

Tania Babb

Tania Babb wins an Award at the International Orton Cone Competition Kansas USA

I had been aware of the Orton Cone competition for some years now, but as things happen, and life tends to toss one around in it's washing machine, I had never managed to get an entry in. This year however things were different. I managed to enter 2 sculptures to the competition.

The competition revolves around being able to fit a presentable piece of ceramic art into an Orton Cone Box, and since the work I have been doing lately has been small it was an ideal competition for me to enter. I carefully wrapped up a small porcelain "Adam and Eve" on granite and an "Lady on Elephant" on granite and posted them off (at great expense!) to the address on the entry form Betsy had faxed me and then carried on with my life.

A few weeks later, rather unceremoniously, I was informed via e-mail that my "Adam and Eve" had won one of the purchase awards on the show and that the "Lady on Elephant" had sold. I sat for a while at the computer, not terribly sure how prestigious this award was, not to what extent I should boast about it. I made some enquiries via the same e-mail contact and was told that I could boast to my hearts content. To plant another feather in my cap, the Professor of Art and Head of Department at Baker University ordered an "Adam and Eve" for her personal collection.

There were 650 international ceramists who entered the competition. 180 were selected for the show, and only 20 won awards one of which was mine! There were 3 international judges: One from Cuba, one from Japan and one from the USA.



Tania with "Adam and Eve"

What I can gather from here, so far from the scene of the action, is that the award means that the Orton Cone Show purchases your work and it travels around the States as part of a travelling exhibition for the duration of the year. (This year the exhibition is travelling to Australia too.) At the end of the year the work is donated to a ceramics collection, (of which, the 'Ceramics Monthly Collection' is one).