Welcome them to the studio



Opening night at the Annual Members Only Show at the Tubac Center of the Arts



Sam Sweetman stands next to her work called Silence. It is meant to inspire meditative mood in the observer. It is made in two parts. The clay body is

high fired and can also live in the garden.

Brenda and Ann Van Prooyen are having fun



at the Tubac Center of the Arts.

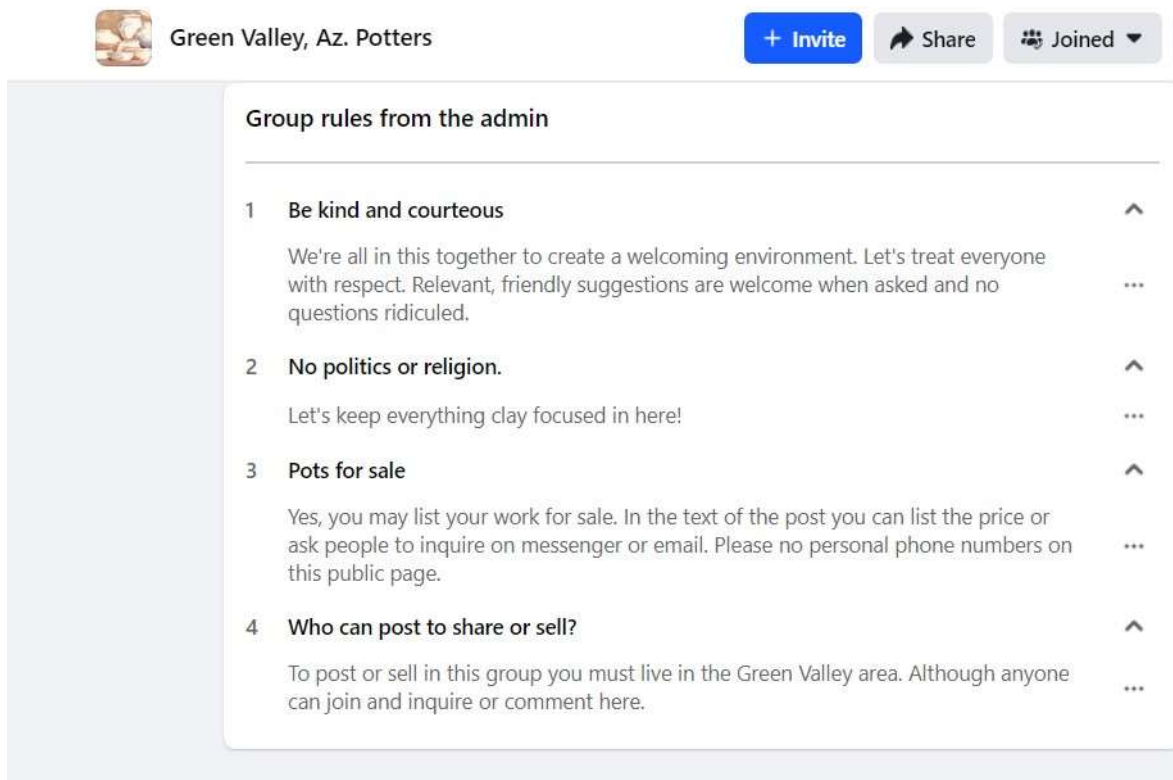


Many of our artists in the studio show at Tubac and have work in the gift shop as well. This display includes wheel thrown horse hair fired vases by Susan Anderson, an oxidized red stone sculpted rabbit by Julie Jacques and photography and cards by Denise LeCount OBrien.

A Shout Out for our Facebook page created by Liza Roocroft.



As you can see there are 274 members. Don't wait for me to include your work in the newsletter, post your work on our Facebook page and tell us all about it.



Larry Carter with his Japanese influenced rough carved sculptural pot.

Check this out! Larry used four different clay bodies: B 3 black, electric brown, speckled buff and red stone. Larry did not use any oxides. If you are interested in learning more about the Kurinuki style, please click on the link below.

<https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/pottery-making-illustrated/pottery-making-illustrated-article/Kurinuki-Curious-251041#>

Larry joined the studio in the fall of '23 with no prior clay experience. He is part of the maintenance team and started out the duty by cleaning and adjusting the slab rollers. He is a welcome addition to our studio. Thanks Larry.

Check out his work in the windows.



