



Photo by Joshua Bessex

From left: Vicki Sullivan, Susan Raymond and Linda Marsh stand in Bay Avenue Gallery in Ocean Park, Washington. All three artists will lead workshops during the Peninsula Clay Artists Show and Sale Aug. 7 to 15.



Photo by Joshua Bessex

A community mosaic from a workshop two years ago is displayed in the backyard of Bay Avenue Gallery. About 25 people worked on the mosaic, which was sponsored by Sue Raymond, during the fifth Peninsula Clay Artists Show and Sale. This year, people in the mosaic class will be working on a pair of benches.



Photo by Joshua Bessex

Art from Shelley Curtis Weaver, Karen Brownlee, Vicki Sullivan, Danni Pederson, and Michael Sullivan will be on display during the Peninsula Clay Artists Show and Sale.



Photo by Cate Gable

Jan Richardson, co-founder of the Peninsula Clay Artists and founder of Windy Meadows Pottery, is known for her unique hand-built cottages.

Peninsula Clay Artists Show and Sale

Opening Reception

5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7 • 25902 Vernon Ave. • Ocean Park, Washington
360-665-5200 • Free

Workshops

For a complete workshop schedule, photos of clay art, and a registration form, see the Peninsula Clay Artists Facebook site: www.facebook.com/peninsulaclayartists
Workshop prices range from \$35 to \$95, including materials. Come make jewelry; craft a clay flower; throw, glaze and fire a pot or vase; create clay garden mushrooms, totem animals or sprites; or join the mosaic group. Pre-registration is required.

Demonstrations

See a variety of different ceramic firing techniques including:
Raku • Paper kiln • Barrel firing • Pit firing



Photo by Joshua Bessex

Art from Linda Marsh and Susan Raymond will be on display during the Peninsula Clay Artists Show and Sale, which takes place Aug. 7 to 15.

Peninsula Clay Artists throw down

Get some clay in your hands during this seventh annual Long Beach Peninsula art show and sale, featuring open studio time, 12 workshops and nine art-filled days Aug. 7 to 15



Photo by Joshua Bessex

Some of Sue Raymond's unfinished clay pieces sit on a work table in the Bay Avenue Gallery Studio. The pieces will be finished and on display for the Peninsula Clay Artists Show and Sale.

Story by CATE GABLE

Sue Raymond, co-founder of the Bay Avenue Gallery in Ocean Park, Washington, is the engine behind the Peninsula Clay Artists. She's like the stone thrown into the bay that causes ripples to flow out in all directions, though she claims, "I would have sunk without Jan Richardson."

"When I came to the Peninsula," Sue says, "I was used to a really strong clay group like the one I had in Arizona. I thought everyone worked together like that. But it wasn't happening here. I tried out the idea on a couple people, and I think they were scared of me — like, 'Who is this person?' But when I spoke to Jan about it, she got it right away. She literally knocked on doors and said, 'We can do this — we are going to do this!'"

Sue has two under graduate degrees (in art and K-12 education), a Master of Arts in art education, and a Ph.D. in arts education — her passion is ceramics and teaching. With her unstoppable buzz of energy, she's created a one-woman art phenomenon at her gallery on the north end of the Long Beach Peninsula. Locals and visitors alike gather to throw, shape, build, carve, glaze and otherwise have fun with clay.

But she still insists it was all Jan Richardson, who was the founder of Windy Meadows Pottery. Jan is nationally known for her meticulously hand-built ceramic cottages, with details like window sills and shutters, tiny pots with flowers in them, individual tiles on the roofs, and carved doorways. (See www.windy-meadow-pottery.com)

These two women together created both the membership organization of Peninsula Clay Artists and, in their second year together, the tradition of a week's gathering of clay artists, workshops, demonstrations, sales and exhibitions of ceramic work. They not only brought together the talented ceramics already working on the Long Beach Peninsula but nurtured the talent of many newbies.

