

NCECA PRE/POST CONFERENCE EVENTS (1.24.08)

Fireborn Studio

Steven Hill Workshop

Making Functional Stoneware and the Single-Firing Process

What makes a pot functional? How can pottery transcend mere function, while still honoring its intended use? In this one-day workshop, Steven Hill will throw and alter pots and work with slip, all the while communicating his enthusiasm for functional stoneware and single firing. He will also do a slide presentation. Steven considers form the most important single aspect of his pottery, paying particular attention to rims, feet, lids, spouts, and handles. Discussions will cover philosophy, design, technique, and the business of making a living in clay. Daniel Vito and Fireborn Studios are pleased to present this one-day workshop on the eve of the 2008 NCECA conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The workshop is from 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Coffee and bagels will be served between 8:15 and 8:45 a.m. There will be a 30-minute lunch break with Chinese food provided. Workshop fee including food is \$100. Space is limited so sign up early. Fireborn Studios is three miles from the downtown convention center where NCECA will be held. For more information or to sign up, go to www.fireborn.com. The Craftsmen's Guild of Pittsburgh sponsors this workshop, in part.

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

Cross-Cultural Collaboration

Ikebana and Clay course led by Jamie Matthews and Pittsburgh region Ikebana artists. Tuition: \$60; Materials/Lab Fee: \$50. ACT 48 Credit hours available to Pittsburgh area educators. Learn about the art of Japanese flower arranging and its special relationship with ceramic aesthetics. Demonstrations will include flower arranging, wheel throwing and slab-building processes. Selected objects from this workshop may be included in an exhibition held during the NCECA conference. Tuesdays, January 8-29, 6:00-9:00p.m.

A Feast for the Eyes: Ceramics and food presentation

Course led by Jamie Matthews and Pittsburgh region Japanese culture practioners. Tuition: \$60; Materials/Lab Fee: \$50. ACT 48 Credit hours available to Pittsburgh area educators. The greatest dining experiences are not just about what we can smell and taste, they also involve, touch, sight and sound. See how ceramics can influence the sensory experiences we associate with food and make some pieces you can use in your own home. Demonstrations will include food presentation, slab building and wheel throwing. Tuesdays, February 5-26, 6:00-9:00p.m.

Residency with Japanese Artists Hiromu and Mieko Okuda

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild is excited to host a month-long residency with accomplished contemporary Japanese ceramicists, Hiromu and Mieko Okuda from Shigaraki. Innovating new ceramic expressions out of a multi-generational lineage of masterful tradition, Hiromu Okuda creates domestic wares as well as large-scale installations that incorporate clay with steel and wood. Mieko decorates her pieces with expressive brush strokes inspired by nature. The Okuda residency will offer workshop opportunities to educators, students, community members and teaching artists from the Pittsburgh region.

MCG Ceramics Studio Dedication

Join Manchester Craftsmen's Guild founder, Bill Strickland, and NCECA board representatives in commemorating the MCG Ceramics Studio to artist and mentor, Frank Ross. This exceptional evening will be full of music, friends, light food and a celebration of ceramic arts including a preview of the "Table of Elements" exhibition featuring the work of over 100 leading regional and national ceramicists. March 18, 5:30-8:00p.m. \$35/ticket (advanced sales), \$25/student (must supply ID), \$45 (at the door).

For additional information or to register for the above four events, contact Brittany Cotrella, bcotrella@mcg-btc.org, Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233, 412-322-1773.

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

Zoomorphic Volumes

Join Bernadette Curran and share her playful approach to clay by transforming simple pottery shapes in zoomorphic forms and their humble abodes. From quick gesture drawings on paper to more imposing alterations of pots thrown fresh off the wheel, the spontaneity will allow for both functional and sculptural solutions. Emphasis will be on techniques such as cutting and folding, bottomless cylinders, and pushing the clay from the inside out. Historical and contemporary examples of animal pots will be referenced in daily slide lectures and group discussions. Bernadette will also discuss how her love for drawing into the clay is enhanced by slip, terra-sig, and the glazed surface.

