

Michael J. Strand – b. 2 April 1969

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BIO SUMMARY INCLUDING CURRENT POSITION, EDUCATION AND AWARDS

Michael J. Strand is Professor and Head of Visual Arts at North Dakota State University. With a background as a functional potter, Michael's work has moved seamlessly into civic engagement while remaining dedicated to useable objects as he investigates the potential of craft as a catalyst for social change. Strand graduated from St. Cloud State University with a BFA in Ceramics and an MA in painting. During his time at SCSU, he studied internationally at the Alnwick Study Center in England. Strand is also a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln MFA program in ceramics where he studied with luminaries Gail Kendall, Peter Pinnell and Eddie Dominguez. Following his time at UNL, Michael spent three months at the Fundacio J. Llorens Artigas in Galifa, Spain as a resident artist.

Strand is active in the ceramic community nationally where he serves as a special appointee to the Board of NCECA (National Council for the Education of Ceramic Arts) as a social engagement strategist and is working with curator/maker Namita Wiggers on a national project illuminating the multitude of ways the field of ceramics is connected to food, culture and community. This project is part of NCECA's 50th anniversary celebration in Kansas City in 2016.

Recently, *Ceramics Monthly* named Strand "2015 Ceramic Artist of the Year" for his recent social engagement projects. In 2014, Strand was awarded a two-year Bush Foundation Fellowship. With this award he is testing the potential of functional design to facilitate cross-cultural communication and understanding in political and social spheres from his home state of North Dakota to international locations such as Brazil, Ireland, South Africa, Australia and Taiwan. In 2013, Strand was presented the Alumni Achievement Award for the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at his alma mater, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

SELECT SUMMARY OF RECENT NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES

- 2015** **Haystack Mountain School of Crafts**, Deer Island, ME - Summer Conference– Invited Presenter
Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG), Annual Conference, Boston opening plenary lecture
Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, Asheville, NC – “At Human Scale” Invited lecture
The Model: Sligo, Ireland - *Bureau of Radical Accessibility* – Invited lecture and workshop
The Dandelion Project, St. Peter Port, Bailiwick of Guernsey – Invited lecture and workshop
State University of New York, Purchase, New York, Invited Lecture “At Human Scale”
Universidade de Caxias do Sul, Caxias do Sul, Brazil, Invited School of Art Lecture
Universidade Federal de San Joao del-Rei, San Joao del-Rei, Brazil, Invited lecture
92Y Virtual Lecture Series, New York, NY – “25,000 Years: Craft Practice Beyond the Object”
- 2014** **SOFA-Chicago Lecture Series** – “Across the Table: Craft Practice Beyond the Object”
New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred, Alfred, NY –lecture, workshop and studio visits
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH – Invited lecture, workshop and studio visits
Philadelphia Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA – Invited panelist with Tina Gebhardt and Bobby Silverman for a live taping of “Tales of a Red Clay Rambler” moderated by Benjamin Carter for the exhibition “Pottery by Design”
- 2013** **University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL – Invited Lecture, Workshop and studio visits
University of Kentucky Lexington, KY – Invited lecture and studio visits with graduate students.
Washington University St. Louis, MO – Invited lecture for “Open Action Workshop Series”
American Craft Council, St. Paul, MN – Library Salon Lecture Series – “Benevolent Disruption”
National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts (NCECA) – Co-Lecture with Jill Foote-Hutton

- 2012 **Smithsonian Museum of American Art**, Washington D.C. –*Nation Building, Craft and Contemporary American Culture*, Panelist with Sonya Clark and Elaine Reichek and led by Maria Elena Buszek
Estonian Academy of Art, Tallinn, Estonia – Invited Lecture and Workshop “The Spaces Between”

SELECT SUMMARY OF NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND CITATIONS

