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Additional Images and information about the artists available upon request.

Bountiful Visions: Juliane Shibata and Eva Kwong

March 7 – April 27, 2008

Gallery A

Opening Reception: 6-8 pm, Friday, March 7, 2008



Above Left:

Juliane Shibata

Piles (detail), 2007, porcelain and glaze, 4" x 10' x 2.5'

Photo credit: Juliane Shibata

Above Right:

Eva Kwong

Lament, 2005, clay and glaze, dimensions variable, 10' x 10' x 3"

Photo credit: Kevin Olds

Juliane Shibata (Northfield, Minnesota) and Eva Kwong (Kent, Ohio) will be on location in early March, to transform Gallery A with their exhibition *Bountiful Visions*. Both women create sculptural installations that use multiples: through the repetition of smaller forms arranged en masse, they intend to create an expansive and dynamic alternative reality experience for the viewers. As Shibata explains, "Upon entering the gallery, viewers will find themselves immersed in an environment filled with complexity, intricacy, and rhythm."

Shibata describes the thematic connections in *Bountiful Visions* as follows: "Abstraction plays a large role in both my work and Kwong's.... The individual ceramic 'units' that repeat are abstracted so that a form cannot be read as one specific 'thing.' A ceramic part may resemble something familiar or comforting, but may seem foreign because the object can also be identified as something else. In my piece *Black Sheep*, the folded clay forms can resemble diapers or dumplings...." Kwong's wall installation *Lament* is composed of celadon-glazed forms that could symbolize rain or tears. The ambiguity of these abstracted forms leaves viewers free to interpret the work as they choose.

Juliane Shibata graduated from Carleton College in 2001 with a B.A. in studio art. In 2006, she received her M.F.A. in ceramics from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. While a graduate student, she was awarded the Aaron Macy Memorial Scholarship. Shibata spent the summer of 2006 as the Ceramics Technician at Ox-Bow, an art school in Michigan affiliated with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After a yearlong residency at Appalachian Center for Craft in 2007, she moved to Northfield, Minnesota where she currently serves as an Assistant Visiting Professor in Ceramics at Carleton College, as a sabbatical replacement.

Eva Kwong was born in Hong Kong and received her B.F.A. from Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, and her M.F.A. from Tyler School of Art, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. She has lectured and exhibited extensively throughout the country. Her work has received awards from the Ohio Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Arts Midwest. Her sculptures are found in private and public collections such as the Archie Bray Foundation, Mint Museum of Craft and Design, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Finnish Craft Museum, Racine Art Museum, and Fuping International Ceramics Museum.

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ABOUT NORTHERN CLAY CENTER

Northern Clay Center's mission is the advancement of the ceramic arts. Ongoing programs include exhibitions of sculpture and pottery by regional, national, and international artists; classes and workshops for children and adults; studio space and grants for artists; and a sales gallery representing many top ceramic artists from the region and elsewhere. Guided tours, hands-on events and artist demos are available. The facility is handicapped-accessible.

The Center is located at 2424 Franklin Avenue East, Minneapolis, MN 55406. It is one block south of Interstate 94, between 24th and 25th Avenues, just off the Riverside/25th exit. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; Thursday 10 am to 7pm; Sunday noon to 4 pm; closed Monday.

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