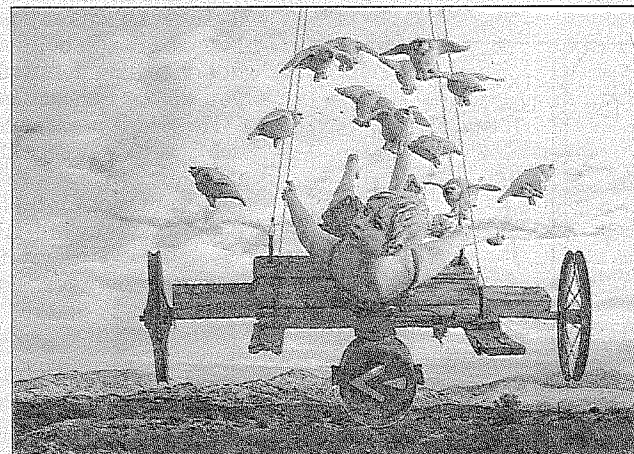
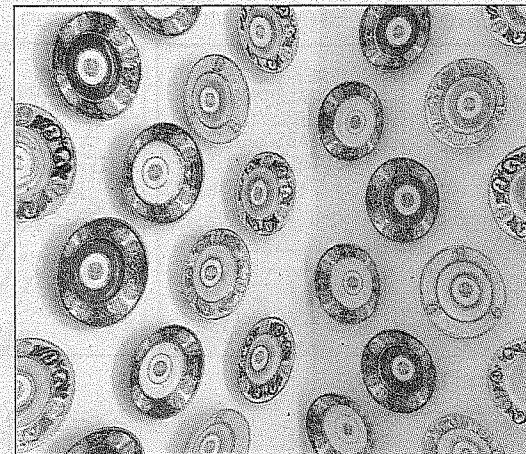


Art City

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design: Sharon McCoy's "Help with Flying," a work made of clay and found objects, will be part of the juried student show.



COURTESY MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN



Timothy Cobb Fine Art: Stephanie Rozene's conceptual dinnerware.

PHOTO COURTESY TIMOTHY COBB FINE ART

ALL THE WAY WITH CLAY

Work of potters, sculptors to be shown at multiple sites as massive conference hits town

Few artists are as tied to their materials as potters, who work physically with mud, the stuff of the Earth, the stuff of which we're made. Ceramics is a forthright art form in its essence.



Mary Louise Schumacher

These exhibits represent perhaps the largest citywide collaboration among arts venues and a rare incursion of curatorial know-how into our city.

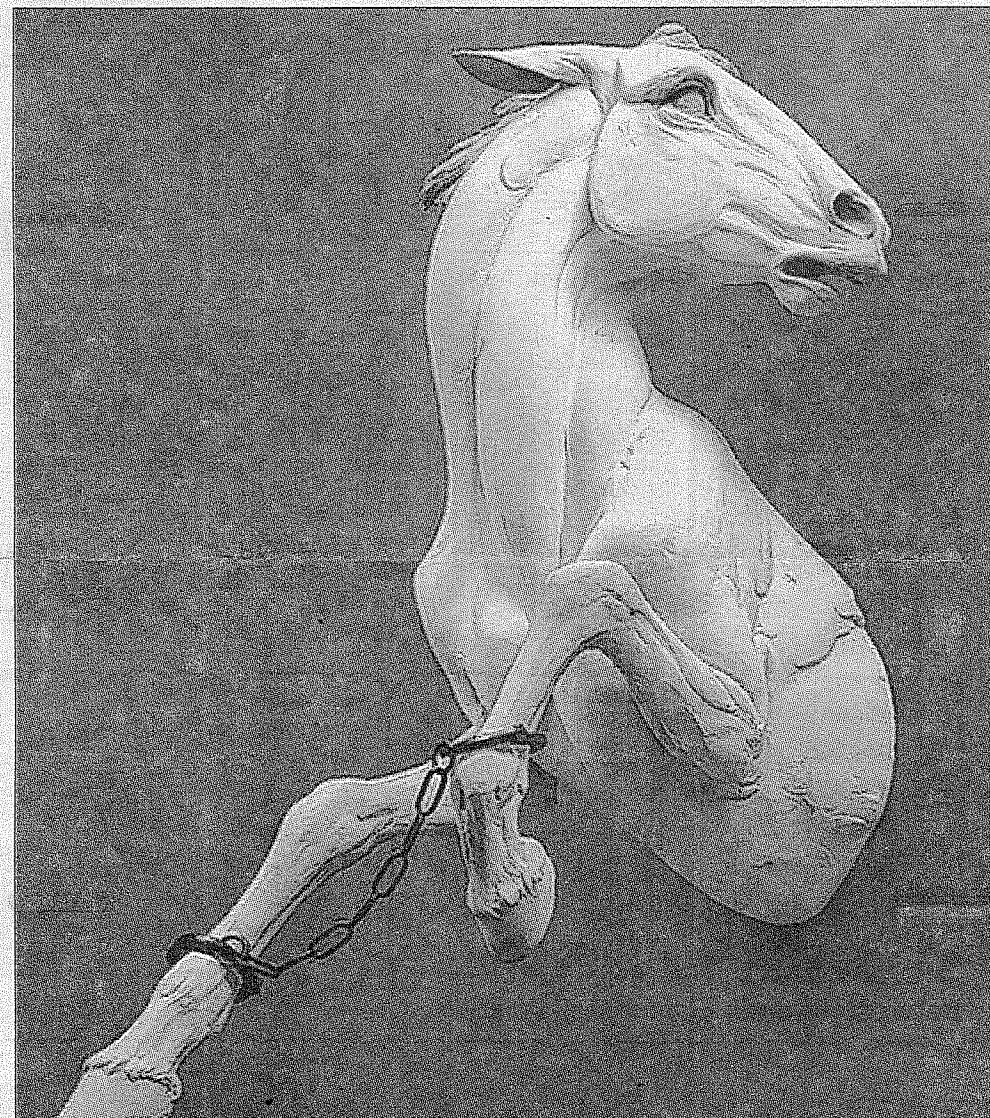
This week, one of the largest gatherings of artists anywhere on the planet takes place in Milwaukee, with as many as 5,000 ceramics artists and enthusiasts here for a national conference.