- 2015-2011 **Renwick Gallery of American Art at the Smithsonian**, Nicholas Bell, Publication via Yale University Press of the Symposium “Nation Building: Craft and Contemporary American Culture”. Panel discussion transcribed and published as part of this supporting document for the symposium.
American Craft, Joyce Lovelace, “The Village Potter” (April/May 2014) Feature Article
Ceramic Art Yearbook-Ceramics Monthly, “2015 Ceramic Artist of the Year”, November 2014
Ceramics Monthly, “Connecting Humanity One Bridge at a Time”, Lauren Karle, Feature article
NCECA Journal, “Socially Engaged Studio Practice”, vol. 34 123 –Authored article
Yale University Press, *40 under 40: Craft Futures*, Nicolas R. Bell, Curator - Renwick Gallery of Smithsonian American Art Museum Catalog, Yale University Press, 27
Ceramics TECHNICAL, Randi O’Brien, “By Means of a Cup”, 104-109, (May 2012) – Feature article
Public Art Review “The Fargo Sandbag Project” (August 2012)
The Studio Potter, Megan Johnston, “Misfit Cup Liberation Project” 40, no. 2 (2012) 32-37
The Studio Potter, 40, no. 2 “The Spaces Between: Art, Craft and Humanity” – Authored Article
Kurbitz Frida Engstrom, Sweden, “How do ya do I en mugg” Kurbits Article documenting the “Art Stimulus” series. (May 6, 2010).
Chronicle of Higher Education, Don Troop “Sandbag Artists Join Fight Against Red River Flood”
Hemslojd, Sweden, Malin Vessby, (May 5, 2011) Feature Article

SELECT SUMMARY OF RECENT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- 2015 **Centro Cultural do UFSJ**, San Joao del-Rei, Brazil “Misfit Cup Liberation Project: South America”
Universidad de Caxias Do Sul, Caxias do Sul, Brazil – “Bowls around Brazil Project”
Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, Asheville, NC – “Ex.Change: My Time For Your Time”
The Clay Art Center – Port Chester, NY – “Port Chester Melting Pots” - Invited Solo exhibition
- 2014 **Philadelphia Clay Studio**, “Ceramics By Design” Group exhibition curated by Garth Johnson –
Lloyd Cultural Hotel, Amsterdam, Holland – “Bowls Around Holland” – Emile Van Der Staak,
Steinbesser Experimental Gastronomy, Amsterdam, – “Misfit Cup Liberation Project: Holland” –
- 2013 **Dwight, KS – Kansas State University** “Art Stimulus Dwight KS”
Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR – “Bowls Around Town Project” Namita Wiggers, -
American Craft Council, St. Paul, MN – “Misfit Cup Liberation Project: Twin Cities” – Invited Project
NCECA Biennial – Houston, TX – Juried exhibition “Misfit Cup Liberation Project: Houston”
University of Minnesota-Morris, Morris, MN – “Rural American Contemporary Art” National
- 2012 **Estonian Academy of Fine Art**, Tallinn, Estonia – “Art Stimulus Estonia” – Village of Kohila,
Estonian Museum of Applied Arts, Tallinn Triennial - “Misfit Cup Liberation Project”
Kansas State University – “Activate, Elevate, Initiate” Group show - Ted Neal, and Juan Granados
Plains Art Museum – “Misfit Cup Liberation Project: Fargo” Solo exhibition and engagement project
- 2011 **Fargo, ND** – “Ex.Change” – public intervention project during the FM studio crawl that created a new economic system that brought together artists and community, Published internationally
Red Lodge Clay Center, Red Lodge, MT – “Art Stimulus Red Lodge” – 350 cups delivered nationally
City of Fargo – “Fargo Sandbag Project” – developed a project that brought together people who could not assist in the flood fighting effort to draw and write messages of encouragement to those who were able to fight the devastating 2011 flood. The bags were entered into the flood fighting system as a gentle encouragement that would come through the line approximately every 40 bags. 6,000 people from 13 states completed 9,000. Internationally Published