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Additional Images and information about the artists are available upon request.

2008 Fogelberg and Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation Artists
Exhibition

January 11 – February 24, 2008

Gallery A

Opening Reception: 6-8 pm, Friday, January 11, 2008



Above Left:

Donna Flanery

Salt and Pepper, 2007, earthenware, 7.5" x 4.5" x 2.5"

2007 Fogelberg Fellowship Award Recipient

Above Right:

Kathy Mommsen

Quick Poses, 2007, earthenware, 12" x 8" x 8"

2007 Fogelberg Fellowship Award Recipient

Northern Clay Center is pleased to present an exhibition featuring the work of 2006 Fogelberg Fellowship recipients Donna Flanery and Kathy Mommsen, and 2006 Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation Award recipient Mike Helke.

The Fogelberg Fellowship Program provides emerging ceramic artists an opportunity to be in residence for six months to one year at Northern Clay Center; this residency program is designed to provide support that allows artists to develop their own work while working in a community environment that encourages an exchange of ideas and knowledge with other ceramic artists.

Donna Flanery earned an A.A. degree in art from the College of Southern Idaho in 2003 and then went on to earn a B.F.A. in Ceramics with high honors in 2005 from the University of Montana, Missoula. She was awarded the 2007 Jerome Grant for Ceramic Artists and is currently an artist in residence at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana. Flanery's functional earthenware pottery is delightful in both form and imagery. Those who visit NCC's exhibition galleries in January and February will discover her work featured in the Fogelberg Exhibition as well as the *2008 Jerome Ceramic Artists* exhibition.

Kathy Mommsen received her M.A. in ceramics from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. She has taught ceramics at Hopkins High School for the last 9 years. Currently, Mommsen is on sabbatical, allowing her to study maiolica in Italy and to work intensely on her ceramics at Northern Clay Center.

The vessel and the human figure in motion are the two primary themes in Mommsen's artwork, which includes the disciplines of drawing with charcoal on paper as well as ceramics. An avid bicyclist and skier, Mommsen recognizes that "motion is important in my artwork and in my daily life." Over time, the human figure became more important and Mommsen began to work directly in clay from a nude model. She prepares slabs of clay, thrown cylinders, spouts and spheres in advance and takes them from the pottery studio to the drawing studio where she creates work directly from the model. Her process includes building gestural vessels with the ceramic elements along with drawing on the surface with black and white slip and incising tools. "The quick poses are my favorite," she says, "because they have so much action packed into the gesture. The need for me to create quickly excites me...I want the real human figure to influence the shape and exploration of the vessel."



Above:

Mike Helke

Cilantro Leaf Teapot, 2007, porcelain, 5.5" x 6" x 6"

2006 Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation Award Recipient

The Red Wing Fellowship is made possible by the Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation, and is presented by Northern Clay Center to a deserving individual pursuing a career in pottery or studying or researching the historical aspects of the pottery industry.

Mike Helke is a 2005 graduate of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a B.F.A. in ceramics. He is the Sales Gallery and Exhibitions Assistant at NCC, where he also maintains a studio. He makes functional pottery with surfaces covered in line drawings derived from current and personal events. "Using and making pottery fits into my life functionally, aesthetically and socially," Helke says. His work was most recently on display in the 2007 Strictly Functional Pottery National at the Lancaster Southern Market, Lancaster, PA and the 2007 Carbondale Clay National III, at the Carbondale Clay Center, in Carbondale, CO.

An opening reception for the artists will be held on January 11, from 6 to 8 pm.

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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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