

**FACT SHEET**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR THE CERAMIC ARTS (NCECA)  
2013 CONFERENCE SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS**

Key conference presenters and demonstrators include:

**Keynote Address: “At Home in the Body” by Janine Antoni**

*Wednesday, March 20; 7:15 -8:30 pm; George R. Brown Convention Center, General Assembly Hall*

This lecture will encompass an overview of Antoni's work from 1989 through present projects. Known for her diverse practice, Antoni will discuss her continued interest in materiality and making and her unique approach to mining creativity. For NCECA, Antoni is excited to share her latest project - an amalgam of clay and movement.

A native of Freeport, Bahamas, Antoni is a MacArthur Fellow whose work in performance art, sculpture and photography focus on process and the transitions between the making and finished product. Investigations involving touch and everyday activities, such as bathing and eating, have been central themes in Antoni's decades-long creative output. She has recently been developing a new body of work incorporating fired and un-fired clay and is excited to share her insights and questions about the material with NCECA's community.

**Randall Session: “It Goes Without Saying” by Bill Bowers**

*Wednesday, March 20; 8:45-10:00 pm; George R. Brown Convention Center, General Assembly Hall*

Bowers is an actor, mime, performance artist and educator whose works have been presented throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. For the Randall Session, Bowers will present “IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING,” a uniquely crafted autobiographical work that engages viewers through humorous, heartbreaking and unbelievable true stories. Co-written and co-developed with Martha Banta, the work embodies the artist's life-long exploration of the role silence plays in our lives. From his childhood in the wilds of Montana, to outrageous jobs as a performer across the country, to the whirlwind of Broadway and studying with the legendary Marcel Marceau, “IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING” has been inspiring enthusiastic audiences off-Broadway and across the US.

**Distinguished Lecture: Namita Gupta Wiggers**

*Thursday, March 21; 1:30 – 2:30 pm; George R. Brown Convention Center*

During her presentation, Wiggers will explore the concept of “whiteout,” a weather condition in which falling snow or whirling sand obscures the horizon, leaving individuals disoriented by the lack of reference points. Her philosophy is that in this day and age, ceramics moves through other art world whiteout conditions: the cube, page and tent. She will explore how ceramics crosses through the whiteout to a clear, visible horizon.

Since 2004, Wiggers has served as Director and Chief Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Craft in partnership with Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, OR. Her curatorial work combines her experience and training as an art historian, a museum educator, ethnographer and design researcher, teacher, writer and studio art jeweler. Through exhibitions and programming, Wiggers considers how craft and design function as subjects and verbs, and as simultaneously distinct and intersecting practices, and how the exhibition operates as a site and space for cultural inquiry. She is the author of several publications, including *Generations: Betty Feves* (2012), *Ken Shores: Clay Has the Last Word* (2010) and editor of Garth Clark's *How Envy Killed the Crafts Movement: An Autopsy in Two Parts* (2009). She is the co-founder of Critical Craft Forum and serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Craft Council, as well as on the curatorial board of accessceramics, an online clay-focused database.

**Closing Lecture: "Whither the Pot" by Clayton Bailey**

*Saturday, March 23; 10:35 – 11:35 am; George R. Brown Convention Center, General Assembly Hall*

This presentation will show how Bailey's ceramic work for the past 50 years has answered the question, "Whither the Pot?," a humorous look at how ceramic art can be used to improve our lives and the lives of our customers and patrons. Although traditional pots are not necessary today, new functions can be invented for what we make out of clay: art that can be educational, entertaining and useful.

Bailey was born in Antigo, Wisconsin in 1939. He studied ceramics and sculpture with Harvey K. Littleton at the University of Wisconsin- Madison; graduating in 1962. He taught ceramics at California State University, Hayward for 28 years and is currently Professor Emeritus. He was named a Fellow of NCECA in 1982 and was the recipient of National Endowment For the Arts Fellowships in 1979 and in 1990. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979 for his discovery of "kaolism" (a process in which mud is thermally metamorphosed into pseudo-scientific curiosities). He holds US Patent # 440390 for a cup that squirts in your face and he was honored with a 50 year retrospective exhibition by the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, CA in 2011. His many ceramic wonders and inventions are featured on his award winning web site: [www.claytonbailey.com](http://www.claytonbailey.com).

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**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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