

BRIEF HISTORY

Kamaka Pottery Estelle and Bruce Martin

Valentine Road, R D 5, Hastings

- 1925 Bruce born Levin, New Zealand
- 1930 Estelle born Edendale, Southland, New Zealand
- 1950 Married, Hastings.
- 1957 Started potting as a hobby
- 1963/4 Selected as exhibiting members of the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum
- 1964/5 Selected as exhibiting members of the New Zealand Society of Potters
- 1965/80 Attended workshops conducted by: Gwyn Hansen (Piggot); Shoji Hamada; Ivan McMekan; Alan Caiger-Smith; Harry Davis; Michael Cardew and Professors Y. Kondo and Zenji Miyashita.
- 1965 Formed partnership and became full-time potters.
- 1965/83 Made glazed domestic wares and floral containers fired in oil burning kilns.
- 1970 Moved to present lifestyle block in Hawke's Bay County.
- 1976/7 Bruce elected President New Zealand Society of Potters.
- 1976 Estelle chosen as selector for 19th. Annual Exhibition N.Z. Society Potters, Christchurch.
- 1977 Formed Hawke's Bay Association of Potters and Bruce elected 1st. President.
- 1978 First visit to Japan, three months exploratory journey to many potters workshops
First meeting with Mr. Sanyo Fujii and captivated with anagama fired pottery.
- 1979/81 Constructed Kamaka Anagama from information given by Mr. Fujii.
- 1982 May – First firing of our anagama kiln.
June – Estelle and Bruce held joint exhibition at the Gisborne Art Gallery.
July – Joint exhibition at Albany Village Pottery, Auckland.
September – Second trip to Japan to visit Mr. Fujii and learn more about firing anagama kilns.
- 1982/3 Fujii San came to New Zealand and lived and worked with us for seven months.
Given tuition in making traditional Tea Ceremony wares. He helped repair our kiln and showed us how to load and fire the Kamaka anagama.
- 1983 May – Second firing of Kamaka anagama.
- 1984 Joint exhibition with Fujii Sensei at the Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Osaka, Japan.
- 1986 Exhibition with N.Z. Society of Potters at the Richmond Gallery, Canada.
Bruce received Merit Award from the Fletcher Brownbuilt Pottery Awards.
- 1987 Bruce received Merit Award from the Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Awards.
- 1988 Estelle received Merit Award from Norsewear Art Awards.
- 1990 Had last firing of our large anagama kiln.
Estelle received Merit Award from the Norsewear Art Awards.
Bruce received Principal Award from the United/Suter Art Award.
Exhibition "The Final Firing" held at the Hawke's Bay Exhibition Centre, Hastings.
- 1991 Participated in "Ten Hawke's Bay Potters" Exhibition in Hastings. Short Video produced showing each of the ten potters.
Bruce had pot accepted in "Spirit of Clay" Touring Exhibition by Central Regional Arts Council.
- 1992 The "Ten Hawke's Bay Potters" exhibition sent to Guilin, China, for Cultural Exchange with Hastings' Sister City.
Exhibition of our work at the Potters Gallery, Wellington.
Built and fired very small anagama kiln.
- 1993 Bruce co-winner of the Glenfalloch Award at the Cleveland Art Awards, Dunedin.
Had second firing of the small anagama.
- 1994/5 Several more firings of the small anagama.

- 1995 Decided to stop potting and made a start on selling our pottery equipment. We have many special pots in our store-room from the nine firings of the large anagama for which we have to find homes.
Will keep the kilns intact to show visitors and those interested. We will keep the gallery open for pottery sales.
- 2001 Estelle died 10.7.01.
- 2002 Bruce invited to the 2002 International Wood fire Festival at Goshogawara, Aomori, Japan.
- 2004 Took weekend school in slab-building techniques for the Auckland Studio Potters.
- 2005 Retrospective Exhibition "Kamaka – The Ceramics of Bruce and Estelle Martin" held at the Exhibition Centre, Hastings. Curated by Peter Shaw, Auckland.
- 2006 February: Retrospective exhibition shown at the Tairāwhiti Museum, Gisborne.
September: Kamaka Retrospective shown at the Japanese Information and Cultural Centre (Japanese Embassy), Wellington opened by H.E. The Governor General, Anand Satyanand and the Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Masaki Saito.
October: Kamaka Exhibition shown at The Gus Fisher Gallery, Auckland. Opened by Peter Lange.
- 2007 March: Presentation of Plaque designating the house, kilns and gardens a Category One Historic Place. Presentation made by Hon. Michael Cullen with about fifty guests.
April: Private visit by H.E. Anand Satyanand and his wife, Susan to Kamaka Pottery.
May: Estelle and I were made Life Members of the N.Z. Society of Potters.
- 2008 Retrospective Exhibition held at the Brett McDowell Gallery, Dunedin.
Received invitation to attend International Ceramic Festival in Zibo, China.
Heritage Covenant placed on buildings, kilns and grounds of 64 Valentine Road, Hastings
- 2010 Took trip to Canada, America, United Kingdom and Japan visiting potters and friends in each country.
- 1012 Exhibition of "Pots From the Kamaka Collection" at the Black Barn Gallery, Havelock North.

SUMMARY OF EXHIBITION SUCCESSES

FLETCHER BROWNBUILT AND FLETCHER CHALLENGE CERAMIC AWARDS ACCEPTANCES

<u>Estelle</u>	<u>Bruce</u>
1986	1986 = Merit Award
1987	1987 = Merit Award
1988	1988
1991	1991
1992	
	1993
	1995
1996	1996
1997	

NORSEWEAR ART AWARDS

<u>Estelle</u>	1988 = Merit Award
	1990 = Merit Award

1990 United Group/Suter Art Gallery Awards

<u>Bruce</u>	Principal Award of \$5000
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1993 Cleveland Ceramic Award

COLLECTIONS

Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust
 Otago Museum, Dunedin
 Waikato Museum, Hamilton
 Robt. McDougal Art Gallery, Christchurch
 Auckland Institute and Museum
 Palmerston North Art Gallery
 New Zealand Department of Foreign Affairs
 Hastings City Council
 Rotorua City Council
 Private collections throughout New Zealand and in Japan, U.S.A., Canada,
 Great Britain, Germany, Singapore and China.
 Also pieces have been purchased by the Hastings City Council to give as gifts to
 Governors-General Porritt and Blundell on the occasions of their official visits.

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 P 19, 65, 187.
- 1994 "The Crane and the Kotuku"
 Dianne & Peter Beatson. Pub. Manawatu Art Gallery.
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- 1995 Ceramics Monthly, Vol.43, No.4, April 1995
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- "Contemporary Ceramic Art in Australia and New Zealand."
 Janet Mansfield. Pub. Craftsman House.
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- 2000 "Wood Fired Ceramics"
 Coll Minogue & Robt. Sanderson. Pub. G + B Arts International.
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- 2000 The Log Book, Issue 4, November 2000
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- 2003 The Log Book, Issue 13, 2003
 P21-22
- 2001 "Wood Firing, Journeys and Techniques.
 Collection of articles from Ceramics Monthly.
 P98-101
- 2005 "Kamaka, Then Ceramics of Bruce and Estelle Martin"
 Peter Shaw. Pub. Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.
- "New Zealand Listener" October 22-28 2005

Douglas Lloyd Jenkins. P50-51

- 2006 "40 Legends of New Zealand Design"
Douglas Lloyd Jenkins. Pub. Random House, New Zealand.
P97-100
- 2009 "Cone Ten Down"
Studio Pottery of New Zealand
Moyra Elliot and Damian Skinner