Bernadette Curran, a studio artist and educator in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, received her BFA from Pennsylvania State University and completed an MFA in Ceramics at The Ohio State University. She has received artist-in-residence fellowships from Baltimore Clayworks, Chester Springs Studio, and the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works. Her work has been exhibited in many juried and invitational shows throughout the country. Bernadette is currently teaching drawing and ceramic classes in the Philadelphia area and enjoys traveling to present visiting artists workshops. March 17 and 18, 9:30a.m.-4:30p.m. CES 501, Ceramics Studio, Scaife Building. \$260 members, \$285 non-members.

Painting with Smoke – Three Visions

Kate Jacobson, Will Jacobson, David Roberts and Eduardo Lazo.

March 19, 12:00 – 5:00pm.

\$175 members, \$200 non-members.

Explore several different approaches to carbon-stenciled raku.

“Painting With Smoke” explores several different approaches to carbon-stenciled raku. Kate and Will Jacobson, studio potters from Hawaii, create a harmonious substance of form, line and color. Their technique, Naked Raku, exposes the unadorned, earthly beauty of clay and they will share stories and processes derived from their thirty-year collaboration.

In addition, the distinguished English ceramicist, David Roberts will be on hand to teach his approach to smoke-marking and deep carbonization. David's work is strongly evocative of the contours and stratification of stone and landscapes. Mr. Roberts is well known and highly respected throughout Europe and this demonstration will kick-off his first American tour.

Also participating will be the mastermind of the “Painting With Smoke” NCECA panel, Eduardo Lazo. This San Francisco artist strives to elevate the ordinary, to exploit perfect imperfection, and joyfully acknowledge the creative process. His West Coast workshops are in high demand by both amateur and professional potters.

Hand Made Brushes and Painting on Clay

Glenn Grishkoff.

March 22 and 23, 9:30am – 4:30pm.

\$260 members, \$285 non-members.

Lectures, demonstrations and your-hands-on.

Create your own hand made brushes and put them to immediate use in this exciting new workshop that will combine lectures, demonstrations and hands-on creativity. Explore brush making techniques from Japan, the West and techniques developed during the exploration of the hand made brush both as a work of art and a functional tool. Use deer, horse, moose and cat hair to create individual brushes in bamboo. On day two, put your brushes to work, painting on a variety of clay surfaces. Also explore using

hand made brushes on clay surfaces to create one-of-a-kind clay pigmented monoprints. Wheelthrowing and hand building demonstrations will also demonstrate the functional uses of these unique tools.

Glenn Grishkoff has taught workshops for thirteen years at museums, schools and art centers. He's gained a tremendous amount of pleasure both meeting new creative spirits and sharing his love for teaching and sharing his artistic knowledge with others. Recent awards include first place (sharing) for the 2005 American Bamboo Society Annual Craft Award, and jurors award for best in show in sculpture for Art Equinox 2003: A Regional Survey of Contemporary Art (Great Fall, MT). Glenn has developed a national and international reputation as a brush maker and ceramic artist. His sculpture brush-like forms are functional works of art using deer hair, horse hair and other natural materials. For more information, please visit: <http://www.grishkoffstudios.com/artistinfo/main.html>

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts: Raku Pavilion Dedication

March 20, 2008, 7:00p.m. Join honored guest, Paul Soldner, pioneer of the American Raku technique, in dedicating the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts new Raku pavilion.

For further information on the above events at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, contact Joshua Jason Andra, Director of Studio Arts Programs, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, 1047 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232, 412-361-0455, www.pittsburgharts.org.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

NCECA Pre-Conference Workshops

While you're in town for NCECA, why not take an extra day or two to get some hands-on experience in working with glass? Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC) is a state-of-the-art public access glass studio and gallery dedicated to teaching, creating, and promoting glass artists. Once you've had a taste of what this amazing facility has to offer, we hope you'll be hooked and want to return for one of our future summer intensive classes. Depending on your schedule, choose from one, two, or three-day workshops in PGC's Hot Shop, Flameworking Studio, or Casting Studio.

