ON THE VERGE: CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS
April 25 – August 9, 2009, Polk/Wilson Galleries

The summer exhibition at the Ulrich will be eye-opening for many, even a revelation—it showcases six artists whose collective creativity pushes ceramic tradition forward. Ceramics has always contributed to cultural meaning, whether ancient utilitarian vessels, artifacts of decorative adornment, or objects for sheer aesthetic reward. On the Verge: Contemporary Ceramics presents six artists who draw from ceramic tradition as they carve out new practices and styles in ceramic art today. The show includes Nicole Cherubini, Patzy Cox, David East, Heather Mace Erickson, Erin Furimsky, and Del Harrow. Their work collectively traverses decorative and utilitarian impulses, material and conceptual content, high and low culture, and ephemeral and durable practices. In the 21st century, ceramic artmaking looks at the past, absorbs from many sources, proliferates in style and content, and moves beyond what came before. It is simply, on the verge of a new identity.

On the Verge features six important new voices that reveal fresh visions and directions for clay art in 2009. On the Verge is guest curated for the Ulrich by WSU School of Art and Design Assistant Professor Ted Allair, who heads the university’s ceramic program and exhibits nationally. Robert Silberman is the guest essayist for the accompanying exhibition publication.

“In drawing a distinctly contemporary range of approaches to ceramics, On the Verge presents what might be called a term the art historian Rosalind Krauss used about sculpture) ceramics in the expanded field: unconventional, experimental, ambitious, and occasionally outrageous. On the Verge is full of youthful spirit and promise, yet it also demonstrates ability, maturity, and accomplishment.”

—Robert Silberman, On the Verge exhibition essayist, nationally regarded contemporary crafts critic and professor of art history University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

SUPPORT FOR THIS EXHIBITION HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY JAY BERIN, BRUCE AND LINDA SCHRECK, AND CAROL WILSON.

CERAMICS IN WICHITA
Summer 2009 offers a modern ceramics exhibition in Wichita with exhibitions and programs across the city. On the Verge: Contemporary Ceramics coordinates with the nationally touring exhibition Innovation and Change: Great Ceramics from the Ceramic Research Center, Arizona State University Art Museum at the Wichita Art Museum from May 10-June 28, and Feed Earth: 1945-2008, April 24-May 6, at the Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe. For more information visit the Ulrich Museum of Art at www.ulrich.wichita.edu or call 316-978-3664.

Above: Monette Mark, Arise, 2008 Porcelain, 13 x 7 x 4 in. Collection of the artist

WRITING FOR THE ULTRICH MUSEUM OF ART

ARTICLE PAGES

SPRING 2009

ON VIEW

ON VIEW

EXHIBITIONS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY WICHITA MUSEUM ALLIANCE

WSU SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN
MASTER OF FINE ARTS THESIS EXHIBITION
May 1 – 31, 2009, Amstaden Gallery

Four aspiring young artists—Ryan Harjo, Shannon Johnston, Dane Jones, and Monette Mark—present an exhibition of work completed during their thesis semester. Ryan Harjo of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, earned his B.F.A. at Emporia State University, Kansas. His prints explore the influence differing environments can have on one’s belief system. Painter Shannon Johnston from Shreveport, Louisiana, earned her B.F.A. at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi. She uses visual patterns to probe domestic traditions. Dane Jones of Laib, Kansas, earned his B.F.A. at Emporia State University. His work invites the viewer into a very personal space and questions the impact sexuality has in human development. Ceramist Monette Mark is from Topeka, Kansas. She earned her B.A. at Washburn University. Her work seeks an emotional and physical response using the tactile and visual qualities of clay. In her work, she strives to contextualize familiar experiences through form and texture.

An opening reception takes place from 5-6 p.m. Friday, May 1, with brief gallery talks by the artists at 5:30 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT

Millipede Wedding

What started out as a small wedding turned into a small production for Fgydr Lewis and Brett Cookey. The couple married in front of Tom Otterness’s ‘Millipedes’ sculpture on January 24.

“We were going to keep the wedding a secret—just the two of us, our two witnesses, and the minister,” Fgydr said, “but then it snowballed and we ended up inviting all of our closest friends and family. What started out as 5 people turned into almost 30 people.”

The big day was cold with temperatures in the 30s. The couple and wedding party gathered inside the Ulrich Museum to keep warm until it was time for the 15-minute ceremony to begin.

