

West Australian Guild of China Painters (Inc)

Established 1964

www.chinapainterswa.asn.au



OUR MISSION:
To foster interest in the fine art of porcelain
painting, and promote good fellowship.

China Painting

China painting is the art of hand painting a design onto porcelain, ceramic or glass. These are the 'canvases' of the china painter.



A porcelain design is applied in layers, firing between each application in a kiln to 820°C. At high temperatures the china's glaze melts sufficiently to accept paint which, on cooling, sets within the glaze. Fluxed paints, lustres, gold, platinum and texture pastes can be used to complete a design. Pieces usually require five to ten firings to achieve the desired colours and application of other techniques.

History

Decorated pottery dates back millennia but true porcelain with its hard, white, translucent glaze did not appear until China's Tang dynasty in 618 to 907 CE. Introduced to Europe by Marco Polo in the 15th Century it soon became a highly prized and sought after commodity, for a time selling at more than its own weight in gold.



Conflicting claims exist but it is commonly believed that in 1708 German alchemist Johann Friedrich Böttger was first to succeed in making porcelain in Europe. In 1710 the Meissen factory in Germany became the first to manufacture porcelain in Europe, but others soon accessed the formula.

Porcelain factories employed thousands of painters. However by the late 1750s the Worcester Porcelain Factory in the UK perfected a technique to print designs onto china. Over subsequent decades more and more designs were produced using this method and genuinely hand-painted porcelain was reserved for only the most prestigious ware.

By the late 1800s many gifted porcelain artists turned their talents to teaching. It became a fashionable pursuit for ladies of leisure proving particularly popular in the UK, USA and of course, Australia.

The Guild

China painting was introduced to Western Australians as early as the late 1800s. Miss Mary Elizabeth Creeth, an artist, was known to have a studio in West Australian Chambers, St Georges Terrace, Perth, in 1898.



As student and teacher numbers grew in WA they began to seek a society of artists which would enhance their art and allow participation in exhibitions to show their work. In 1964 an enthusiastic group of porcelain artists, many of whom were members of the WA Women's Society of Fine Arts and Crafts, called a meeting to consider the formation of an association of china painters.



On 31st March 1964 the West Australian Guild of China Painters was formed, the first china painting association in Australia. Amy Lakides was elected inaugural president and Flora Landells, one of WA's most influential and respected artists and teachers, became the foundation patron.

Today old and new members alike find the Guild a place to exchange information, exhibit work as well as offering a rich learning resource of skills, experience and activities. The Guild seeks to inspire all members and is eager to see new vision and style brought to this old established art.



front cover: Briar Rose Plate by Judith Standing; back cover: Cat by Christine Munro;
opposite page: Red Back Spider Vase by Anne Blake; 'Running Waters' Vase by Heather Taylor;
top right: Possum Tile by Brenda Caelli; top left: Reef Fish Plaque by Anne Blake;
above left: Mask by Brenda Henderson; above right: Fruit Tile by Amy Lakides;

Membership

The West Australian Guild of China Painters invites all with an interest in china painting to join and there are no joining restrictions. Whether new to china painting, an experienced artist, or just a lover of the art form, all are welcomed.

The Guild maintains an active membership with members kept informed of news and current events via an informative newsletter and website. Regular meetings feature demonstrations of both china painting and other fields of art and give members an opportunity to access the Guild's extensive library. Other activities include workshops by local and interstate artists, painting days and trips to exhibitions.

Members have the opportunity to sell their work at the Guild's annual exhibition. Pieces from the Guild's 'Collectables', a porcelain art collection reflecting trends in china painting over the past 50 years, are also displayed.



To contact the Guild, obtain membership information, be a guest at our next meeting, or just to say hello please visit:

www.chinapainterswa.asn.au