Hot Glass NCECA Blowout

Price: \$275

If you're a clay artist who's been dying to blow glass but hasn't had time or access to a glass studio, this two-day workshop is for you. What better way to kick-off the 2007 NCECA conference than by spending two cool days in Pittsburgh Glass Center's Hot Shop? Join us for this intensive, fun-filled class in which you will learn how to gather, shape, and blow hot glass. The class will start with the basic paperweight and quickly progress to simple blown forms. Special consideration will be given to your ideas and questions related to your own artwork and how you might begin to incorporate glass. But don't say we didn't warn you, hot glass is addictive and you may find yourself begging for more by the end of the workshop. March 18 and 19, 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Fusion! Clay and Glass Beads

Price: \$245

Beads have a rich social and cultural significance beyond personal adornment. The bead form has been used all over the world for thousands of years, from planting beads with crops in hopes of a plentiful harvest, exchange of beads as part of a marriage ceremony, prayer beads, to burying beads with the dead. Join Chicago artist Amy Lemaire (www.amylemaire.com) for a three-day bead making workshop in PGC's flameworking studio to learn Lemaire's innovative method for fusing clay and glass. Lemaire became interested in bonding clay and glass after noting that in flameworking, a clay slip (otherwise known as the bead release) is used to free glass beads from the steel rod on which they've been shaped. Lemaire's curiosity was peaked. If the glass would adhere to the slip, she wondered, why wouldn't it stick to clay? Through experimentation with various techniques and materials, Lemaire eventually found that it did. Since students' clay beads will need to be glazed and fired to maturity before any lampworking embellishment can be added, this workshop will include shaping the clay on Monday, glazing beads on Tuesday, and finally applying the glass decoration on Wednesday. You will be able to take your finished beads home at the end of the NCECA conference. March 17, 18, and 19, 10:00a.m.-

4:00p.m.

Collective Impressions, Visual Poetry Price: \$250

Join Michael Rogers and Rick Hirsch (whose work is featured in PGC's current exhibition "Recollection") for a two-day workshop where participants will make sand cast glass tiles concentrating on color application, surface texture and impressions from favorite collected objects. The goal is to find a personal approach to creativity while exploring the luminous translucency and transparency of glass surfaces. Participants will collect objects that appeal to them intuitively before the workshop begins and will bring these objects with them to class. We will then make impressions from these collected objects into a sand mold forming a relief on a two-dimensional surface. Before ladling molten glass into the molds colored glass powder can be sifted in to create painterly effects. On the second day students will use the cold shop to engrave and etch additional images into their glass tile. Create a visual poem from your collection. March 17 and 18, 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Intro to Fusing and Slumping Glass Price: \$200

If you're intrigued by how glass is fused into colorful flat glass patterns, come and learn the basics. You will learn to cut glass and fuse the pieces into objects to take home with you as you gain a basic knowledge of the fusing process including the use of kilns to heat glass to its melting point. No experience is required and all materials are provided. March 18 and 19, 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m.

To register for any of these workshops at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, call Sam Laffey at 412.365.2145 x208 or email saml@pittsburghglasscenter.org for more information.

The Society for Contemporary Crafts

The Society for Contemporary Crafts is developing a workshop related to the NCECA National exhibition, "Voices." This one day workshop will focus on working with clay as a methodology for creative process and narrative. It is anticipated that the workshop will include three of the invited artists.

VOICES

A Workshop with Russell Biles, Matt Nolen, Sunkoo Yuh

March 19, 10:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Focusing on the narrative thread in contemporary ceramics the 2008 NCECA Invitational Exhibition highlights the work of 24 ceramic artists who express themselves in a narrative form through the creation of vessels, sculptures and installation artwork. Join participating artists Russell Biles, Matt Nolen and Sunkoo Yuh for a one-day workshop as they share their many techniques and their narrative stories evolving from mythology, personal relationships, political commentary and social realm, gender, identity and family. Bringing extremely different perspectives to this workshop, the artists will demonstrate and discuss process, hand-building techniques as well as firing and glazing. Each will share slides of their work and discuss their individual and unique perspectives. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to watch, learn and dialogue with these creative masters and preview this exciting exhibition. The workshop will be held at the Society for Contemporary Craft a short walk from the Convention Center. Tuition: \$100 (box lunch included). To reserve your space, call The Studio at 412.261.7003 x25. Limited Space Available!

