

STEVE CHELL, DECORATIVE MIRRORS & DEAN THOMPSON, DECORATIVE ART

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 2, 5:00 p.m.
Exhibit remains through February 27

The February 2013 exhibit at the Dolphin Gallery features mixed media artist Steve Chell and furniture artist, ceramicist and sculptor Dean Thompson.

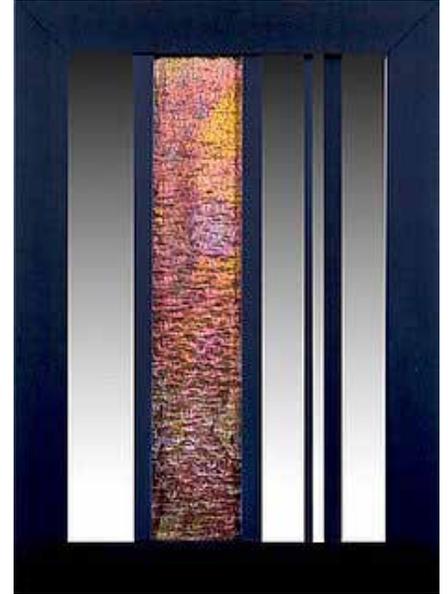
Dean Thompson's work combines ancient influences with modern forms fusing both the artistic and practical. This exhibit, titled *Dots, Pots, Thoughts, and Sculpture* reflects these values.

- The *Dots* are inspired by other cultures: Mexican "animales" figures decorated with vivid dots; "dreamtime" paintings of Australia's aborigine, patterns throughout the world from Scandinavian patterns.
- The *Pots* are hand-built slab construction vessels that are both sculptural and functional. He also makes clay masks that draw on ancient motifs. All his pieces are low-fired in an electric kiln.
- *Thoughts* refers to his hand-bound journals using papers from various sources such as Egypt, Peru, Guatemala and Southeast Asia. These he hand-sews into useful journals where one can record thoughts.
- The *Sculpture* are create by applying concrete to shaped armatures. The piece is either left in its natural state or painted.



His work has garnered a number of prizes, first at the 2004 Art in the Redwoods (AIR) sculpture category and most recently in the 2010 AIR show where he won first place in the collage/mixed media category.

This is the third time **Steve Chell** has exhibited his Mixed Media Mirrors at the Dolphin Gallery. His combination of mirror and strips of textured glass, flame-treated copper, digital photos, and exotic hardwoods have been popular here and in other northern California galleries.



Steve will present all new mirrors at this show. They typically range in size from 5"X5" to 2'X6' and have enhanced decors that are contemporary, Asian, craftsman or even traditional. Inspired by a chance encounter with an old mirror stuck away at the Furniture Mart in San Francisco, Chell began experimenting until he refined his mixed media vision and formed "Reflektions - Mixed Media Mirrors."

For 2013, Steve also will introduce a variety of his abstract photographs. His photos highlight fascinating shapes, colors and textures such as those found in the rusted metal of an iron gate, the light beamed through a fused glass vase, or the granular sand on a deserted beach.

Steve points his camera at places where we rarely look - the graffiti left on an abandoned railroad car, the ripples down a rock water fountain or the reflective ripples from a department store glass lamp base. He calls his work "painting a picture in pixels." He has named his photo work "abstraktions - the lens as a palette."

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