

NCECA – National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts
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NCECA 2009 announces 43rd annual conference April 8-11, 2009

Phoenix, Ariz. – The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is pleased to announce its 43rd annual conference, *CERAMIC INTERFACE: From Dawn to Digital*, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz., April 8-11, 2009.

The conference is expected to attract 5,000 attendees, including ceramic artists, manufacturers, gallery owners, historians, professors and students, from more than 20 countries. An array of world-class experts in the ceramics field will present a full lineup of panels and lectures, and participants will enjoy demonstrations, student forums for all education levels and special screenings of videos about ceramic art. There will also be major displays of the latest ceramics equipment, technology and publications, and many educational institutions and non-profit organizations will share information on their ceramic programs.

The conference theme, *From Dawn to Digital*, includes a wide spectrum of ceramic activity by many cultures. Peter Held, curator of ceramics at the Arizona State University Art Museum Ceramics Research Center states, "With each successive generation, emerging artists have forged a new voice within the ceramic idiom. Borrowing freely from different times and cultures, incorporating new technologies, materials and disciplines, they continue to expand the art's potential. Given the rich artistic traditions of native cultures of the Southwest, coupled with leading edge art programs that many of the area's educational institutions offer, this conference reflects a true sense of our region."

Notable events scheduled for the 2009 conference include the keynote address by *New York Times* art critic Roberta Smith; Distinguished Lecture featuring Nora Naranjo Morse, Santa Clara sculptor and poet; performance by Dancing Earth, which gathers the nation's finest Native dance artists; and demonstrations of techniques by noted artists including David East, Irma Starr, Tara Wilson and Takeshi Yasuda.

In conjunction with the conference, NCECA annually sponsors two major exhibitions of contemporary art: the NCECA Biennial and the Regional Student Juried Exhibition. For the 2009 Biennial, jurors selected 55 works by 51 artists from the more than 1,500 submissions. Arizona State University Art Museum Ceramics Research Center in Tempe, Ariz., will host the Biennial from Mar. 22 to May 30, 2009. The 2009 Regional Student Juried Exhibition showcases the most accomplished undergraduate and graduate ceramic artists from eight states in the mountain, west and southwest regions. This exhibition will be at the Tempe Center for the Arts in Tempe, Ariz., from Jan. 24 to April 11, 2009.

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More than 75 additional exhibitions are planned throughout the Greater Phoenix area during the time of the NCECA conference. Other exhibitions include "Potters on Paper," an exhibition of prints created by artists known primarily for their work in clay, and "Titans: Robert Arneson & Viola Frey," both at Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, Ariz., and "Mothers and Daughters: Stories in Clay" by seven artists from the Naranjo family, exhibiting at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Ariz. "The One of Many/The Many of One," sculpture and installation work by notable ceramic artists Eva Kwong, Candy Depew, and Bean Finneran will be at SoCa Gallery/Vircille, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Details of the conference program schedule, membership and registration information, can be obtained from the NCECA Web site at www.nceca.net. Further information on the conference program can be obtained from Program Director, Joe Molinaro, at 859-576-3544. Press credentials are available from the conference manager, Dori Nielsen, at 866-266-2322, through March 20, 2009.

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is a not-for-profit 501c3 educational organization. Its purpose is to promote and improve the ceramic arts through education, research and creative practice. NCECA offers a wide range of programs, exhibitions and publications focused exclusively on the needs and interests of its membership, which includes ceramic artists, educators, students and patrons.