



CLAY, MINDFULNESS AND MEMORY MARCH 25-28, 2020 IN RICHMOND, VA

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**PRELIMINARY RELEASE-
NCECA COMES TO RICHMOND
IN MARCH 2020 FOR
IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION**

Past, Present, and Future of Art and Learning with Clay: Richmond, Virginia to Serve as Host for the 54th Annual Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA - (October 26, 2018) – Richmond, Virginia and the surrounding region was recently selected as site of the 54th Annual Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. The conference will take place March 25-28, 2020 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, 403 N 3rd St, Richmond, VA 23219.

Ceramic art today is ignited through re-investigations of rich histories, ideas about new and old technologies, and ideals for how common clay can transform creative expression, teaching and learning. Steeped in history and engaged with reinvention through the arts, the Richmond, Virginia region will host exhibitions, experiences, and programs that will be publicly accessible. Clay's receptivity to human touch transports the imaginations of distant and past makers into the here and now. More than 6,000 artists, students, and teachers from throughout the US and abroad will take part in the project, exploring best practices in ceramic art through education, exhibition, and professional networking. The project will engage regional, national, and international artists to produce exhibitions and learning experiences throughout Greater Richmond. Jeff Vick of the VisualArts Center of Richmond and Kelly Kerr of the dean's office of VCUarts (Virginia Commonwealth University) are serving as Onsite Conference Liaisons and their respective institutions as host organizations. Core programming will take place at the Greater Richmond Convention Center with major exhibitions already being planned at dozens of venues throughout the region.

In December 2018, NCECA will issue the first of two calls for exhibition proposals. The preliminary call will be for exhibition proposals from the field of ceramic artists and curators working across the US and abroad. A second exhibition call will be launched in early spring 2019 for projects developed by curators working at regional venues. All exhibition proposals will be selected by a regional planning committee working in coordination with NCECA Exhibitions Director, Brett Binford. NCECA anticipates siting anywhere from 60-100 exhibitions across the region with most free and open to the public.

Conference programming at the Greater Richmond Convention Center will range from lectures, and panels to hands on engagement projects and artists' demonstrations. A large resource hall area will be filled with vendors, schools, and organizations serving the ceramic arts. Another significant attraction of the conference will be the National K-12 Ceramics Exhibition. Calls for 2020 conference proposals will open in March and close in June 2019. Registration for the 2020 conference will open in October 2019. Limited aspects of conference programming at the Greater Richmond Convention Center will be open to the public free of charge including the conference keynote and opening ceremonies, the National K-12 Ceramics Exhibition, and the NCECA Cup Exhibition and Sale, which benefits the organization's scholarship, fellowship, and international residencies programs. Scholarships will be available for regional high school students and their teachers.

Exhibitions will be anchored by the NCECA Annual, to be curated by Anna Walker of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts and extend to two venues within walking distance of one another: Visual Arts Center of Richmond and Glave Kocen Gallery. The NCECA Juried Student Exhibition, co-curated by artists Virginia Scotchie and Salvador Jiménez-Flores, will take place at artspace, a nonprofit, artist run exhibition space.

A website, blog, WatchNCECA YouTube channel, and mobile app will share information with communities. Communications will reach out to potential audiences through periodicals, regional radio, and websites. Leading up to the experiences throughout Greater Richmond, NCECA will co-produce with 92Y a series of online presentations accessible through Virtual Clay and #GlobalDayofClay a social media initiative celebrating clay in communities worldwide. Collectively, these opportunities address emergent 21st century issues in ceramic art creation, teaching and learning via direct engagement with those working at the leading edges of the field.

ABOUT THE HOST ORGANIZATIONS

VCUarts is a comprehensive art school within a major urban public research university in Richmond, VA. The #1 ranked public school of art and design in US News and World Report, the school enrolls nearly 3,000 students in arts, design, performing arts, historical research, and pedagogical practice. Distinguished faculty are internationally recognized in their respective fields and committed to mentoring the next generation of artists, entrepreneurs, scientists, scholars, and engaged citizens.

Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VisArts, helps adults and children explore their creativity and make art, touching the lives of 33,000+ annually through classes, exhibitions, outreach, camps, workshops, and events. The inspiring 30,000-square-foot arts center includes the True F. Luck Gallery. VisArts offers classes in clay, wood, fiber, painting, photography, printmaking, glass, metal, drawing, writing, decorative arts, and other media. More than 125 artists lead more than 800 classes annually.

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 5,000 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 to learn more.