

THE REDUCTIONISTS

A
MANIFESTO



NOTICE

Due to the natural variations of clay and minerals which limit our control, and the variety of applications for our pieces over which we have no control, our pieces are sold with the understanding that the user is solely responsible for determining suitability for any purpose. Therefore, our maximum liability shall be limited. No guarantee is expressed or implied regarding consistency or viability of our pieces. Nor will we be responsible.

THE REDUCTIONISTS

Cover Photo: Joseph Tanous wearing one of the original lab coats from the TB-9 Screen Run

**THE
REDUCTIONISTS**

A
MANIFESTO

List of Items Guaranteed Within

General Historical.....	4-5
How we think (sometimes...)	6
Job (ours?).....	7
Life Items.....	8
Things to Remember.....	9
Recipes	
Copper Red.....	10
Reduction Notes.....	10a
Shrimp.....	11
Reduce.....	11a
Closing.....	12
Signature Box	

General Historical

THE REDUCTIONISTS

Los Angeles 1925

A small co-op of art potters began experimenting with a style of firing called Reduction. This technique called for a reduction of oxygen in the kiln creating an atmosphere starving for oxygen and creating free carbons and carbon monoxide. The fire steals oxygen from the clay and glazes leaving behind carbon and creating an alchemy that produces beautiful finishes.

As the ware became more popular, these ceramists started calling themselves "The Reductionists." Soon they were a social club, a salon that met to discuss firing and concepts in clay. They cared only that the piece was visually appealing and less and less about functionality.

It became an approach to clay going beyond Reduction firing and grew to be a school of thought, a philosophy. Over the next decades many members moved through the Reductionists' acquiring technique and approach, then moved on. This society was very open in a closed way and very closed in an open way. Never denying membership but never recruiting. Members moved from co-ops to workshops to studios, colleges and universities.

We are privileged to have a member of the second wave in our community. So please enjoy the work and share. And like the kilns glowing orange in the night, we will leave you . . . gasping for breath.

The Reductionists

State of Mind

THE REDUCTIONISTS

It is not merely a term in the strict context of "reduction ceramic firing." It's when "cone 10" is not a Girl Scout troop in line at Baskin Robbins. Distilling down to what's important and interesting. It's thinking in a new way. It's putting together the same pieces differently. Taking properties of the clay and infusing them with a "smart" mind set. When Robert Arneson, looking at a freshly thrown pot, said to my Dad, "Now do something with it, Joe." That sums it up. Clay is Clay is Clay. Yes, there are variations and formulas but what you do with it, that is what is important. We all make pots, bowls, bottles and mugs. NOW do something with it! As Ezra Pound said "make it new." Add to your work a "push of the mind." So lay on your back, stick a candle on your forehead and get to work. And by the way . . .

We are not Responsible

The Job?

We are only responsible
for making the work.
And that is to observe
and absorb, then push
that into, and through,
our mediums. Keep it
honest, fun and smart.

It's a job.

Life Items

1) Cocktails: Yes

clean ice and glasses
fresh garnishes
coasters

2) Vaginas: Yes

most of us are fans
some of us have them
some are both

3) Smoking: No

not any more
just the kilns

Some Things to Remember

- 1) Elizabeth Taylor is a
"functioning voluptuary."
Paul Newman
- 2) Use your mind to create new
thoughts; use paper to remember
the old thoughts.
- 3) The significant problems we face
cannot be solved at the same level
of thinking we were at when we
created them.
A. Einstein
- 4) Jennifer is not always right, but
she is rarely wrong.
- 5) Between Bob Dylan, The Stones,
The Beatles and Beethoven, you
almost have enough music for a
desert island stay.
- 6) You can and should do more!
- 7) Given a choice, make it water.

Copper Red

Custer Feldspar	7300 grams
Gerstley Bortate	1000 grams
Whiting	1200 grams
Silica	500 grams
Copper Carb	30 grams
Tin Oxide	100 grams

How to Reduce a Kiln: Shut off the air. Kick up the Gas. Slam the damper down, spitting pumpkin flame out of her lid. 8 inches of torch out of her peeps. One hot box of angry smoking orange.

Shrimp

Stock, butter and beer
red pepper
black pepper
white pepper
thyme
Shell-on-tail raw shrimp
fresh garlic
Worcestershire

Reducing in the Kitchen: Cooking down a liquid to remove excess moisture, causing a concentration of flavors and aroma. To intensify. To simplify.

Closing

Let it be said . . . that which came before was first. We are the sum of our Experiences. Let it be the music to which we dance. So as you create your memories and send them out into the world, remember to shape them well for they are what is left behind, more than a footprint in the sand.

A Mark in Time

I am a Revolutionary
So my son can be a farmer
So his son can be an artist.

Jefferson

THE REDUCTIONISTS



**find your future
in their past**



*For this to be an official copy,
the box above must contain an
original, recognized signature.*

An Urban Legend
by Ceramist Mark Tanous
tanousceramics@aol.com

Then	Now
25¢	\$4.99