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**Humanities Fine Arts Gallery presents McKnight Ceramic Artists**

*Summary: The Humanities Fine Arts Gallery at the University of Minnesota, Morris begins the 2009-10 exhibition season with work by McKnight fellowship and residency recipients from the Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis.*

(September 3, 2009)-The Humanities Fine Arts Gallery at the University of Minnesota, Morris begins the 2009-10 exhibition season with work by McKnight fellowship and residency recipients from the Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis. The exhibit includes new work by McKnight Ceramic Artist Fellowship recipients Joseph Kress, Minneapolis, and Mike Norman, Minneapolis, along with the work of four McKnight Resident Artists: Hide Sadohara, New York, Lisa Marie Barber, Wisconsin, John Utgaard, Kentucky, and John Lambert, Indiana.

Visitors to the HFA Gallery will encounter a multiplicity of creative expression in one shared medium—clay.

Kress creates pots with complex forms and seductive surfaces that reflect his interest in making pots that go beyond function “to nourish the soul.” Throughout his fellowship year, Kress explored “the use of cup, vase, and platter forms in relation to time and measurement.”

Norman has been making pots, ceramic sculpture, and the occasional commissioned drawings since 1965. His fellowship year included exploration of ceramic sculpture, including the spiritual connection he has with animals, his love of boats and adventure, and the incorporation of drawing and color on the surfaces of his work.

In addition to functional clay work, Sadohara makes figurative sculpture installations that are influenced by television, pop culture, family dynamics, and thrift-store finds. It tells dramatic and exaggerated stories of personal encounters and experiences.

Barber’s recent work includes a series of sculptures, large and small-scale, installed into diptychs, which convey the idea of how being alone can cause one to create company out of people and locations that aren’t readily accessible. Her compositions include imagery of city life—cars, buildings, and people—as well as personal narratives.

Utgaard conveys his ideas of mortality, the infinite, and the unknowable in his glazed stoneware spherical forms, which range in size from twenty-one inches to five feet. He thinks of the positive and negative spaces of his work as sections of parabolas, whose curves continue on into infinity.

During his residency, Lambert created a modular building system of larger-than-life-size symbols that could be installed “in any given architectural situation.” This continued his work with symbols and juxtaposition of symbols in two-dimensional and three-dimensional settings.

The McKnight Ceramic Artist program, sponsored by The McKnight Foundation, reflects the Foundation’s interest in supporting outstanding individual ceramic artists who have already proven their abilities and are at a career stage that is beyond emerging. Two ceramic fellowship grants and four residency grants are awarded annually. The fellowship

awards support Minnesota ceramic artists and can be used for a variety of purposes. In addition to the cash stipend, the residency grants provide non-Minnesota ceramic artists with three-month residencies at the Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis.

The [McKnight Artists Exhibition](#) will be on exhibit until Friday, October 16, 2009. The HFA Gallery is located in the Humanities Fine Arts building on the Morris campus. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Saturday from 1 until 4 p.m.

Earthenware pictured above, Franz Marc, Mike and Their Friends, by Mike Norman, 2008

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