

Clay Expectations: A Festival of Tiles and Mosaics

September 12, 2010, 10-5 p.m.

Historic Howden Building
Southeast corner of 17th and Webster Streets
Oakland, California

Admission: \$5 (\$4 with this notice)

“Clay Expectations: A Festival of Tiles and Mosaics” is being presented by the Tile Heritage Foundation as a fund-raising event featuring the work of tile artists and artisans in support of the Foundation’s archival and cataloguing programs now underway. Contemporary tile and mosaic artists will show and sell their ware side by side with historic tile dealers; noted tile historians will present both lectures and tours, and free clay and mosaic workshops will be available for children. This one-day event, like no other, is being presented for the first and only time in a historic setting ideally suited to the occasion. Bring the whole family!

“Clay Expectations” will be held in the historic Howden Building at 17th and Webster Streets in Oakland, California. Robert Howden, Sr. operated a tile business in Oakland from 1893 to 1923; upon his retirement he had this building erected both as a monument to his career and—he hoped—an incentive to his sons to carry on according to his standards. Completed in 1925 the building’s exterior is clad in American Encaustic Tiling Co. (AET) and Solon & Schemmel (S&S) tiles. Inside, tiles are everywhere: Batchelder, Claycraft, S&S, and Oakland’s own Muresque Tiles. Howden did much of the tiling himself; that the building has survived intact serves as a tribute to his legacy and underscores the efforts by the current owners to preserve the space and its historic tilework.

Main Feature

Antique & Contemporary Art Tile Sale

Artisans from throughout the U.S.

Here is an unusual treat for Bay Area ceramic and glass collectors and enthusiasts: the opportunity to see and purchase both historic and contemporary art tiles and mosaics in the Howden Building, a beautifully preserved setting designed and constructed in 1925 to feature high end ceramics tiles! Among the reputable dealers of historic tiles: Brian Kaiser from South Gate; Isak Lindenauer from San Francisco; Rick Petteford from Sebastopol; and Scott Wells from Los Angeles. If contemporary ceramic art is more to your liking, see the historically-derived designs of Penny Brogden from Berkeley; the adorable animals and birds by Carol Rose Dean from Seattle; Janet Ontko and her Clay Forms from Fresno; fanciful tiles of Barbara Schmidt from Chicago; the jewel-like expressions of Jim and Lisa TeviaClark from Brasstown, North Carolina; as well as Judy Wrede from Denver; Carol Crockett and her Crockett Tiles from Placerville; and David Wilson from Morro Bay, currently producing reproductions for Hearst Castle, among many others. And, importantly, Tile Heritage Foundation will be selling tiles, one-

of-a-kind master works, donated by artists and artisans from across the country specifically to assist the Foundation in its fund-raising efforts. There has not been a festival of this kind in Oakland for many years—don't miss it!

Schedule of Lectures and Tours

Tiles Out of the Blue: Creating Beauty from the Earth

California Decorative Tiles, 1900-1930

By Joseph A. Taylor

11-noon, Sunday, Sept. 12

Witness the development of decorative tile manufacturing in California from its inception in 1900 through its heyday in the 1920s to its culmination during the dark days of the Great Depression. At the turn of the last century California tile makers, an extraordinary mix of talent, ushered in two new and distinctly different aesthetics, each of which captured the imagination of architects and designers throughout the state and, eventually, the rest of the country. The handcrafted tiles with muted, matte finishes of the Arts & Crafts era with designs inspired from the Middle Ages in Europe presented a sharp contrast to the bright glazes and geometric designs derived primarily from Moorish, Spanish and Mexican sources. Both aesthetics had a profound and lasting effect, enhancing the popular architectural styles of the period, and continuing to be a major influence among ceramic tile makers today.

Joseph A. Taylor, a writer and educator, is co-founder and current president of the Tile Heritage Foundation. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he has served as the editor of the Foundation's publications for the past 20 years. A frequent writer and lecturer on tile history, Taylor was a principal contributor and editor for *California Tile: The Golden Era 1910-1940* published by Schiffer in 2004. He was initiated into the world of tiles when he worked with his sister and brother-in-law at McIntyre Tile Company in Healdsburg, California in the 1970s.

The Tiles of California Faience

Berkeley, California

1913-1959

By Kirby William Brown

1-2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12

“THE TILES OF CALIFORNIA FAIENCE” will trace the history of the company, California Faience, and demonstrate the origin of many of the designs. The company was actually started by Chauncey Thomas in 1913 as "The Tile Shop" on San Pablo Ave. in Berkeley. In 1915 Thomas displayed art pottery and tiles at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. William Bragdon joined Thomas as a partner in the fall of that year. In 1921 they were contracted by architect Julia Morgan to make tiles for William Randolph Hearst at San Simeon necessitating a move to a much larger facility on Hearst Ave. in 1922. By then the company name was changed to "California Faience." The 1920's were the golden years with extensive production of tiles, brilliantly multi-colored with attractive designs of Spanish and

medieval influence. The Great Depression led to a drastic reduction in tile production with very few made after 1933. The company survived as a studio for artists and students, hundreds of whom passed through its doors until William Bragdon passed away in 1959.

Kirby William Brown, PhD was born in Oakland and grew up in Berkeley in the household of his grandfather, William Bragdon, the owner of California Faience. An entomologist by profession and now retired, Kirby became an enthusiastic collector of California Faience beginning in 1996, inspired by Peter Monsour of San Francisco, who was writing a book on the company. Some years later Peter asked Kirby to take over the book project, and he has been working on it since then. The book will be completed prior to an exhibition of California Faience planned at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento for the summer of 2013.

