

LIVELY EXPERIMENTS TAKING SHAPE IN CLAY:
Providence, Rhode Island Hosts 49th Annual Conference
of the National Council on Education For the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Announces

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND - (NOVEMBER 26, 2014) - The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts is hosting its 49th Annual Conference at the Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin Street in Providence from March 25-28, 2015. The conference theme, *Lively Experiments*, pays homage to Rhode Island's founding charter and joins ceramic art's historic engagement with empirical research and discovery to today's evolving creative commons. Salve Regina University and Rhode Island School of Design will play the role of conference host organizations and provide venues for important exhibitions surrounding the conference.

On-site Conference Liaisons and NCECA board members Jay Lacouture of Salve Regina University and Larry Bush of the Rhode Island School of Design relate, "NCECA's presence will affect the entire Southern New England area with exhibits and programming from Boston, to New Bedford, to Providence to Newport. It will be a real celebration of the ceramic arts throughout our region." NCECA anticipates drawing more than 4000 conference registrants to the city including artists, higher education students and teachers, collectors and enthusiasts. Programming will range from lectures to panel discussions, artist projects and demonstrations, networking opportunities and dozens of exhibitions throughout the greater region. Special strands dedicated to K-12 education and student-centered programming will also be incorporated along with opportunities to learn about ceramics study, residency opportunities, services and products.

NCECA's Annual Conference is a premier event for the Providence region's 2015 cultural calendar and will include something for everyone interested in ceramic art. Visit www.nceca.net to learn more about the program and fees associated with NCECA conference registration and membership. Programming has been under development for more than two years and will feature leading figures from throughout the United States and other countries. Headliners include keynote presenter Frederick Douglas Opie, who is a professor at Babson College and a thought leader on teaching with technology, coalitions and social movements, and food traditions. He has been a Fellow at The W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard, an author, contributor on radio and television, and the editor of a food and history blog. His presentation, *Earthenware: A History of Table Traditions and Related Recipes*, is based on the travel accounts of explorers in West and Central Africa, Mesoamerica, and the Iberian Peninsula. The central figures are the artisans who made, merchants who hawked, and the cooks who served meals made in clay pots. Clay pots had been essential items in the kitchen and on the table with cooks using earthen vessels to make one-pot meals such as puddings, stews, and soups. By looking at the recipes made in these clay cooking pots, we can uncover the historical context in which people made both the earthen vessel as well as the food in them.

Featured demonstrating artists include Linda Christianson (Minnesota), Kristen Morgin (California), Matt Wedel (Ohio), and Gustavo Perez (Mexico). Additional conference programming will include dozens of presenters and more than fifty hours of programming over a three-day period. A Resource Hall featuring vendors, publishers and representatives from nonprofits and schools throughout the United States and abroad will be available to interact and share materials, information and knowledge. More than seventy exhibitions will be on view throughout the greater Providence area. Venues extend from the David Winton Bell Gallery of Brown University and the Sol Koffler Gallery of the Rhode Island School of Design to exhibitions in Boston, New Bedford, Newport and Jamestown.

Studio potter and poet Jack Troy of Pennsylvania will deliver the conference's closing lecture. His teaching career spans from the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Scotland and England. Designer and builder of varied kilns, Troy has written many articles, essays, books, poems and book reviews. *Salt Glazed Ceramics* (1977), his first book relating to ceramics was followed by *Wood-Fired Stoneware and Porcelain* (1995). *Calling the Planet Home*, a collection of Troy's poetry, was published in 2003. His work is collected in museums and represented in galleries across the U.S. Troy has received many awards including the Craftsman's Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts in 1981 and the Fellowship in Literature (poetry) from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts in 1986.

SELECT PROGRAMS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A limited number of engaging conference-related experiences will be open to the public at no charge. These include Projects Space and the NCECA Gallery Expo. Projects Space will involve three different artists working individually or within teams to develop new works involving clay, time and change at the Rhode Island Convention Center where they will engage 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. NCECA Gallery Expo brings an array of national galleries exhibiting some of the highest quality ceramic art into the heart of the Rhode Island Convention Center where representatives will interact with all of those interested in learning more about collecting contemporary ceramic art.

ABOUT NCECA

NCECA, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts is the leading organization operating in the U.S. dedicated to a global perspective on ceramic arts and education. 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. For more information, visit www.nceca.net.