

## National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Announces Pete Pinnell to Join the Organization's Presidential Cycle in 2019

*Beloved University of Nebraska educator and maker set for future NCECA leadership role*



The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is pleased to welcome Pete Pinnell, Professor of Art at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as the next president of the organization. He will be joining current president Holly Hanessian in spring of 2019 to begin a four-year presidential cycle that includes one year as President Elect, two years as President, and a final year as Past President.

Pete is a longtime contributor to the NCECA conference, and has participated as a featured demonstrating artist, a juror for the Student Juried Exhibition and other shows, a panelist, and lecturer. In describing his enthusiasm for NCECA's mission, Pete writes: "I've benefitted from NCECA my entire professional life. I've lost track of how many conferences I've attended over the years, and I always return home exhausted but, at the same time, energized and exhilarated. NCECA provides us with the opportunity to gather, to discuss, to challenge, to share, to brainstorm, to explore and to grow. The ancient Greek poet Hesiod in his poem "Works and Day" recounts a Greek proverb: "Potter hates potter and joiner joiner; beggar is jealous of beggar, singer of singer". The meaning of the proverb is that people tend to hate those with whom they compete. The wonderful thing about NCECA is that we have always defied that logic. Sharing, community and communication are at the heart of both NCECA's mission, and my own philosophy as a teacher and artist. This is why I feel so strongly about NCECA and look forward to serving the organization in any way I can. After receiving so much from NCECA over the years, I felt that it was time for me to give back."

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Peter Pinnell earned a BA degree studying music at Columbia College, a small college in Columbia, Missouri. It was there that he first began working in clay and became fascinated with ceramics. After a short break from school, Pinnell began studying art at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University (Alfred, NY) where he earned his BFA with Honors in 1980. He then went on to the University of Colorado at Boulder where he earned his MFA in 1982.

After earning a BA studying music at Columbia College, where he first began working with clay, he completed his BFA with Honors in 1980, and went on to receive his MA in 1982 from the University of Colorado at Boulder. After graduation, Pinnell made his living as a full-time studio potter for twelve years. During this time, he taught part-time at the Kansas City Art Institute and at Johnson County Community College in Kansas. It was this experience that caused Pinnell to fall in love with teaching. He joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska in 1995, where he is now Professor of Art. Over the last 20 years, he and his colleagues have built a nationally-recognized ceramics program: US News & World Report ranks the UNL graduate ceramics program as the 9<sup>th</sup> best in the country.

In addition to his teaching, he continues to exhibit widely and his artwork is found in a number of notable collections, including the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Sheldon Art Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. From 2008 to 2014, he held the honorary college title of Hixson-Lied Professor of Ceramics, in recognition of his exhibition record.

Pinnell's record as a teacher extends beyond the university. During the course of career, he has taught professional workshops at Anderson Ranch, Arrowmont, Penland, the Archie Bray Foundation, over 20 colleges and universities, and at numerous community art centers.

At the University of Nebraska, Pinnell served as chair of the Department of Art & Art History from 2011 to 2016. During that time, he led the department through the reaccreditation process, spearheaded the creation of an expanded design program, created a new department digital lab and oversaw the creation of two new undergraduate programs. He has also been active in art accreditation, serving on several occasions as a site visitor for the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Pinnell enjoys researching the history and aesthetics of ceramics, which informs both his creative work as well as his teaching. He has spoken on these topics at a number of major ceramics conferences, including NCECA and Utilitarian Clay. He has published articles in *Ceramics Monthly*, *Studio Potter*, and *Ceramics Art & Perception*, and his column, "As far as I know..." has appeared in *Clay Times* magazine since 1997.

## **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.