



AMERICAN CERAMIC SOCIETY Design Chapter - Southern California Section

The American Museum of Ceramic Art and the American Ceramic Society Design Chapter of Southern California Presents

Diversity in Clay: A Community Exhibition and Fundraiser



Pomona, CA, AMOCA presents *Diversity in Clay*, a community exhibition and fundraiser from August 8 through August 29, 2009. The museum will hold the opening reception on Saturday, August 8, 2009 from 6 – 9 p.m. in conjunction with the second Saturday art walk in the Pomona Art Colony.

American Ceramic Society - Design Chapter of Southern California is a non-profit organization of over 300 potters, sculptors, teachers, students and ceramic designers who seek to share and increase their knowledge and expand public awareness and appreciation of the many facets of clay. ACS-DC was established in 1945 and many of its members are regional, national, and international artists. *Diversity in Clay*, hosted by the American Museum of Ceramic Art, is a semi-annual invitational and juried exhibition open only to those artists who have recognized memberships in a clay group in Southern California. As a fundraiser, all works of art are for sale and will benefit AMOCA, the ACS-DC organization, and the artists. Special guest artist, Karen Koblitz will exhibit her ceramic work; and ceramicist, William Shinn will judge the awards for the categories: Best Sculptural, Best Whimsical, Best Utilitarian, Best Porcelain, Best Stoneware, Best Earthenware, Best Alternative Firing (raku, smoke, pit fire) and Honorable Mention.

Karen Koblitz is a national and internationally published ceramic artist having soloed at the L2Kontemporary Gallery in Los Angeles and exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, Oregon, and the Mingei International Museum in San Diego, California. Her works are part of many museum and private collections such as the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI, Scripps College, Claremont, CA, Museo di Ceramica Contemporanea, Deruta, Italy, and the Skirball Cultural Center Museum, Los Angeles, CA, and many others.

Koblitz's ceramics merges Eastern and Western themes, layered with elaborately crafted and richly decorated art, architecture, and literature of Azerbaijan intertwined with images and symbols familiar to her native California. After receiving a Culture Connect Envoy Grant through the United States Department of State, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Baku, Koblitz's work was influenced by a 15-day journey through Azerbaijan in May 2006. She states that her work pays "homage to the functional roots of ceramics while elaborating on historical and decorative elements."

William Shinn has become internationally recognized both in painting and ceramics. He has had over 40 years of art experience beginning in the late 50's at the Academy Julian and Sorbonne in Paris, France. Bill received a Bachelor's Degree in Painting and a Masters Degree in Ceramics at UCLA. During his career, Shinn has traveled extensively in the USA, Europe, Japan and Russia, furthering his art experience and recognition. Shinn's experimentation with the ceramic extruder has produced many award-winning pieces. His work was recently featured in *Clay Times* and *Ceramics Monthly*. He offers Ceramics workshops in various techniques. Some of his shows in which he has won awards include: *Feats of Clay National*, Lincoln, CA; *Sculpture in Clay*, Portland, ME; *Strictly Functional*, New Cumberland, PA; *Contours VI & VII National*, Sonora, CA; *California Crafts*, Sacramento, CA and *Pottery X & XI*, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA. International shows include the 48th International Ceramic Competition in Faenza, Italy, The Fletcher Challenge Ceramic Award Competition in Auckland, New Zealand, and the World Ceramic Exposition 2001 in Korea.

Bill's ceramic work is produced by combining slab and extrusion techniques. Out of need, he has recently designed new dies to accomplish his unique constructions. Inspired by his backpacking trips to the Sierras and desert, his art is influenced by earth surfaces and outcroppings created by flash flooding and glacier erosion.



Workshop with artist Don Reitz

Sunday, August 23, 2009, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fee: \$65 for AMOCA members, \$85 for non-members
includes continental breakfast.

To RSVP please call: 909-865-3146 or email:
frontdesk@ceramicmuseum.org

Recognized as one of the most important and influential ceramic artists of this century, Don Reitz is well known for reviving salt and wood-firing techniques. His life-long commitment to research, testing, and experimentation have been crucial to the development of his cutting-edge work. Reitz's distinctive use of color, surface, and gestural markings make him one of the most recognized artists in American studio ceramics. He has won numerous awards, most notably, the American Craft Council's gold medal, one of the highest honors in his field. He has exhibited extensively at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, as part of the Warnick collection, Museum of Arts and Design, New York City, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Charlotte, NC, and the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

IMAGES, left to right:

Installation Image, Diversity in Clay, 2008. Courtesy of AMOCA

Patrick Crabb, Courtesy of ACS-DC

William Shinn, Courtesy of ACS-DC

Karen Koblit, Courtesy of ACS-DC

Installation Image, Diversity in Clay, 2008. Courtesy of AMOCA

Don Reitz, Courtesy of AMOCA

American Museum of Ceramic Art 340 S. Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91766

Open: Wed.-Sat., 12-5 pm & 2nd Saturday of the month, 12-9 pm, or by appointment.

Admission: Adults \$3; Seniors & Students \$2, Members & Children under 12 are free.

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