New location, same great art

"Most ceramics studios charge you by the hour to work," Sue said the other day at the studio surrounded by enormous clay garden flowers. "But that doesn't

make sense in our area. I say, 'Tell me what you want to do, and I'll give you a price. Then you can work as long as you want.'"

This approach has created both a vast array of arresting art and a band of ceramicists.

"Everybody in PCA is expert in something, but in the ceramics field you never can learn it all," Sue continues, "so we all learn from each other. We totally respect each other's work and respect boundaries. No one else makes clay houses for instance, because Jan does; that's her territory."

For family reasons Jan has moved to Florida, but she returns to participate in this year's clay artists' event that she and Sue hatched up. Seven years running and PCA is stronger than ever.

In fact, this year Peninsula Clay Artists members will be conducting their annual show, sale and workshop series in their own home town, Ocean Park. There are 12 workshops, more than in any other year. Many are at Bay Avenue Gallery, located at 1406

Bay Ave., in the ceramics studio just adjacent to the gallery.

Some of the workshops will be held in the artists' own studios — so it's a combination open studio, workshop, show and sale, for nine art-filled days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 7 to 15.

The main gallery show is at the Ketel Building, which you'll find at 25902 Vernon Ave. The show and demonstrations are free and open to the public. Workshop fees vary but are in a reasonable range from \$35 to \$95, including all materials (see below).

Art for people

One of the wonderful aspects of the gathering in past years is the beautiful mosaic panels that have been group projects, created under the professional eye of ceramicist Heather Richardson, Jan's daughter. Mosaics adorn Bay Avenue Gallery and the Artisan Gallery in Ilwaco. A beautiful rendition of the North Head Lighthouse graces the Long Beach Visitors Center.

"Heather is a professional Mosaic Art Queen," says Sue. "She is amazing. In the first mosaic workshops the goal was for people to make their own mosaics, but they had down time, so the idea was to use that time to work on a group piece for community spaces. We have several at the gallery now — a mer-

maid, and, my all-time favorite, a fish."

Heather took one of Sue's whimsical wall fish, blew up a visual of it and then had the group make it into a mosaic. Now it swims in the backyard of Bay Avenue Gallery.

This year, Peninsula Clay Artists members have gone crazy for garden art. Colorful and realistic clay flowers adorn the walls of the studio. Another garden idea has many members making garden art "totem poles" — ceramic figures of animals, flowers, even vegetables are formed and glazed, then stacked together on specially treated rebar and placed in gardens.

"We have a lot of repeat participants in our workshops," says Sue. "Because people say, 'My mother wanted the piece I made so I gave it to her, and now I need to make one for myself,' or 'I brought my best friend because she saw my piece and wanted one.'"

As Jan says, "Heather and I have loved creating public art so that people can become part of their community by creating things of beauty and living with them." And that's the point of art, isn't it? To use your hands to create something of beauty to share.

A special guest

This year's event will feature visiting ceramicist Richard Roth of Grand Prairie Designs Pottery in

Winlock, Washington. He will be doing two demonstrations at Bay Avenue Gallery: the first will feature a ceramic technique called sgraffito, a process of scraping through one ceramic layer to reveal another in a contrasting color. The sgraffito, sometimes spelled scraffito, demonstrations will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12 for an evening reception, and he will be showing off his carving skills, and the pubic can come, watch and ask questions at the gallery.

After a break, Richard returns from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 12 for an evening reception, and he will be throwing an "upside down bowl."

Even Sue isn't sure exactly how this works, but she's sure it will be exciting. "Richard is a master!" she says. "He's also an expert in pit firing, and we'll be showing off that technique in a special workshop as well."

The concept of local clay artists forming, more-or-less, a potters guild to share space, expertise, techniques and group shows like this one is inspiring. Art by the people, for the people.

So stop by for the kick-off evening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7 at the Ketel Building, 25902 Vernon Ave. in Ocean Park to meet all the artists and see their wares. Or, even better, sign up for a workshop and get some clay in your hands.