

## NEWS RELEASE FROM NORTHERN CLAY CENTER

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

*Photo Credits: Sarah Millfelt and Jennifer Otis*

### *Eat With Your Eyes*

September 28 – November 4, 2007

Gallery M

Opening Reception: Friday, September 28, 6 – 8 pm



Above: Pete Scherzer, Soup Tureen with fresh vegetables, Earthenware, 11" H x 17" wide, 2007.

Below Left: Randy Johnston Platter and Bowl with Sushi, Woodfired Stoneware, 2" x 16" x 10" (platter)

Below Right: Sushi Chef Ichiro in action, Wasabi Restaurant, Washington Avenue, Minneapolis, MN,





Minneapolis, MN – “Eat With Your Eyes” is an invitational exhibition celebrating the art and design of sharing food.

The exhibition will include six dining room tables and four side tables commissioned from local and regional sculptors and furniture designers. The dining tables will feature place settings for six to eight people along with serving and decorative pieces. Side tables will focus on appetizers, sushi, desserts and tea, and “conversation with coffee and chocolates.”

Mary Roettger and Willis Bowman will start off the exhibition with an appetizer table titled “Primo Vesco Indictum,” (primo: first, at first, at the start, at the beginning; vesco: to feed, to eat; Indictum: to lead in, introduce, induce, influence.) This stand around table will be organic in shape. It is designed to allow one to prepare and serve simple foods and it is a means of starting conversations between guests because of its shape and inherent playfulness. The “nesting tables” will expand to accommodate small to medium gatherings and the serving dishes will be integrated into the table design. The topography of the table itself changes when the table is in use and when the pieces are stored. The major materials will be wood and clay.

The sushi table will seat two people and is a collaboration between Kinji Akagawa (sculptor) and Randy Johnston (potter). The material for the table will come from a majestic old tree in Johnston’s woods that fell in one of last year’s storms. We look forward to Akagawa’s personal interpretation of the sushi bar format and Randy’s woodfired stoneware forms, from serving platters and a bento box to sake cups and chop stick holders.

One dessert table will be created by Stanton Sears using carved slate with geographical references to the landscape around Lake Pepin. The pottery will

be a combination of majolica pieces by Linda Arbuckle and a Porcelain tea service by Margaret Bohls.



ABOVE: Table Top Detail-- Stanton Sears and Andrea Mykelbust. Carved Slate, 2007.

BELOW: Majolica Platter by Linda Arbuckle, Earthenware, 2006.

