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PRELIMINARY RELEASE- NCECA
COMES TO KANSAS CITY IN MARCH 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION

MAKERS, MENTORS AND MILESTONES

Reflects on the Past, Present and Future of Art and Learning with Clay: Kansas City, Missouri to Serve as Host for the 50th Annual Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - (December 23, 2014) – Kansas City, Missouri and the surrounding region was recently selected as site of the 50th Annual Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. The conference will take place March 16-19, 2016 at the Kansas City Convention Center, 301 West 13th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

The 2016 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. On-site Conference Liaisons working on behalf of NCECA's members and board of directors in the greater Kansas City region are Paul Donnelly, Assistant Professor of Ceramics at the Kansas City Art Institute and Amy Duke, Public Programs and Visitor Experience Manager for the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Their enthusiasm for the impact of arts, culture and community engagement are integral to NCECA's model for conference development. Donnelly and Duke share, "By design, the [NCECA] conference is integrated into the fabric of the city and will create a ripple effect across state lines and the entire region through an extensive series of exhibitions and programs to meet every interest. On this milestone anniversary, NCECA will enrich the greater Kansas City community by bringing people together in myriad ways to celebrate the ceramic arts in its many forms."

2016 will be the fourth time in its history that NCECA will host its conference in Kansas City. The organization anticipates drawing more than 5000 conference registrants to the city including artists, higher education students and teachers, collectors and enthusiasts. NCECA's Executive Director Joshua Green writes, "In addition to its accessibility to NCECA members from throughout the United States and abroad, the Kansas City region offers an urban nexus of fountains, bebop and technological innovation. Its horizon connects farmland with cultural complexity. An amalgam of global traditions and local vision, the region's legacy of great art institutions, patrons, artists and educators has long held an important role in the development of North American ceramic arts."

Conference 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 will be a premier event for the Kansas City region's 2016 cultural calendar and will include something for everyone interested in ceramic art. Programming will feature leading figures from throughout the United States and other countries.

SELECT PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITIONS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A limited number of engaging conference-related experiences including the opening ceremonies, keynote lecture and a performing arts presentation known as the Randall Session are open to the public without charge. The NCECA Gallery Expo will also be free and open to the public. This program brings an array of galleries exhibiting some of the highest quality ceramic art into the heart of the Kansas City Convention Center where representatives will interact with all of those interested in learning more about collecting contemporary ceramic art.

Surrounding NCECA's annual conferences are an array of diverse and dynamic ceramic art exhibitions. NCECA is partnering with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and curator Catherine Futter to organize and host *Unconventional Clay: Engaged in Change, the 2016 NCECA Invitational*, an exhibition highlighting leading edge artists and practices in contemporary ceramic art. NCECA's National Student Juried Exhibition will be hosted at the Leedy-Voukos Arts Center. A special exhibition documenting interactions surrounding ceramic art, food and communities through a wide-ranging NCECA social engagement initiative is being developed in cooperation with the Charlotte Street Foundation. Additionally nearly 100 exhibition proposals will be reviewed for selection by a regional committee of experts for eventual siting and promotion concurrently with the conference. Most will be free and open to the public, although some museums may implement general admissions fees for visitors not registered with the conference.

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.