Meet Dave Karakatsoulis, master potter

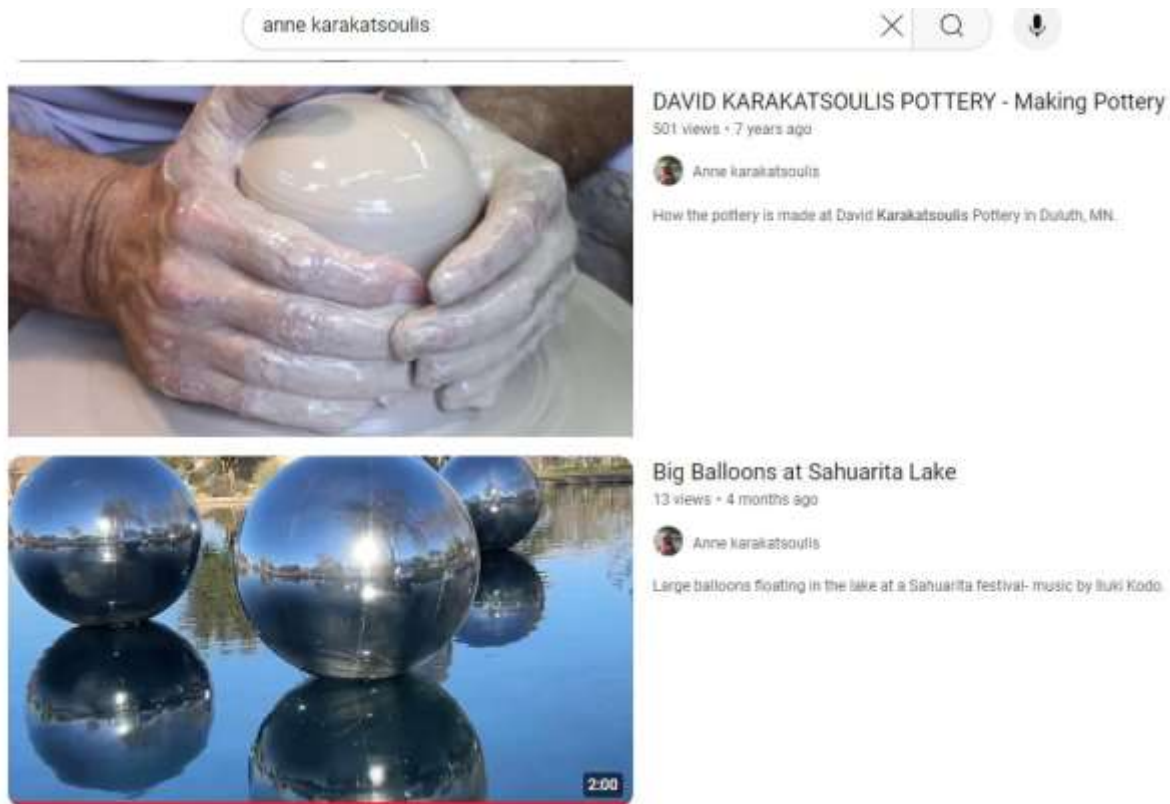
Dave and his wife, Anne ran their own pottery business from 1980-2020 in Duluth, Minnesota. They recently moved to Green Valley to be closer to their daughter who lives in Sahaurita .



Dave can be found in the wheel room throwing pots, trimming and pulling handles. He creates his own low relief stamps by carving on bisque porcelain. He is inspired by desert flowers, birds and Zuni designs. He uses dental tools for carving.



If you'd like to see more of Dave's work and very informative videos of his throwing technique check out You Tube. His wife Anne Karakatsoulis has dozens of videos of her work and his for your viewing pleasure. He has work in the gift shop in Tubac as well.



Dave was born in Greece and his mother and sister live in Athens. He became a US citizen in 1980.

Dave and Anne moved here from rural Duluth to be closer to their daughter and their three grandchildren; they did not know they had a gem of a clay studio within biking distance. **Surprise!** And Anne works on multi-media at the Photography club upstairs! They live near Abrego Grill and he can ride his bike to the clay studio by cutting through their subdivision.

Like many of us, we were first introduced to art in school. In tenth grade, he took a nine week intro to clay class, and then on to another

nine week woodworking class. In the shop class he made a pottery kick wheel out of ten layers of thick plywood laminated together. It took 4 sheets of plywood cut in half to complete his project. After that he became addicted to art coming in to work on his pottery after school and whenever he could. He had a key to the backdoor of the art room.

He went to Vancouver School of Arts, BC after presenting his high school portfolio along with a letter of recommendation by his art teacher. He attended for one semester and took off to join a Co-op of potters called the Craft Factory. Along with three others, the co-op continued to grow to twelve and then twenty four. It grew so large it split in two and through a grant, they moved to a larger space which was then named Clay Works.

He met his wife while living in Canada and they moved to the states to be closer to Anne's mother. They formed their business and worked together for 40 years: she as his business account manager and he as a production potter. By the way, they celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary August 17th. It never mattered when they got snowed in as they worked from home. They faced hard times during the 2008 recession but Anne was resourceful. She set up a wholesale business with funeral homes where he sold funerary urns. She sold his work through E-Bay and gifts shops. He has never done outdoor art shows.

Dave is enjoying using the studio's commercial glazes as he used to mix his own glazes. He used three different glazes for his sets of pottery. The glazes we use are lower temperature glazes than those he was used to which fired out at cone 10. He likes our glazes as they are more stable and he can use them as a painter would. He can paint scenes. He gets his ideas from photographs of local flowers and birds. He is especially



fond of the Zuni culture and finds the style inspiring. He creates his own version of their geometric designs. He is especially appreciates the rain bird design.

You can find Dave quietly painting his intricate designs in the main front area of the studio. There are many experienced potters in our studio and we can learn a lot from them.

Potters donate work to the Valley Assistance Services fund raiser.



On August 20th at Desert Diamond Casino, there was a ladies' luncheon and Fashion Show to benefit Valley Assistance Services. While I was browsing the silent auction baskets, some baskets stood out from the many gift baskets. Sally Richards, Suzzie McCafferty, and Jay Groothousen all donated some of their work to

benefit the organization whose mission statement reads: "Combining social services and community health, Valley Assistance Services guides seniors,



individuals, and families to live healthy, resilient, and vibrant lives, while remaining safe and independent.”

Forgive me if I missed someone else who donated.

Great Websites!!

Go to vanguilderpottery.com and sign up for his emails. Both Becka and Brian have gone to San Miguel, Mexico for his winter workshops. You can get his emails and read his archived emails. Some are for throwing techniques but many deal with clay in general. Got a good website to share? Send the info to Denise.

I hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Keep on creating. If you have images that you'd like to show, please post them on our Facebook page or send them to me at rurt2dede@gmail.com or text me at 309-830-0177.

Also if I have made a mistake with someone's name or such, forgive me and let me know.

Denise LeCount OBrien

