

NEWS RELEASE FROM NORTHERN CLAY CENTER

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Images and information about the artists available upon request.

New Millennium Japanese Ceramics: Rejecting Labels & Embracing Clay

September 23 – November 6, 2011

Galleries M and A, Northern Clay Center

2424 Franklin Ave E, Minneapolis, MN

Opening Reception: 6–8 pm, Friday, September 23, 2011

Admission: Free



This exhibition is the final event of Northern Clay Center's year-long 20th Anniversary celebration. Guest-curated by **Daniel H. Rosen**, it features objects by younger, emerging Japanese sculptors who work in clay, outside the tradition of functional Japanese ceramics. Participants include **Chiho Aono** (Linz, Austria), **Makiko Hattori** (Obu City, Aichi Prefecture), **Takashi Hinoda** (Kyotanabe City, Kyoto), **Rina Hongo** (Tajimi-shi, Gifu-ken), **Naoto Nakada** (Machida City, Tokyo), **Kyoko Tokumaru** (Tokyo), and **Jumpei Ueda** (Toluca, Estado de Mexico, Mexico). These artists are working in forms and with ideas that are embedded in and expressive of a particular sense of materials and pop culture, and that play with and against Japanese traditions. The exhibition also includes a mix of artists not shown previously in this country, with those who have had some exposure here already. Prior to the exhibition's opening, on September 22, guest curator Daniel Rosen will deliver a lecture and gallery talk at Northern Clay Center.

Chiho Aono received both her BFA (1997) and MFA (1999) from Tama Art University in Tokyo. For the past three years she has been an Artist-in-Residence at Charlotte Wiesmann Studio in Linz, Austria.

Aono has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions in Japan, Korea, and Austria. In her work, she seeks to capture movement by creating amorphous shapes that have a kinetic energy. She uses vivid colors and vibrant surface patterns to add to the inherent tension in the forms. Some of her sculptures hang from architectural elements, creating an effect of oozing or dripping that has been frozen in time.

Makiko Hattori received both her BFA (2007) and MFA (2009) from Aichi University of Education in Kariya, Aichi. She has received several awards for her work and has been included in group and solo exhibitions in Japan and Taiwan. Hattori obsessively constructs her white or black sculptures with thousands of tiny clay fragments. The finished works have a textural surface similar to forms from nature such as coral or fur.

Takashi Hinoda earned a BA in ceramics from Osaka University of Arts in Osaka Prefecture in 1991. He was an Artist-in-Residence for a year at Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park. Since 2002, Hinoda has been a lecturer at Kyoto Saga University of Arts in Kyoto. His work can be seen in the collections of the National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan; Musée de la Ville de Vallauris, France; and Mint Museum of Craft + Design, North Carolina. Hinoda's sculptures are painted with images based

on manga (Japanese comics). He uses heavy black lines in the imagery to abstract the form, thus creating a three-dimensional story.

Rina Hongo received her BFA from the Kyoto University of Art and Design in 2007 and has exhibited her ceramic sculpture in Mino and Tokyo. She uses newspaper and slurry to form her ceramic artworks, which are later covered with silk screens that are printed on cloth. The cloth burns away in the firing, revealing brick-like patterns and textures on the surfaces of the clay. Hongo is presently in residence at the Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center. Starting in July she will begin a three-month McKnight Ceramic Artist residency at Northern Clay Center.

Naoto Nakada comes from Tokyo; he completed his undergraduate degree and graduate courses at Nagoya University of Arts in Nagoya and Tama Art University in Tokyo, respectively. He has exhibited his sculptures in solo and group shows in Tokyo, Kyoto, Chiba, Osaka, and Shiga. Through humor and ambiguity, Nakada's ceramic installations elicit interaction with the viewer. He occasionally employs materials other than ceramics in his mini-installations and outlandish sculptures, but does so to draw a point of comparison. Starting in July, he will also begin a three-month McKnight Ceramic Artist residency at Northern Clay Center.

Kyoko Tokumaru earned her MFA in ceramics from Tama Art University in 1992. She spent several years in the states as an Artist-in-Residence at centers such as the Archie Bray Foundation, The Clay Studio, and Bemis Center for Contemporary Art.

Tokumaru has exhibited her work throughout Japan and her work is included in several collections including Contemporary Craft Museum, Portland; the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park Museum, Shiga, and MICOM Museum, Obera, Argentina.

Jumpei Ueda received his BFA in ceramics from Osaka University, Osaka, and his MFA from Kyoto City University of Arts, in Kyoto. He is currently at a residency in Mexico, granted by the Gotoh Memorial Foundation Newcomer's Prize of Art. His work has been exhibited throughout Japan as well as in Hawaii. Ueda is well-known for his ceramic sculptures that comment on motifs borrowed from Japanese traditions and pop culture. His sensitivity to the material and Japan's history, as well as his craftsmanship, set him apart from other artists working in similar ideas.

This exhibition is underwritten with generous support from Bruce and Martha Atwater, the Butler Family Foundation, Continental Clay Company, George & Frances Reid, and the Windgate Charitable Foundation.

**Additional information about all programs can be found at our website
www.northernclaycenter.org**

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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.