

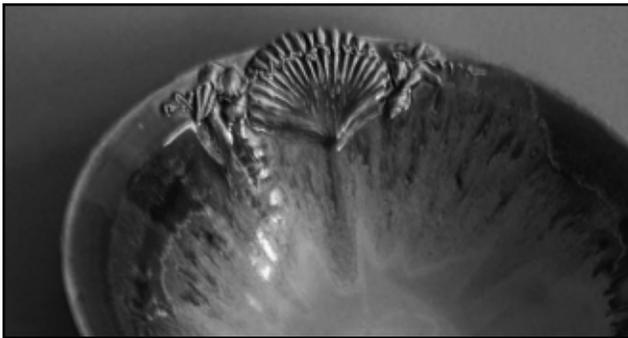
BRENDA PHILLIPS, CERAMICS &  
MEL GERST, PHOTOGRAPHY

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 5, 2011, 5:00 p.m.

Exhibit open through March 2

The Dolphin Gallery presents the pottery of Brenda Phillips and photography by Mel Gerst during February. There is an opening reception Saturday, February 5 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**About Brenda Phillips**



Functional pottery has been my passion for over 10 years. My formal training has been with Paul Stine of Manchester and many years with Kaye Like at Brandybuck. I took classes at Mendocino Art Center, a Sierra Nevada College summer class with Jeff Ostreich, a Grass Valley glaze workshop with Chic Lotz, and recently a San Diego workshop with Kristen Kieffer.

Throwing is my favorite part of working with clay. I use a wide variety of glazes, mixing my own from recipes, but tweaking them for my use. I'm experimenting with the firing schedule which makes a huge difference in the glaze. That's very exciting.

Making pieces of pottery that are for everyday use definitely makes me happy. Hopefully I'll be a potter for another 20 years.

**About Mel Gerst**

Mel Gerst acquired considerable experience using photography to obtain scientific data testing rocket engines. Later he founded two companies using his

photographic skills in commercial environments. Upon retirement in 2006, he finally had the time to pursue his interest in wildlife and nature photography. Now a full time resident of the North Coast, it's not surprising that most of his subjects are along our local coast.

His last company provided services in photography, graphic design, digital & offset printing performed in-house, including scanning and color separations. He continues the concept of total control by printing, matting and framing all his work in his home studio. He recently upgraded his printer to the Epson 9900 that uses 11 different inks, printing a very wide range of colors on paper or canvas up to 44 inches wide. Mel says that the materials he uses in printing and framing permit his photography to be enjoyed with no noticeable change in color for up to 200 years.



Besides his technical expertise, his work reflects his creative and artistic abilities. He has won several awards and many of his photographs are well know by their title . . . such as The Prayer, The Look, The Light,

The Strike and The Green Flash. He captures nature's activities at the most appropriate moment in time. Whether it's the distant sun or the lady bug up close, he lets you see it beyond the superficial. His greatest joy in photography is when a person walks up to one of his images and with a gasp exclaims, "Oh, my."