



KÁPOLNA GALÉRIA

A Kecskeméti Kortárs-Művészeti Műhelyek galériája
Gallery of the Kecskeméti Contemporary Art Studios

INTERNATIONAL CERAMICS STUDIO

HOMAGE TO FRED OLSEN

International Woodfiring Symposium

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Nyitvatartás: munkanapokon 13 órától 17 óráig
Open: weekdays from 1 to 5 pm

design: Steve Mattison



PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Front row:
Kemény Péter (HU), Teja Hlacer (SLO), Chen Mei-Hua (TW),
Youg Mi-Kim (USA), Mária Geszler-Garzuly (HU)

Back row:
Kontor Enikő (HU), Csávás Ruzicska Tünde (HU),
Lisa Zambelli (FR)



HOMAGE TO FRED OLSEN - A DIFFERENT WAY OF WOODFIRING

International Woodfiring Symposium
23 - 31 October, 2019

A reminiscence : many decades ago, we were in the courtyard of the International Ceramics Studio in Kecskemét, struggling with the elements, days and nights were passing. We were building kilns : we wanted to create high-fire ceramics, glazes, artistic works and burn them in these kilns.

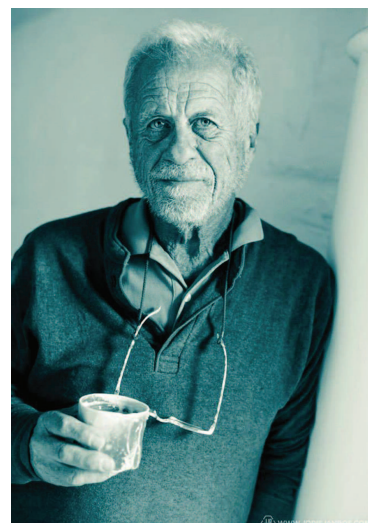
In this work Fred Olsen helped us out with his book, and also in person : he built his newly designed furnaces in our yard - with the assistance of our kiln technician, Jakab Kis.

As a responsible artist, I can not watch calmly as people burn down huge amounts of wood for a good effect or an artpiece. In this Symposium, with the help of our invited artists and the artworks created here, we would like to show that there is 'another way'. It is possible to take better care of our natural values. We also can create artworks in the beautiful woodfire with only a small amount of wood - thoughtfully and skillfully.

Mária Geszler-Garzuly



The burning of wood is a natural phenomena, hence forest and prairie fires, that fits into the eco sphere of nature. By this logic, wood burning kilns fit perfectly into the ecological scheme since they are using a natural burning process but in a controlled environment and a renewable fuel resource.



Since the 1970's I have tried to design my kilns to work towards an efficient wood burning kiln that can fire with less and less wood and give the same results as you would have in other kilns.

If we compare the same glaze on a similar piece, fired in a gas or electric kiln in either oxidation or reduction, the wood fired piece will show a remarkable difference in warmest, body color and perhaps a slight shade difference. As one gets older, time is important, so I like my old Fastfire wood and the newer Super E kiln for glaze work, especially when working alone. They can be fast and efficient if desired.

I hope you all enjoy Mária's "A Different Way of Wood Firing" using the older design Olsen Fastfire wood kilns and the new Olsen super E kiln. These kilns were designed to be used efficiently, fire even as possible in temperature with little effort by two people. The Super E is for one person to fire alone and perhaps the most efficient kiln using very little wood.

Mária, I am sorry that I can't be there, but in spirit I am.
Good firings.

Fred Olsen