Touchstone Center for Crafts, Farmington, Pennsylvania

Touchstone Center for the Crafts, a residential art and craft school located just an hour and a half away (about 60 mile southeast) from Pittsburgh, will be hosting a pre-conference wood fire workshop with instructors Kevin Crowe and Jack Troy. This workshop will involve the firing of Touchstone's two-chamber noborigama kiln. Participants in this workshop must bring bisqueware to Touchstone on March 16, 2008 prior to the NECEA Conference. Check in will be at 12:00 pm. The work will then be glazed and loaded into the kiln. Participants will fire the kiln on Monday and Tuesday and the kiln will be cooling

during the NCECA Conference. On March 22, the kiln will be unloaded at 2:00 pm and the work evaluated. The drive time from the Convention Center to Touchstone is approximately 1.5 hours. Tuition for this workshop is \$360 per person. Lodging is available on the Touchstone campus in our dormitories for \$120 per person, and a meal package is available for an additional cost of \$70 per person. Dates for workshop: March 16-18 and 22, 2008. Contact Collette Ridgeway, Operations Director Touchstone Center for Crafts, 1049 Wharton Furnace Road, Farmington, PA 15437, 724-329-1370 fax 724-329-1371, tcc@touchstonecrafts.com, www.touchstonecrafts.com.

The Union Project and Laurelville Camp Center

Wood Fire Kiln Building Workshop

Participants will build a single chamber "makigama" wood fired kiln on the campus of Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (LMCC). A long sprung arch kiln that fires much like an anagama, this kiln design is derived from such kilns in Tokoname, Japan. Participants will learn hands on skills for kiln building and kiln design, including basic design theories, cutting and laying brick, building an arch, installing steel buttressing, and more. Participants will receive a copy of the basic kiln designs and materials lists. Workshop leaders will lead informal discussions about their own work. Participants are encouraged to bring several pieces of their own bisc ware to be fired in the kiln at a later date. The kiln will serve as a resource for LMCC's arts focused programs, as well as be a resource for the cooperative and production studio members of Union Project. \$195 includes lunch on March 15-18. Also includes a copy of the kiln design, construction specifications, and all necessary tools and materials for use during the workshop.

LODGING & MEALS OPTION:

Meals (breakfast and dinner) & Lodging for March 14 thru 18:

Single private room with private bath : \$360 (linens provided)

Shared double room with private bath: \$ 226 (linens provided)

Shared room (bunk-style) with shared bath: \$ 136 (linens not provided)

To Register: www.laurelville.org/program/kiln, 1-800-839-1021

Upcoming Bowl Making Events

Cera[m!x] Pittsburgh partners have joined together to make bowls for the Pittsburgh area Empty Bowls, event that will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at the Rodef Shalom Congregation in Oakland. Money raised from this signature event, benefits the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest. For more information about the Empty Bowl Event please visit:

http://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/programs/event_empty.aspx.

The Empty Bowls production events listed below are free and open to the public:

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, 1815 Metropolitan Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15233, December 6, 5:30-9:00p.m.

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, 6300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232, December 14, and January 11, 6:00-9:00p.m.

Sweetwater Center for the Arts, 200 Broad Street, Sewickley, PA 15143, January 19, 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon; February 24, 1:30-3:30p.m.

West Virginia University

"Bridging the Gap: East Meets West" A Cultural dialogue between Chinese and American Artists. March 15-17, 2008. West Virginia University will be hosting a Pre-Conference Symposium March 15-17, 2008.

“Bridging the Gap: East Meets West” will create a dialogue and exchange of ideas with internationally recognized Chinese and American Artists. Program includes lectures, demonstrations, wood-kiln firings, exhibitions, and opening/closing ceremonies. We encourage all participants to send bisqued work (rated c/9 or higher) for the wood-kiln firing. The exhibitions include works by the invited artists, WVU Alumni Invitational, and a current MFA/BFA Exhibition at the WVU Creative Arts Center’s Mesaro’s Gallery. In conjunction with the symposium, Zen Clay Café Studio Gallery will be hosting a Four States Ceramic Exhibition. Invited Artists Include: Liu Pinchang, Peoples Republic of China; Li Chao, Peoples Republic of China; Yao Yongkang, Peoples Republic of China; Joe Zeller, Idaho; Josh DeWeese, Montana; Jennifer Allen, Alaska; Tara Wilson, Ohio; Other Artists TBA. Costs: \$60.00/regular; \$35.00/student; Scholarships available for K-12 students. For more information and registration visit: <http://art.ccarts.wvu.edu/undergrad/ceramics/index.htm> or Contact: Bob Anderson or Shoji Satake, 304-293-2140 x3135, bob.anderson@mail.wvu.edu or Shoji.Satake@mail.wvu.edu.