

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **NORTHERN CLAY CENTER ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 JEROME CERAMIC ARTIST PROJECT GRANTS**

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Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, announced today the names of two Minnesota artists who received 2008 Jerome Ceramic Artist Project Grants. A total of \$18,000 was awarded to the following artists:

- Jan Bilek, Minneapolis, MN received \$6,000
- Mike Helke, St. Paul, MN received \$6,000
- Jennifer Rogers, Brooklyn Center, MN received \$6,000

While the primary medium for all of these artists is clay, their individual work ranges from sensual forms that showcase candy-colored glazes to flamboyant, wheel-thrown pots that harmonize a balance between form, surface, and function to mixed-media installations composed of repetitive press-molded objects.

This program, sponsored by the Jerome Foundation, Saint Paul, Minnesota, reflects the Foundation's interest in supporting the work of individual "emerging" artists, or artists who are at relatively early career stages. The 2008 grants comprise the eighteenth year of the Jerome Foundation's support for clay artists through Northern Clay Center.

This year's selection panel included Julianne Shibata, a ceramic sculptor who is currently a sabbatical replacement at Carleton College and featured in NCC's winter exhibition, *Bountiful Visions: Julian Shibata and Eva Kwong*; Sam Chung, potter, professor and featured artist in NCC's winter exhibition, *Exquisite Pots: Six Degrees of Collaboration*; and Andrew Martin, potter and co-curator of NCC's *Exquisite Pots* exhibition.

Future grant rounds will depend on continued Jerome Foundation funding. Information about future grants should be available by fall 2008.

