

## CONTEMPORARY & TRADITIONAL CERAMICS IN SOUTH EAST CHINA

6<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**GUANGZHOU: FOSHAN** (*Buddha Hill*) Ceramics have been produced here for a thousand years. **SHIWAN** is celebrated for its porcelain and ceramics. The Nanfeng Ancient Kiln contains two kilns from the early Ming dynasty (14<sup>th</sup> century) that are more than 30 metres long. Local ancestral temples are covered in sculptures produced in these workshops.

**YONGDING** The Hakka are a people who were driven south from the plains of the Yellow River by war in the late Tang and early Song dynasties. It is perhaps due to their past experiences of persecution, and to their presence in a new land (their official minority name is Kejia – which means 'guest people') that they adopted a fortress-like style of rammed earth buildings called *tulou*. Capable of housing several hundred people, these round or square buildings are constructed around a courtyard, containing their living quarters and a maze of storage sheds and public meeting rooms.



**DEHUA** 180 kiln sites have been discovered dating from Song to Qing dynasties, larger than any other site in Fujian province. In 1976 the kiln site at Qudougong was excavated and the six thousand specimens found there reveal that it began production in the late Song period and ended in the Yuan. These products were made for export, and over many years have been excavated at ancient sites in several Asian countries. Tong'an and Jinjiang / Nan'an were famous for their celadons and finely carved qingbai wares.



**WUYISHAN**, renowned for its Oolong tea, is one of the most scenic mist-shrouded, lush, sandstone mountains in south east China. Travelling by boat along the river, high up wedged in the sheer cliff face are boat shaped cedar coffins, dating back more than three thousand years.



*Jianyang oil spot*

**JIANYANG.** Jian wares are perhaps the most famous Temmoku wares. The glazes were high-fired (1250-1350 degrees centigrade) and contained about 5-9% iron oxides. The bodies are unusually iron-rich, averaging about 8%. A tea bowl, from the Song Dynasty, whose coarse dark stoneware body is covered with a thick lustrous black glaze showing 'hare's fur' streaks, illustrates how dissolved iron oxide in the black areas gives way to crystallized ferric oxide towards the rim. A Tang dynasty kiln site has revealed 'Yue' type greenwares.



**JINGDEZHEN** – Ceramics have been produced here since the Han dynasty and porcelain for more than a thousand years. The porcelain capital of China is known throughout the world not only for its blue and white wares but also for the beautiful ch'ing-pai (ying-ching) porcelains of the Song Dynasty. The kiln site and museum at Futian illustrate its long history. During our stay in Jingdezhen potters will demonstrate their skills not only in throwing, one of the high-lights of a previous visit was to watch two potters throwing together approx. 50 kilos of clay and assembling large porcelain vases in 5 / 6 sections, but also brush painting and enamels. We hope to visit visit the 60 metre dragon kiln at Tianbao as well as visit the local porcelain markets. Sadly many of the dragon kilns are rarely fired as the demand for their products diminishes.



*Calligraphy and painting workshops (all participants signatures at end of workshop) and raku firing at Sanbao 2011*