**Southern California Mosaic Fantasy Worlds:
Towers, Totems and Tiles
By Lillian Sizemore
3-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12**

Lillian is an avid seeker of public mosaics from around the world and in this lively presentation she takes you on a Southern California tour of top, trippy environments. Colorful visits to the historic 1928 site of Simon Rodia's famed "Watt's Towers" of East LA where spectacular handmade towers are embellished in patterned crockery, Malibu tile, and pop bottles. The shimmering sculpture park, "Queen Califia's Magical Garden" by Niki de Saint Phalle, features totems and temples honoring the divine and mythic. We top it off with a peek inside the quirky Mosaic Tile House in Venice, where the lines between form and function are blissfully blurred. The presentation will weave together historic and contemporary references from around the world and discuss the lineage of visionary sculptural mosaic projects as a lasting monument to the creative impulse.

Lillian Sizemore is a professional artist, educator, and independent scholar. She is faculty member and visiting artist at the Institute of Mosaic Art and an invited artist-lecturer at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Working in mosaics since 1994, her architectural installations are featured in 'Mosaic Techniques and Traditions' and 'Mosaic Art and Style.' Lillian travels widely, studying mosaic sites around the world, and is active in historic preservation of mosaic murals. She authored 'A Guide to Mosaic Sites: San Francisco,' a walker's guide to publicly accessible mosaic sites. Currently, her fine art mosaic mandalas are included in the exhibition "Contemporary Mosaics: An Exquisite Collection" in downtown San Francisco. She maintains a studio in Sausalito and chronicles her work at <http://sfmosaic.wordpress.com>.

**Clay and Mosaic Workshops
Especially designed for children (of all ages)
Available 10-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12**

Tile Heritage is providing a supervised "Kids' Clay Table" all day with well-known ceramists and teachers: Irene de Watteville, Dale Wiley, Lisa Cox, Chere Mah, and Colette Crutcher. In an

informal setting with lots of clay tools, stamps and molds, the teachers will demonstrate and guide the children in their clay table play. All can take home what they make!

Elizabeth Raybee will orchestrate a “Drop-in for Kids” (of all ages) to make mini-mosaics. Among the choices will be mosaic pins or fridge magnets made in jar lids or anchovy/sardine cans. Lots of fun... and those interested can “grout” their work with glitter or write a little something with teeny-tiny handmade ceramic letter tiles! Everyone can take away a finished project.

Elizabeth Raybee is an internationally recognized mosaic artist and teacher. Schooled as a painter and printmaker, she taught painting, drawing, batik, business for visual artists, and mosaics at the Ft. Mason Art Center, San Francisco City College and through her studio. Mosaic has been her primary medium since 1988. After 20 years of breaking tile, she began making some in 2000, many of which will be on display & for sale! In 1995, Raybee moved to her Mendocino County farm and began presenting “GroutCamps,” summer Mosaic Workshops. Students come from far and wide to learn from the “mosaic guru.” Her work has appeared in art museums and galleries nationally as well as virtually every Bay Area newspaper, on the cover of ARTWEEK, in several TV spots and published in four books of contemporary mosaics.

Tiles and Terra Cotta in Uptown Oakland

A Walking Tour with Riley Doty

Presented by Oakland Heritage Alliance

12:30 – 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12

Separate charge: \$10

The district around the Howden Building at 17th and Webster Streets abounds in buildings whose facades are surfaced with fired pottery. Enjoyment and appreciation of the medium is our primary objective. We will study the evolution in design and uses of terra cotta during its period of preeminence—1906 to 1931—including radical changes in the use of color. We will also address issues specific to the preservation and restoration of architectural ceramics. A level walk.

Riley Doty has been a tile setter for 30 years. He entered apprenticeship with the determination to understand and live up to the best traditions of the craft. His study of historic tilework led him to the Tile Heritage Foundation in 1988 within a few months of its founding; today he serves as a member of the board of directors and the Foundation's Secretary. Riley has systematically photographed a few thousand tile installations and has done both library research and oral interviews. He has tried to contribute to documentation and better understanding of past tilework - the art of tile design and the craft of tile manufacture and tiling. As a tiler, Riley has specialized in setting for public art installations, in working with handmade tiles, in removing antique tile installations for preservation and in restoring tilework in situ. He was a major contributor to *California Tile: The Golden Era 1910-1940*, published by Schiffer in 2004.

Tile Heritage Foundation Presents!

The Tile Heritage Foundation, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1987, is dedicated to promoting an awareness and appreciation of ceramic surfaces throughout the United States. The Foundation serves the need for a historic perspective regarding all ceramic surfacing materials, both past and present. In addition to aiding in the education of the public regarding the rich and varied history of tile, the organization has become a major voice in the preservation of existing installations of rare and unusual ceramic surfaces while enhancing the visibility of contemporary tile work as well.

Tile Heritage would like to acknowledge and thank Howden Building Investors and **LCB Associates, Oakland, California** for sponsoring this event. Special thanks as well to Doty Tile in Oakland and Tileshop in Berkeley for assisting us in preparations.

For additional information on any aspect of “Clay Expectations,” email foundation@tileheritage.org or call 707 431-8453.