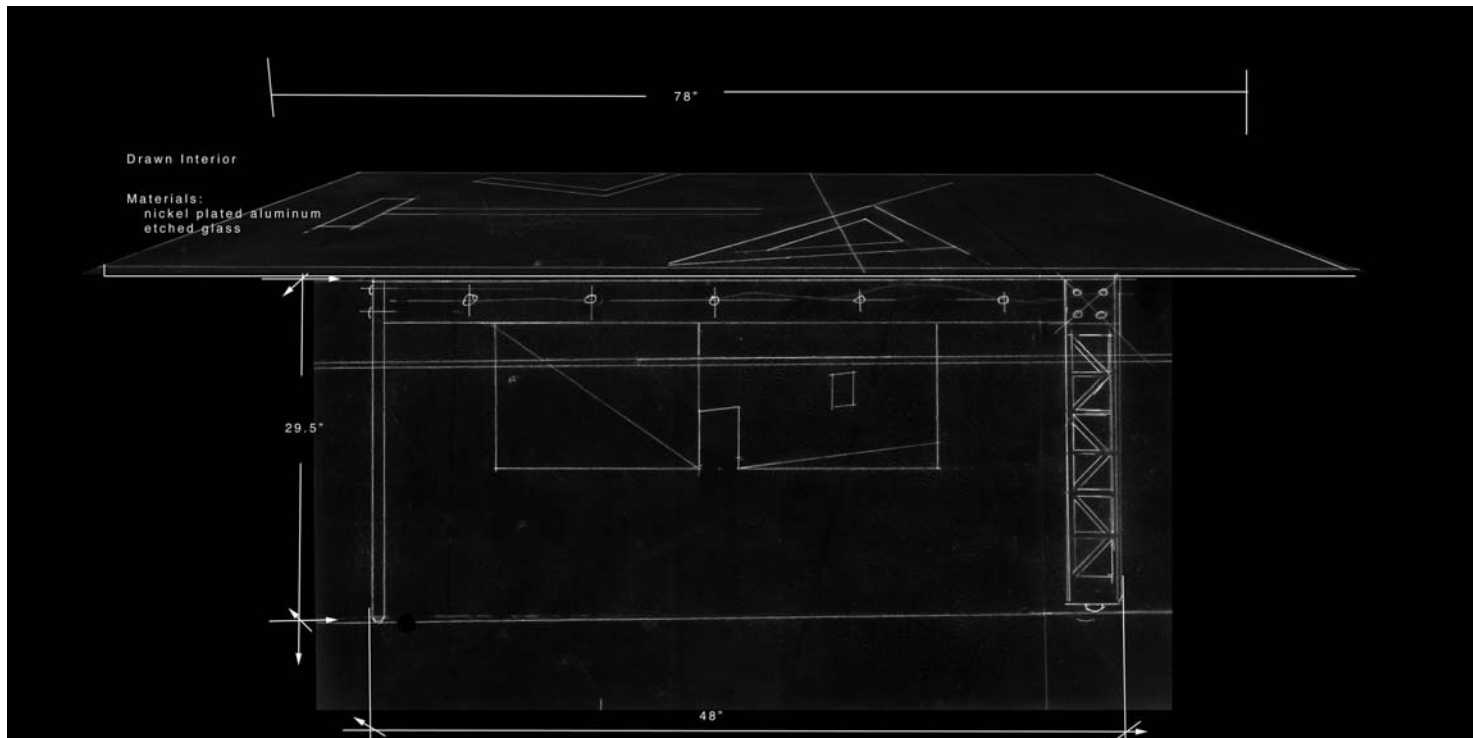


Teri Kwant (designer and public artist) and Katharine Gotham (potter) are collaborating on a coffee and chocolate table titled "Eat Your Words." This long narrow table will force the viewers to opposite ends where they will encounter text printed on chocolates and fabric banners. Part of the concept is to comment on human conversations and inevitable conflicts that play themselves out in dramatic episodes at tables. Tables can be a forum for important discussions that alter the course of our lives and the relationships that we have with one another. The artists ask us to examine the "things we said" and the "things we should have said."

Dining room tables will seat 4 to 8 people and will each have a different theme and focus.

The first table is made by Tom Rose. Kathy Erteman will create the place settings and other forms and the table will include woodfired bowls and pitchers by Ben Krupka and serving forms and vases by Mary Barringer.

BELOW: Table Design, Tom Rose, Digital Image, 2007 for Eat With Your Eyes Exhibition at NCC.



Michael Manzavrakos has created the second dining table from a recycled mahogany bench he has been saving for just the right occasion. The pottery will be made by Jan McKeachie Johnston with fiber art by Nancy Gipple and a centerpiece by Nancy MacKenzie.

Below: Jan McKeachie Johnston bowl with vanilla ice cream and raspberries. Stoneware, 3" height x 5" wide, 2007.



Dining room table number three comes to us from sculptor Irve Dell with place settings by potter Jeff Oestreich. Other participating potters include Adam Posnak, Marlene Jack, and Lisa Orr.

Bob Lindell has created table four, which will be set with place settings by Silvie Granitelli with other vases, serving dishes and other forms contributed by potters Meredith Brickell and Kari Radasch.

Table five has been created of solid mahogany by Willie Willette Works (<http://williewilletteworks.com/>) with porcelain place settings by Sandy Simon and centerpieces by Maren Kloppmann.



Above: Sandy Simon (pottery) and Robert Brady (drawing), Above Right: Platter  
 by Maren Kloppmann, porcelain, 2007  
 Plate with Irene Saito's arugula, and other vegetables,  
 Porcelain with stain, 1" height x 12" wide, 2007.

The sixth and final table is a Strut Table by Blu Dot. The place settings will be created by William Brouillard and the table will be set with an eclectic, modern aesthetic typical of many households with collections of a variety of wonderful hand-made pottery. Pieces include a soup tureen by Pete Scherzer, vases by Judith Solomon and Greg Pitts, candlesticks by Bob Bruch, and much more...

Throughout the six week exhibition, collaborative events will take place with many local and regional restaurants, chefs, and food/drink specialists. We are organizing workshops, presentations, and panels among the potters, table designers, chefs, and food designers. These special events will range from hands-on family workshops at NCC such as "Mug Making for Hot Chocolate" to a

panel discussion at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design titled “Table Talk” focusing on work by Twin Cities artists who provoke dialogue through desserts.

Check our web site in the future for a complete schedule of workshops, lectures and special events.

Table makers for this exhibition will include Kinji Akagawa, Willis Bowman, Irve Dell, Blu Dot, Teri Kwant, Bob Lindell, Michael Manzavrakos, Tom Rose, Stanton Sears and Willie Willette Works.

Participating potters will include Linda Arbuckle, Mary Barringer, Margaret Bohls, Meredith Brickell, William Brouillard, Bob Bruch, Kathy Erteman, Katharine Gotham, Sivie Granitelli, Marelene Jack, Maren Kloppman, Ben Krupka, Andrew Martin, Jan McKeachie Johnston, Jeff Oestreich, Lisa Orr, David Pier, Greg Pitts, Adam Posnak, Randy Johnston, Kari Radasch, Mary Roettger, Judith Salomon, Pete Scherzer and Sandy Simon.

Collaborations with food/drink specialists will include Restaurant Alma, Chocolate Celeste, Cooks of Crocus Hill, The Grand Café, Heartland Café, Kabuki, Lucia’s, Peace Coffee, Raghavan Iyer, Wasabi Restaurant, and many more...

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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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