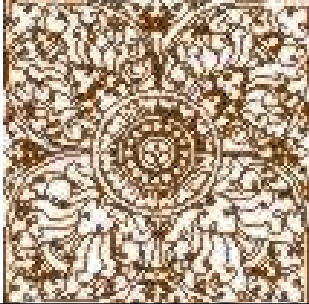




NATIONAL CENTER FOR KHMER CERAMICS REVIVAL NEWSLETTER

Number 1

July 2007



Our first newsletter.

Due of our works overload we push back the date of the first issue month after month. The most important is the first ... after we're on the way. Sorry to our numerous supporters for this delay, now we will be there every month. We publish 2 newsletters per month:

- A newsletter to our supporters about the works, research and life in NCKCR.
 - A newsletter aiming marketing target to travel agent, guides, hotel, ...
- Both letters are sending in English or French following desire of each person.

If you want to subscribe to the second newsletter [email us](#).

Enjoy...

Artistic exchanges between two ages ...



Khmer antiques shape are very interesting in their designs, Contemporary Khmer ceramics are many times inspired by those shapes. Replicas of Khmer Antiques shapes covered with a contemporary glaze give us very surprising effects. When we perform Contemporary Ceramics, from Antiques shapes, we can also modify the design with carvings. Khmer potter can rarely have exchange with their peers abroad but at least they can have exchange with their ancestors. Khmer Antiques ceramics leave us a very interesting heritage; we must use it for given rise to the Contemporary Ceramics Art.

Metallic luster H=45cm

Dismantling of our 1500 liters kiln due of rain damage.

Raining season come (to) early this year, due of roof absence the kiln of 1500 liters was irremediably damaged by heavy rain. So either we use it only for bisque firing or we dismantle it and rebuild a new kiln. Second solution was adopted, we rebuild a new kiln, and by the way we reorganize the future kiln site. Dismantling began the 1st June and finished the 2nd evening... very late.

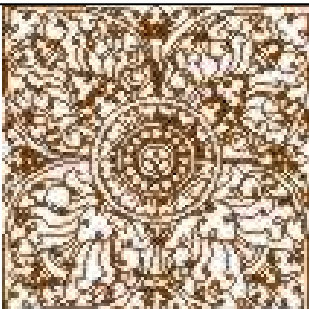


Last unloading of the 1500 liters kiln.

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NCKCR
Phum Thnorl
Khum Sror Ngea
Siem Reap
Kingdom of Cambodia
+855(0)63 761 519
www.khmerceramics.com
info@khmerceramics.com



Construction of a “Bourry Box” kiln.



We replace the 1500 liters fast firing kiln by a 1200 liters bourry box kiln. Construction of the new bourry box kiln began the 3rd June we use only the olds bricks, 4th June evening the kiln was at ground of the chamber level. Chimney is in bricks to 2.75 meters the rest (2, 25 meters) are in stainless steel pipe. Construction of such a kiln is a big work... we reckon around 9000 bricks are necessary for its building.

Each of the characteristics needs to be very carefully estimated and applied in order to have a kiln able to heat at 1400° C (~2550 F). All our kilns are building with local materials, offering the possibility for Khmers potters to build a kiln following the same plan. Refractory bricks are made in NCKCR with clay from Bantey Srei very poor in iron oxide. Only a crew can go to the end of such a big building. Plan of the kiln will be translate in Khmer language, published and accessible FOC for all public. First firing is scheduled beginning of July.



Khmer Antique Kiln reconstitution (Dragon Kiln) begin.



We begin building a Khmer Antique Kiln reconstitution on our kiln site of Siem Reap. Plans are already made, and we prepare the land. Antique Khmer Kiln reconstitution will be 8 meters long with a capacity of ~16 cubic meters ; construction is planed on 5 months with 4 workers. The Khmer Antique Kiln will be fired twice a year. Khmers potters from all around the country will be in NCKCR to fire some of their works, discover and learn about cone 9-10 firing. Firings will be international events with the participation of Australian, Japanese, European and US potters. Potters will made works in our studio and fire it in the Dragon Kiln. Khmer potters will works with potters from all around the world

and open their mind to others techniques and works.

For potters, exchanges with their peers are primordial; Khmer potters rarely have opportunities to meets their peers abroad, so...we organize the meeting in Cambodia, in NCKCR.. Potters will also help for the 10 nights and days Khmer Antique Kiln stoking

Event will be named **The International Khmer Ceramics Festival**

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The Dragon kiln will also offer us possibilities of deeper research about Khmer Antique glazing techniques. All visitors will be welcome to admire the Dragon spits its impressive flames, spectacle will be grandiose at night.

Precise date and program of **The International Khmer Ceramics Festival** will be communicated soon.



Visit of the crew “Terre à l’An Vert”.



We receive the visit of Benjamine, Marion and Luc running around the world. They lead an impressive project aiming Fair Trade development. During their visits, the crew indicates a frank interest in activities of NCKCR. We explain them all our policy and projects for near future and long term.

With information they give us, they open doors for NCKCR in Fair Trade. Take a while on the website of “Terre à l’An Vert”:

<http://www.terrealanvert.org>

... and support them.

Wood consumption and environment.

The lonely alternative energy (available in Cambodia) for high firing is fuel.

Butane gas is available in Cambodia but don't permit to reach high firing temperature; such temperature needs propane gas supply.

Khmer potters don't have means to install fuel burner, so use of wood is indispensable.

In order to decrease considerably the wood consumption, NCKCR experiment about the more efficient wood kiln.

To more efficient kiln that we try is the “bourry box” system.

Bigger kiln are more economic than small :

A bourry box kiln of 220 liters use 2,5 cubic meters of wood to reach 1300° C (~2400 F).

A bourry box kiln of 1500 liters use 7 cubic meter of wood to reach the same temperature.

Reported to the volumetric capacity of each kiln; the small kiln use 1,5 more wood than the big!

Our experiences allow us to teach the more efficient wood kiln construction to future Khmer potters.

Educational program is also planed about trees plant; trees will be plant on the rear land of NCKCR.

Important ceramics resource on Internet.

We use a very interesting resource on Internet for ceramics techniques: Ceramics Today.

We thank Steven Goldate, web master and ceramist, for such a big works.

Steven also makes a very nice article on the NCKCR published on www.ceramicstoday.com .

Potters feeling.

Who did not dream a day to become a potter; even if that dream is currently limited to the potter wheel? In fact potter wheel is just a small part of the craft. Indeed, potter wheel is a powerfully creation tool, contact with the earth is pleasant. Long is the way to control throwing, but recompense is up to. Give rise shapes from your hands, be able to dialogue with the earth...



how can we be more nearly our roots? Doings are the same from thousand years ago, only practice allows us to understand what our predecessors do. They had the same feelings and had the same challenges; they express it by the same manner as we do today.

When you visit the NCKCR you can meet your roots:

Visitors are inviting to try the potter wheel. A potter wheel (reversible right and left), clay, aprons and a lavatory are free for use.

Moreover with financial participation your works can be fired (with or without glaze) and send. Unfortunately shipment price is very expensive (we don't take any profit on it).

