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NCECA ANNOUNCES 2016 AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION

Nina Hole

TO BE NAMED HONORARY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL DURING
MAKERS, MENTORS AND MILESTONES:

THE 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR THE CERAMIC ARTS

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - (November 10, 2016) – Kansas City, Missouri is preparing to serve as site host of the 50th Annual Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. 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. The conference will take place March 16-19, 2016 at the Kansas City Convention Center, 301 West 13th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105. During its annual conference, NCECA bestows highly selective awards to individuals who have made significant impact on the field through service, teaching, creative achievement and/ or extraordinary accomplishments.

NCECA's designation of *Honorary Member of the Council* is among the organization's highest honors. No more than two individuals may receive this award in any given year. With this award, **Nina Hole** joins a very limited list of influential and creative individuals who have inspired thousands to broaden their horizons and deepen their understanding of ceramic art, teaching and learning.

Recipients of this award have made outstanding contribution to the professional development of the ceramic arts. Hole has made a lasting impact on the global ceramics community by helping to found Guldagergaard International Ceramics Research Center in Skaelskor, Denmark. Since its inception in 1997, Guldagergaard has hosted thousands of ceramic artists from all across the world.

Openness, expression, curiosity, and innovation are what propel Nina Hole's work forward even after a lifetime of making. Starting with her own knowledge and ability, then surrounding herself with people also curious and driven to try new things, Nina Hole developed a clay construction technique she would continue to use for over 20 years of building, in what came to be known as *Fire Sculptures*. These large scale works represent an amalgam of sculpture, performance art, and the transformative process of intense heat that is an essential thread of continuity within ceramics across historical eras and cultures. With the help of building teams, Hole constructs towering forms that are fired in place and unveiled at their peak temperature. These works and events have occurred in urban and rural settings in Mexico, Denmark, Australia, the US, and many other countries. Thousands of individuals have been involved in these projects as assistants, volunteers, community members and leaders.

Nina's gift to our field is that throughout her career she has created 'space' for others to ask new questions regarding art and life. Whether through founding the Guldagergaard International Ceramics Research Center, which has given hundreds of artists a place to pursue ideas and new directions in work, or through her *Fire Sculptures*, which engage communities in creative process, Nina Hole has enriched humanity through her catalyzing work. Her dedication has been global in scope, direct in the way it deals with the elements of earth and fire, and intentional for the manner in which she has nurtured relationships. These qualities demonstrate a lifetime of achievement and ambassadorship for the ceramic arts throughout the world.

This award will be officially presented during *Makers, Mentors and Milestones*, the 50th annual conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. The conference takes place in Kansas City, Missouri from March 16-19, 2016. The awards ceremony will occur on Friday, March 18th at 5:15 pm in the Kansas City Convention Center, Grand Ballroom 2501B.

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 field through education, community building, research and creative inspiration. For more information, visit www.nceca.net.