

Wood Fire of Jade Kiln Returns to Nature

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While creating pottery ware one who keeps the universe in mind will cultivate himself as well.

The beauty of wood fire is due to its primitive, plain and returning to nature. Chinese philosopher Chuang Tse (368-286 BC) wrote(Chuang Tse-Nature): “The very beauty is simplicity.”

Jade is held in mountains, and fire converts clay into treasures. The harmony of nature and human of happiness and careless generates useful ware. The ware carries law, and the law following the nature. Forgetting everything brings us to the nature.

Collecting firewood and water, being honest and happy, clearing away heart fire, accepting being stupid and being imperfect, following one's heart, are what an elegant and open-minded potter looking for.

Pottery ware consists of life and nature, heart and appearance, technique and feelings, spirit and material, function and feel, value and need, aesthetic and character, tradition and evolution, society and lives, nation and spirit, territory and culture, present and future……

Wood firing respects and reflects the oldest and unsophisticated pottery firing technique, the nature, and the very traditional and natural ways of livings.

With passion and dreams, overcoming numerous difficulties, we have building up our base of wood firing, our spiritual home, home to return to.



Base of Wood Firing of Jade Kiln

Base of Wood Firing of Jade Kiln was founded in 2011, which is the only wood kiln in Qingdao area. Located in the scenic spot Laoshan which is famous in its beautiful and peaceful landscape, covering 5000 square meters, the base is equipped with a wood kiln(down draft kiln),a gas kiln, an electric kiln, a Laku kiln, a studio of 200 square meters, showing rooms of 800 square meters, and other facilities.

The base was established by Mr. Xu Hongwei, Mr. Lv Zhuyu and Mr. Hu Xiaopeng. A famous entrepreneur, Mr. Xu Hongwei, investor of the wood kiln base, with true love to ceramics, devoted to building up an internationalized wood firing base.

Mr. Lv Zhuyu and Mr. Hu Xiaopeng, disciples of Master Li Ziyuan who is the Executive Chairman of International Ceramists Association are also disciples of Master Xu Chaoxing who is the Inheritor of “Longquan Celadon” which was named the world non-material cultural heritage.

The aim of the base: Inheriting the traditional technique of Longquan celadon and carrying forward Longquan celadon; Stressing international exchanges of ceramics through forum, workshop, etc.; Propagandizing and popularizing classical works of international ceramists created at the base through

“Special Column of Jade Kiln Ware of China Ceramics Pictorial”; Making Jade Kiln an important window of international exchanges of ceramics and making Laoshan well known for wood firing.



Base of Wood Firing of Jade Kiln

To accomplish the aims needs efforts of all concerns. The base is still in its early stage. Therefore more practices and accumulated experiences are necessary for it getting better. Wood preparing is very important for wood firing. Pine and fruitwood are ideal. Log need to be stacked for three years before cutting into small pieces which need another year drying. We prepare firewood every winter. The type, shape and sizes of firewood applied in Jade Kiln are not according to specifications properly, which in turn will influence firing results. Firing results are also influenced by degree of drying, size and shape of the firewood, types of trees, and even the mood of a kiln man while he is throwing firewood into kiln.



Fire in the wood kiln

Ware is generated by the combination of metal, wood, water, fire and earth, which are the elements the world consists of according to the ancient Chinese Theory of Five Elements. Metal is temperament, will, mental aura of the nature, mineral components of clay and glazes. Metal expresses righteousness, solemn and respectful, clean, self-restraining, resolute and steadfast of Human being. Metal presents appearance, will, knowledge and power. Wood is firewood, orderliness, right and wrong and vitality. Wood expresses benevolence, love, happy, gentle and reasonable of human being. Wood presents shape and type of the ware. Water is gasifying to cloud, and dropping as rain. “Metal generates Water, and Water generates Wood”. Nourishing everything, water is everywhere. Water means tolerating, permeating, moving, changing, following and spiritual. Water presents the function and wonder of the ware. Fire is energy, heat, rising, bright, pure, sincerity, and homage. “Wood generates Fire, and Fire generates Earth.” Fire expresses cautious, modesty, chastity, honour, lofty, modesty, straightforward, exciting, magnificent, clarity, light, glory, and bright. Different types of fire and different intensity of fire will generate ware of different colors and textures.

Earth is character, root, bearing, and accepting. Earth is neutral, the carrier of Metal, Wood, Water, and Fire. "Earth generates Metal."

Earth expresses calm, simple, honest and simple, quiet, useful, and self-discipline and social commitment. Earth presents quality, character of ware.

Wood firing is the most primitive means to transfer the basic elements of the universe, which are Metal, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth, into pottery ware which is a touchable universe in our hands.

We are accompanied by mountains and plains, accepting baptism of kiln fire together with potteries. Wood firing of Jade Kiln manifests the most sincere dialog between human and the nature. We would like to share the beauty of wood firing with our friends.