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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR THE CERAMIC ARTS (NCECA)  
ANNOUNCES CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

March 16-19, 2016 in Kansas City, MO

**Kansas City, MO:** The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) will host the 50<sup>th</sup> annual conference March 16-19, 2016 in Kansas City Convention Center. The conference theme, *Makers, Mentors and Milestones* will explore the personal, social, and aesthetic forces that animate creative work with elemental materials, methods and ideas in the midst of the information age. NCECA anticipates over 5,000 attendees including artists, students, teachers, collectors and enthusiasts. Local residents are encouraged to participate through a variety of free public events and exhibitions including the Gallery Expo, keynote speakers, the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Cup Sales and more.

**PUBLIC EVENT INFORMATION:**

**Gallery Expo:**

An array of national galleries exhibiting some of the highest quality ceramic art. Representatives will interact with those interested in learning more about collecting contemporary ceramic art. Featuring: Hands Gallery Inc, Baltimore Clayworks, Kansas City Urban Potters, Lillstreet Art Center, Northern Clay Center, Red Lodge Clay Center, The Clay Studio, Spinning Earth Pottery, Objective Clay, and Artstream Nomadic Gallery.

*Location: Bartle Hall-Expo Hall D, Level III*

*Opening Reception: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00pm*

*Additional public hours: March 16-17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-6:00pm and March 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-4:30pm*

**Keynote Speaker-Liz Lerman: Making Our Work and Making Our Worlds-How Generative Critique Can Help**

Lerman will set a philosophical framework for working in collaborative environments as well as make a case for sustaining a life in artmaking. The culmination of the keynote will include an experiential format of practicing the giving and receiving of feedback.

*Location: Grand Ballroom, Level II*

*March 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm*

**Randall Session-Mark Southerland: The Sounds of Wit and Menace-an Operetta by Mark Southerland**



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Loosely inspired by the works of Remedios Varo and Heironymus Bosch, an experimental performance by Mark Southerland and collaborators exploring the compelling combination of delight and torment in art and life.

*Location: Grand Ballroom, Level II*

*March 16<sup>th</sup> following the keynote until 10:30pm*

### **Cup Exhibition and Sale:**

Participants may drop off cup donations and receive a bonus NCECA 2017 Conference/Membership drawing ticket. All donated cups will be considered for the NCECA “Cups of Merit” Commission Award. In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the award is designed to add further recognition of the extraordinary quality of these donations. The selections will be made by a jury’s review of all donated cups and winners announced on Saturday. The NCECA Cups of Merit Award was established to recognize outstanding craftsmanship and artistic merit among the generous donors to NCECA’s Annual Cup Sale. Each year NCECA appoints a small panel of three distinguished ceramic artists to make merit awards from the cups submitted to the Annual show. Jurors will make purchase awards totaling up to \$1000 to three or more makers included in the Cup Sale. Each award will be of an amount sufficient for NCECA to purchase two or more cups based on the pricing presented to the sale administrator. NCECA will retain one of the cups in its collection for as long as a time as it is practical. Cups may be periodically removed from the collection to recognize individuals for outstanding service or generosity to NCECA.

*Location: Grand Ballroom 501D, Level II*

*March 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-5:00pm and March 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am until cups are sold out*

### **Project Space:**

Project Space involves three different artists working individually or within teams to develop new works involving clay, time and change engaging visitors in the creative process. The artists were selected through an international call for proposals for experimental and innovative work that stretches the confines of the contemporary ceramic field.

### ***Glenda Taylor Active Memorial Mural by Alexis Gregg and Tanner Coleman***

Celebrating the life of Glenda Taylor’s, the former Chair of the Washburn University Art Department who passed away in 2015. Participants are invited to throw or hand build a piece that will be added to the Active Memorial Mural being created in her honor. The finished mural will be installed at Washburn University depicting Glenda doing what she loved, surrounded by people that loved her.



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### **Collective Confluence by Brian Kluge**

An ephemeral installation of unfired tiles will cover the floor of an exhibition space while audience participants fill the space with works created to reference a personally meaningful artwork. Participants will then record their path upon the clay tiles as they place their work and explore.

### **Appearing the Clay Wall by En Iwamura**

In the project space, an artist will create a simple cylindrical form directly during the NCECA 2016 built to reflect the scale of a human-sized ant. Each layer will be a recording of specific moments in time occurring during the conference. Audiences can see and communicate with the artist.

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### **K12 Exhibition:**

An annual exhibition and competition featuring K-12 ceramic students to showcase their ceramic art. Designed to showcase the best K12 ceramic work in the country.

*Location: Bartle Hall 3501 E/F, Level III*

*Reception: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm-5:30pm*

*Additional public hours: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-6:00pm, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-5:00pm, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-4:00pm*

In addition to the free, public events a variety of off-site exhibitions will be offered throughout the conference. Local residents, visitors and conference attendees will have the opportunity to experience 160 ceramic-related exhibitions located throughout the city and the surrounding area. A shuttle service will also be available to the public to help with navigation of exhibits in addition to many locations within walking distance of the conference.

A very special exhibit has been curated to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the NCECA Conference. Michael Strand and Namita Wiggers will present ***Across the Table, Across the Land***, a project examining how clay connects communities through food in today's society at the Charlotte Street Foundation, La Esquina (1000 W. 25<sup>th</sup> St., KCMO). Considering the table as a literal and metaphorical space, this project includes objects, photographs, videos, and associated events during the conference, all drawn from an online archive populated with stories and images of work by NCECA members and K12 Challenge participants in the US and abroad. Visit [ncecaacrossthetable.com](http://ncecaacrossthetable.com) and follow [acrossthetable2015](https://www.instagram.com/acrossthetable2015) on instagram to view all submissions and to connect with associated exhibition programs taking place during NCECA, including **Robbie Lobell &**



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**Maryon Attwood's The Heartland Table: A Pre-Conference Event and Adam Chau's Sharing a Meal, 3500 Miles Apart.**

Additional off-site NCECA sponsored exhibitions include:

***Leedy-Voulkos Art Center (2012 Baltimore Ave., KCMO)***

*March 4<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

*Reception: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm*

**2016 National Student Juried Exhibition  
Shapers of the Field: NCECA Honors and Fellows**

***Nelson Atkins Museum of Art (4525 Oak St., KCMO)***

*February 12<sup>th</sup>-May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

*Reception: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm*

**Unconventional Clay: Engaged in Change**

A full list of exhibits available as part of the 2016 NCECA Conference can be found online at <http://nceca.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ExhWeb-1.5.16-TL.pdf>

**ABOUT NCECA:** NCECA, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, is a dynamic membership organization that fosters global education and appreciation for the ceramic arts. NCECA's programs, exhibitions and public events promote and improve the ceramic arts through education, community building, research and creative inspiration. NCECA offers programs, events and publications to support its membership of artists, educators, students, individual and corporate art patrons, gallery owners, museum curators and providers of ceramic arts related products and services. For more information, visit [www.nceca.net](http://www.nceca.net).

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