

## SUZAN KOHLIK – SARI API



Suzan Kohlik

Sari Api - the Essence of Fire. These words immediately ignite the imagination and arouse vibrant mental images. You may reflect on the Sun and its infinite and eternal flame, or perhaps the dynamic explosion of a spark, the initiate of all fire.

For ceramic artist Suzan Kohlik, fire is the ultimate element of the alchemical process that transforms raw materials into beautiful pieces of contemporary art. "Ceramics requires raw materials from the earth, the clay, water and minerals to create colors, and then finally they are all placed into the kiln to be fired. Sari Api is the perfect name for my ceramic creations. It is the omnipotent essence of the fire that creates the wonderful end results."

"I am passionate about making ceramics," says Suzan. "The creative process excites me and has done so ever since my first engagement with the medium. I instantly fell in love with the tactile organic experience and intuitively sensed it was to become a vital part of my life."

A graduate of the Centre Doret Ceramic Art School in Vevey, Switzerland, Suzan Kohlik was born in 1960 in Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A, then raised in Switzerland. She now calls the village of Bentuyung, 3 kilometers north of Ubud, home.

In 1996 Suzan founded Ubud's first ceramics studio, Sari Api. The beautiful open-air studio Sari is equipped with electric potting wheels, a gas-fired downdraft kiln and plenty of workspace. Located on Jalan Suweta, she offers ceramic classes and workshops for children and adults, as well as open studio time for experienced artists.

"My training was very thorough and academic. The processes to create ceramics are so varied that I never cease to be fascinated with this art form. School taught me the craft, yet not the art. After finishing school, I returned to the U.S.A and settled in California, there I began the self-explorative journey that revealed the artist within. I experimented for a decade within a co-operative studio in a San Francisco art community, this was a fantastic and inspiring experience."

"I love to sit down and work on the wheel without a preconceived idea. I allow spirit to channel through me, and then observe as the creation unfolds. I am proficient in creating the perfect form, what drives me now is to go beyond this, to deform that which is symmetrical perfect and bring a new dimension and life to the shape. It is wonderful to make something that is both functional as well as being fine art. Life is never dull, there is always a new form to explore and create."



Functional Ceramics by Suzan Kohlik

To find Suzan's new Sari Api Gallery, venture up Jalan Raya Sanggingan, past the Neka Museum and Dijon cafe, on the left hand side another 100 meters and you are there. Here you will discover her contemporary ceramics, dining sets, vases, platters, teapots and cups, everything from the functional to the ornamental from. Suzan utilizes brilliant glazes in an array of vibrant colors as well as earthy tones with textured finishes to enhance the tactile experience.

The showroom is flooded with natural light and the ambience is spacious and chic. Suzan's handmade works are displayed with loving care and the attention to acute lighting allows us to fully appreciate these beautiful works of fine art.

"Handmade ceramics is a tradition that is slowly being lost, therefore I believe it is important to be teaching and sharing my skills in the community. The sense of joy and self satisfaction I experience when I observe a child working on the wheel, totally enthralled in their experience is indeed heart warming, as well as a blessing."

For further details about ceramic classes, workshops or sales please call Suzan on 08124660919, or visit her website: [www.sariapi.com](http://www.sariapi.com)



