

## National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Announces Leadership Additions

*NCECA welcomes Holly Hanessian, Brett Binford, Zach Tate, Ashlyn Pope, Marge Levy, Rhonda Willers as recent additions to its Board of Directors*

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is pleased to welcome new members onto its board of directors to bolster its current leadership cycle. Marge Levy will serve as Past President, and Brett Binford of the Eutectic Gallery will serve as the new Exhibitions Director. Rhonda Willers, formerly of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will serve as Steward of the Board, a position on the Executive Committee designed to maintain continuity and provide support through the transition between presidencies. Newly elected Director at Large, Zach Tate, will assume duties related to organizing networking experiences for the annual conference in addition to other board duties, and Student Director at Large, Ashlyn Pope, MFA candidate at Penn State University, will manage student-related conference programming, complementing NCECA's current leadership team.

NCECA has also appointed Holly Hanessian, Professor of Art at Florida State University, as president through the 2020 conference in Richmond. Pete Pinnell, Professor of Art at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will begin his presidential cycle in the spring of 2019, serving as president elect during the second year of Holly's presidency.

Holly Hanessian first served NCECA as the Exhibitions Director in 2005, which gave her "insight to the intensity of commitment and passion those who serve NCECA have about making this organization a strong and robust culture." Remarking upon her desire to serve again, Holly states, "There is a bond that takes place between those who work in clay to one another. When you bring over 6,000 people together who work in ceramics, the effects can be transformational. The significance of this time together can change ourselves and others. When I hear from students, international members and others, I understand the magical take-away moments from the conference. These memories are a tribute to the importance of this exciting organization we call NCECA."

### HOLLY'S BIOGRAPHY



Holly Hanessian is a ceramic artist who explores sensory immersive moments through socially engaged physical art works. Recent projects range from an exploration of the intimate act of touch and its significance in the digital age, to honoring local farmers who live in food deserts. From 2013-2015, she created the project "Touch in Real Time," during which she traveled across the country and held hands with clay in it with over 1500 people for 15-20 seconds, the time it takes for the bonding hormone, oxytocin to be released. In 2014, the handshakes became fired artifacts of the moment, displayed conceptually in a series of installation pieces, photographs and video.

Hanessian's work has been performed, exhibited or experienced in venues around the world, ranging from Henan, China to New Orleans at the Contemporary Art Center. She is Professor of Art at Florida State University where she is the Area Head of the Ceramics Program. She is a member of the Socially Engaged Craft Collective and Artaxis.org. Her work can be found at [www.hollyhanessian.com](http://www.hollyhanessian.com), <https://sociallyengagedcraftcollective.org>, [www.Artaxis.org](http://www.Artaxis.org), and [www.AccessCeramics.org](http://www.AccessCeramics.org).



Rhonda Willers



Zach Tate



Ashlyn Pope



Marge Levy



Brett Binford

## ABOUT NCECA

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is the leading organization operating in the United States dedicated to ceramic arts and education. A dynamic membership organization composed of artists, educators, collectors, enthusiasts, exhibitors, industry and non-profit representatives, NCECA fosters teaching, learning, creative inquiry, critical discourse and appreciation for the ceramic arts. NCECA's programs, exhibitions and public events promote and advance the ceramic arts through education, community building, research, and creative inspiration. The organization maintains an active base of approximately 5000 members annually and maintains and communicates with approximately 20,000 individuals, businesses, arts organizations, schools and institutions of higher learning in the US and abroad. Visit ([www.nceca.net](http://www.nceca.net)) to learn more.

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