



FALL COLORS

Add beauty and buzz to the garden with fall-blooming natives.

GARDENING

SILK SENSATIONS

A fashion boutique of fabrics and furnishings opens on the Mag Mile.

WHAT'S IN STORE

LIGHTS FANTASTIC

See which task lamps light up our lives.

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

DIARY OF A DIY DAREDEVIL — PART 3

In good hands

A master ceramist shares wisdom, power and philosophy with our potter wannabe



By Mary Daniels | Tribune staff reporter

So many artists in the past 10 years have used the teapot as a canvas for every sort of inventive interpretation. How and why this common household item has morphed into an art object has always intrigued me.

So when I learned a workshop on the teapot form with a premier potter named Fong Choo was offered at the Evanston Art Center, I could not sign up fast enough.

I knew that in 2003 Choo had partici-

pated in the 14th Annual Teapot Show at Chiaroscuro Galleries, the annual show of artisan-made teapots, from funky to fabulous, organized by Joan Houlehan of A. Houberbocken Inc. in Milwaukee. I called Houlehan, who told me Choo "was the stealth bomber of teapot artists. ... Learn from the best and get the most out of it."

Choo is a force, both professionally and personally. He is renowned internationally for his miniature teapots reminiscent of the Yixing (yee shing) style of pottery that dates to the 14th Century — some scholars say even earlier. However, he makes the teapots very much his own with jewel-

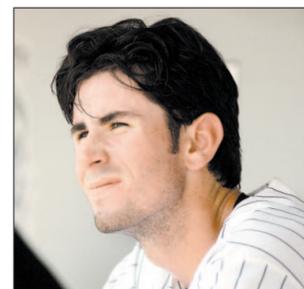
like glazes and exquisite, sensual shapes. Speaking of his interpretation of the mini-teapots and why he does them, he says, "So much presence in that scale. I use my skills to scale these pieces down." Some are no bigger than a hen's egg.

It sounds, even to me now, presumptuous to try my hand at it. But I was curious how an artful teapot is made. Or even an ordinary one. How do all the parts of a teapot — lid, spout, handle, feet and even lugs (where cane handles are attached) — come together to make something useful?

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Tribune photo by Bill Hogan

Reporter (and novice potter) Mary Daniels joined a workshop taught by the renowned teapot-maker Fong Choo at the Evanston Art Center. What did she take home? This hand-friendly, organic teacup, insights into teapot-making and pride.



White Sox Brandon McCarthy

SNOOP PATROL

What pitcher doesn't want guests to see: It's not his teddy bear

By Nina Metz
Special to the Tribune

This year, White Sox right-hander Brandon McCarthy has been pitching out of the bullpen, but next season, chances are good he'll move back into a starting role.

Luckily, it might be the only move the 23-year-old Glendale, Calif., native has to contend with. He settled into a three-bedroom Lincoln Park condominium this season and he plans to stay there for the foreseeable future.

"In the off-season, I've kind of bounced around in California and the Phoenix area," he says. "I think this year it's going to be here [in Chicago] all year." The condo, located in a four-story building, "is older but it's been refurbished. It's really new inside. Right now, I'm kind of leasing it from a friend, and then I'm going to buy it at the end of the season."

As for the trappings inside, he says, "The person I'm leasing it from had it decorated, and it's all pretty modern stuff. It's simple but nice. And if I end up buying it, I might try to keep it mostly the same. Nice stuff, but simple, not too cluttered. Along those lines."

McCarthy lives alone, although center fielder and fellow rookie Brian Anderson will crash at his place "when he's lazy and doesn't feel like going home. He stays there usually a couple nights a week." Friendship, however, has its limits. "I need a dog."

1 One thing on your nightstand:
If I'm asleep, my cell phone because it's my alarm, and I have to have an alarm.

2 One thing on a wall in your living room: The TV. Forty-something inches. Always got to have the TV in the living room to watch movies and play video games.

3 One thing you have in your house from your childhood:
I'm gonna catch hell for this again, but I've had a teddy bear since I was born that I still have with me. It's in my bedroom. No, it's not on my bed. He's in good shape, not missing any eyes or anything. It's been with me everywhere I've been. Also, I have Superman stuff from when I was a kid.

4 Three condiments we would find in your refrigerator:
Ketchup, mayonnaise and barbecue sauce probably — but that would not be current, because I don't have anything in my fridge right now. If I had things in my fridge, it would be that.

5 Three things we would find in your medicine cabinet:
Probably hair products, cologne and deodorant.

6 Do your dirty dishes go in the sink or dishwasher? Sink, and then they get washed in the dishwasher and then they don't get put in the cabinet — they just get used out of the dishwasher and then back in the sink after I use them. They never actually see the cabinet.

PLEASE SEE SNOOP, PAGE 7

What's under the bed of Buckwheat Zydeco leader Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural Jr.? Don't ask. Snoop in on him and read other previous Snoop reports at chicagotribune.com/snoop.