“It could’ve been a church, but the millipede was cooler,” Fgydr said. She saw Mille, as the sculpture is nicknamed, delivered on the truck in October and didn’t know what it was until she saw a story and photo about the sculpture in The Wichita Eagle. “I wanted to get married somewhere unusual and different,” she said and kept thinking about the newspaper photo of Mille. She placed a call to the museum on January 12 asking about the sculpture, and two weeks later they were in front of Mille getting married.

Fgydr and Brett are planning an outdoor wedding reception in the spring when the weather is warmer: Their first choice for a location! In front of Mille, of course.

ABOVE: Patsy Cox, Urban Repeate (detail), 2007. Clay and vitrified glass. 2 x 3 5 x 3 feet. Collection of the artist

COVER: Nicole Cherubini; Patsy Cox; from Arise: Contemporary Ceramics, 2009. Courtesy of the artist and Samson Projects, Boston

MEMBERS’ OPENING PARTY
7-9 P.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Join Ulrich Museum Alliance members for an evening of art, food, drinks, and great company to celebrate the new spring and summer exhibition.

On the Verge: Contemporary Ceramics. Meet and mingle with guest curator Ted Allair and exhibition artists Del Harrow and Patsy Cox.

Free to Ulrich Museum members & WSU students.
$7 for nonmembers. RSVP to 316-978-3664 or e-mail ulrich@wichita.edu.

NOTE: Allulrich exhibition catalogues will be available for purchase at the event.

The Ulrich Museum of Art
Kansas State University
Wichita, KS 67260-0046

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ulrich museum of art
**On the Verge:**
Join Ulrich museum alliance members for an **MEMBERS’ OPENING PARTY** for general public, call 316-978-3664 or to make a reservation (free for Ulrich members, malholland creates a unique, live, interactive experience that experiments with beat, time, and space—all inspired by the vibrant colors and dynamic clogging forms in Oludiva's paintings. Discover the music in yourself in this participatory Senior Wednesday. malholland takes you on a journey into the world of clogging, with its roots in African American communities, to explore themes of rhythm, movement, and community. He will teach participants basic clogging steps and share stories about the history and evolution of this art form. A live drummer will accompany the workshop, adding an energetic beat to the clogging experience. The workshop is suitable for all ages and skill levels. It is free for Ulrich members and a nominal fee for non-members. Pre-registration is recommended. Visit www.ulrich.wichita.edu for details. **4:30-6 p.m., Wednesday, April 29**

**CERAMICS IN WICHITA**
Spring and summer 2009 present a host of opportunities to experience the ceramic arts in Wichita—whether visiting exhibition galleries at the Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita Art Museum, or Wichita Center for the Arts; learning from nationally recognized artists and experts; or getting your hands dirty in a pottery class. On Saturday, May 16, the Ulrich hosts the afternoon portion of an expanded field bringing together artists and curators to explore how ceramic art is evolving in the 21st century. Friday, May 29, the Wichita Art Museum presents a talk by ceramic scholar and Kansas City artist Carol Peterson. A recognized authority, she has authored four books on ceramics, as well as numerous articles in Ceramics and The Craft of Clay. In June and July, the Wichita Center for the Arts supports community and hosts of hands-on classes for all ages. **2-6 p.m., Saturday, May 16**

**FORUM: CERAMICS IN Expanded Field**
210 McKnight Art Center West
(WSU School of Art and Design)
Ceramic Art in America has never been more dynamic and in greater transition. In commenting on this moment in the clay arts, critic Bob Silverman suggests we consider “ceramics in the expanded field,” as an unorthodox, experimental, ambitious, and occasional practice that involves the motivations for hands on classes discussion all ages.

**2-PM CURATOR TALK:**
Catherine Fuller, Curator Cofor Current Projects at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.
From the K in the Museum: Contemporary Ceramics 210 McKnight Art Center West
(WSU School of Art and Design)

**3-PM PANEL DISCUSSION:**
210 McKnight Art Center West
(WSU School of Art and Design)
Ulrich guest curator and WSU Assistant Professor of Art Ted Adler joins on the Verge artists Heather Mac Erikson and David East to discuss contemporary ceramics for the museum and speaks of the current projects on view and the subject generally.

**4-30 PM BREAK**

**SUMMER MUSIC SERIES:**
Art for Your Ears
Music for the visual Arts
Each summer, the Ulrich Museum offers tours and art activities for kids of all ages as well as adults to learn more about the museum and participate in activities related to the exhibitions. A range of programs is available to suit the interests of all ages. Please contact Arts Coord, education curator, 316-978-3716 or anne.guest@wichita.edu for details about this summer’s programs.

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