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NCECA²⁰¹⁹



Northern Clay Center staff doesn't have to travel far to participate in the 53rd annual conference, held by the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), March 26 - 30, 2019. The great city of Minneapolis is hosting the upcoming conference and NCC staff, board, and what will be an army of volunteers, couldn't be more thrilled at the less than 3 mile commute!

An anticipated 6000+ lovers of all things clay will gather at the Minneapolis Conference Center for the 2019 conference. Over 140 offsite exhibitions (at over 80 venues throughout Minneapolis, St. Paul, and surrounding suburbs), panels, artist demonstrations, discussions, networking, and professional development will be included. There is something for every level of maker, collector, and educator.

During the four-day conference, the theme for which is *Claytopia*, NCC will share and sell the work of local, sales gallery, grant recipient, and 2019 *American Pottery Festival* artists in the NCECA Gallery Expo area within the conference site, which is free to the public. We will also represent the work

of a few long-time favorites for a total roster of over 45 artists. Please note, the Gallery Expo space in the conference opens to the public on Wednesday, March 27, with a special preview showing for the NCECA Collectors on the evening of Tuesday, March 26.

With NCECA in our own backyard, NCC will once again staff a table in NCECA's Resource Hall to promote our services for emerging and mid-career artists, including grant and residency opportunities, MN NICE, and our studio program. It's the perfect opportunity to ask your questions, meet NCC staff, and receive valuable information about numerous opportunities for artists. And, back at 2424 Franklin Avenue East, we'll be hosting five ceramic exhibitions, as well as our regularly fantastic sales gallery. Out in the community, we are working to support five additional exhibitions summarized on the following pages.

If you are interested in supporting the Clay Center's NCECA-centric efforts, we'll have myriad volunteer opportunities available. Send your contact info and your area of interest to nccinfo@northernclaycenter.org with "NCECA volunteering" in the subject line and we'll be in touch!



In Service: Engaging and Connecting through Clay



Northern Clay Center
in Gallery M

NCECA Reception:
Thursday, March 28, 5 - 9 pm

Curated by Ursula Hargens
On View March 8 - April 28, 2019

Warren MacKenzie, 2011. NCC out in the community at Seward Tower West, at which time our translator Ismail works with a community member on the creation of his mug. *Democratic Cup*, artists from left to right, Julie Van Grol (Illustrator) and Peter Jadoonath (Form Maker), Kim Bogeman (Illustrator) and Elizabeth Pechacek (Form Maker), Ann Ryan (Illustrator) and Linda Christianson (Form Maker), Jaime Anderson (Illustrator) and Brett Freund (Form Maker).

In Service: Engaging and Connecting through Clay will underscore a growing trend in the craft field: creating opportunities for social engagement through the process of making. We'll highlight artists committed to creating meaningful community dialogues and will include ceramic work made by those sitting at the table as well as those who benefit from this outreach. We've pursued a new iteration of the *Democratic Cup: Land of 10,000 Stories*, in collaboration with Ayumi Horie and enabled by Nick Moen of the Bright Angle. NCC has enabled community conversations across the state of Minnesota, led by clay ambassadors. Conversations were sparked by custom ceramic cups, designed by four Minnesota potters, and illustrated with decal prompts that highlight current issues facing Minnesotans. Our ambassadors included ceramic artists Nathan Bray, Bill Gossman, Juliane Shibata, and Lisa Truax. During the exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to connect with others in the exhibition space over coffee and pie.

NCC's own 20+ year history of engaging community through clay under its *ClayToGo* program will be highlighted. The creative results of our multi-year collaborative outreach with the immigrant communities that have settled in the neighborhoods surrounding NCC will receive special attention. Additionally, we'll celebrate the efforts of an international organization, Potters for Peace, and their implementation of The Water Filter Project in 35 countries, which provides clean drinking water through simple ceramic technology. We'll shine light on our local community,

Powderhorn Potters, and their annual Empty Bowls initiative, which has raised over a quarter of a million dollars to date. We'll honor the late Warren MacKenzie, and his philosophy of pots for the people. Finally, we'll bring Jeff Schmuki to the Midwest for an installation of portable hydroponic community gardens, using a recycled ceramic substrate.

In conjunction with this exhibition, Schmuki will be on site during winter quarter to install a hydroponic garden and a custom ball mill, which will tumble bisqued earthenware (waste from our community classroom program) into growth medium for gardens. Visitors in the exhibition are invited to take growth medium home to their own gardens while the greens grown in the gallery during the exhibition will be harvested to share with our Seward neighbors over lunch. Stop by the exhibition gallery, Tuesday or Wednesday, March 5 or 6, between 10 am and 4 pm to see the artist at work.

19WX18: Thursday, March 7, at 6 pm
Schmuki will present a public lecture about his entire body of work, which includes an amazing array of ceramics, interventions, plants, and robotics.



Trading Post: Exchange and Sojourn

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Northern Clay Center
in the Emily Galusha Gallery

NCECA Reception:
Thursday, March 28, 5 - 9 pm

Curated by Chotsani Elaine Dean
On View March 8 - April 28, 2019

What is a trading post? As defined in the Cambridge English dictionary, a trading post is “a small place, especially in the past, far from other places in which people live, where goods can be bought and sold or exchanged.” However, the idea of a trading post is not limited to the aforementioned definition. In Hartford, Connecticut, the Dutch established a trading post in early 17th century America. Colonial America had various kinds of trading posts, some well documented that remain today, and others that were temporal, vaguely remembered, or sadly forgotten. The many Dutch trading posts and the Dutch participation in the transatlantic slave trade and the abolitionist movement are significant to the communal ancestry of the curator, Chotsani Elaine Dean, who is African-American, raised in New England, and now residing in the South. Her reality has provoked many divergent feelings, experiences, and inquiries. This exhibition reflects Dean’s desire to establish a trading post with artists who are important in her life. In this show, five artists share their history and studio practice through written correspondence, resulting in a visual experience that shares insights from their discussion of value, preservation of experience, and response to the material. Participants include: Monica Bock, Undine Brod, Chotsani Elaine Dean, Jill Foote-Hutton, and Dawn Holder.

Left: Monica Bock, *Undertow*, 2013, glazed porcelain.

northern clay center

2424 Franklin Avenue East
Minneapolis, MN 55406

T: 612.339.8007

F: 612.339.0592

E: nccinfo@northernclaycenter.org

I: www.northernclaycenter.org



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