This year, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts will tackle one of the thorniest questions of art — how does meaning become embodied in a material object?

The response to the group's 48th annual conference, called "Material World" this year, comes in the form of talks, panel discussions, regional tours and demonstrations through Saturday and centered at the Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave. The cost of the conference is \$300 and \$230 for students (with day passes going for less).

But it also comes in the form of more than 80 exhibitions staged mostly in and around Milwaukee but also across the state, including in

Madison, Sheboygan, Racine, Min-



Sound Check

Inside Local Music

Bands' ideas lead to medley of sounds

Animals in Human Attire handle char

By PIET LEVY

plevy@journalsentinel.com

Local rock band Animals in Human Attire never defined exactly what the band's name refers to if we had to choose, we'd nitely say squirrels.

The band has a tender swiftly zig and zag, seem on impulse, through a se tempo changes and mus: curveballs on its forthcoming album "Ourmegadawn" able beginning April 11 at shows, mamrecords.com (aiha.bandcamp.com).

Plus, as you can probably guess from the band's ex performances at *jsonline soundcheck*, the guys in t are kind of nuts. (Wah w

Who's who: Charlie Ce 22 (drums, percussion); I Coyne, 24 (bass); Alex Kl man, 24 (guitar); Jack Te (vocals, banjo, guitar); N Toth, 23 (keyboards). A s member, Justin Miller, 2 unavailable to perform i Tap Milwaukee studio t (he plays pots and pans). spoke for the band.

Day jobs: Celenza cuts trees and works at Domi Coyne runs 414 Flyers. K man goes to the Univers Wisconsin-Milwaukee a works in the campus bo Tell works at Fuel Cafe. a delivery driver and w Closet Classics. Miller t dance classes, works at Milwaukee and works tl lift at Devil's Head Reso.

Early influences: My r (Liz Norton) actually sir performs. She's done a c things with Skylight Mu Theatre. She was always to get me and my brothe stage, but they never rea wanted to. They all got i ments for Christmas, an brothers never touched.

that it was smooth sailing for 2,000 miles.

Sagal, a playwright as well as a radio host, will tell stories from his time on the road meeting folks, researching the Constitution and finding examples of it at work.

The U.S. Constitution, for instance, allows states to make their own helmet laws.

“It’s federalism made real,” said Sagal, who wore a helmet, advocates wearing a helmet and doesn’t understand how anyone can go without a helmet or face shield considering all the things that fly in your face while you’re on a motorcycle. He knows because he wasn’t allowed to wear a face shield during filming.

As he suspected, many people don’t actually know the Constitution. They know parts of it. They interpret sections that appeal or pertain to them.

But as a whole, that preamble we all learned in civics class or from “Schoolhouse Rock” is a passing thought.

Sagal compares the Constitution to Peter Pan’s Tinkerbell.

“It’s only alive as long as everybody claps.”

Still, he was pleasantly surprised by the reach of our Constitution in his travels.

“It is sustained by everyday people from all walks of life from ditch diggers to public radio people to the president,” Sagal said.

“All those people I was laughing at, those are the people. It’s their actions and uninformed profound beliefs that keep it going.”

The documentary took Sagal to Appleton and a tea party rally that didn’t make the final cut. The Oak Park, Ill., resident has visited Milwaukee several times, once joining singer Neko Case for oatmeal after a performance at the Riverside Theater.

He saw “A Christmas Carol” at the Pabst Theater and though he sports a Lakefront Marathon T-shirt — he’s a marathon runner — he hasn’t yet run the Milwaukee challenge.

Saturday will be Sagal’s first tour of the Harley-Davidson Museum where he’ll answer questions

many locally generated shows, planned and curated by the local venues themselves.

These concurrent exhibits represent what is perhaps the largest citywide collaboration among arts venues, from major museums to small galleries, to date and a rare incursion of curatorial know-how into our city.

There are many exhibits at the Wisconsin Center that are free and open to the public, and the conference often attracts a contingent of ceramics tourists, who come mostly to look and buy.

Most venues are holding receptions, with the majority scheduled on Thursday evening, what promises to be a sprawling, Gallery Night-like, ceramics-centric art crawl.

Of the exhibits taking place around town, here are several that I’d recommend.

DeLind Gallery of Fine Art

450 E. Mason St.

Artists whose work has existed outside of the trends and fashions of the ceramics world will have work on view as part of “Off Center: Mavericks, Misfits and Heretics.” The work of these six artists gives priority to content, including politics and social issues. The artists include **Barry Bartlett, Eric Hollender, Patrick Loughran, Anna-beth Rosen, Lisa Wolkow** and **Arnie Zimmerman**. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.

Flaine Erickson Gallery

207 E. Buffalo St., first floor

Several notable ceramics artists from across the country will be on view in “Coast to Coast,” including **Bruce Breckenridge, Gerit Grimm, Rich Hirsh, Minkyu Lee, Beth Lo, Beverly Mayeri, Tom Meuninck, Ryan Myers, Richard Notkin, Richard Shaw** and **Christina West**. I was especially drawn to German-born Grimm’s storybook-like figures and Lo’s work, which explores ideas about family, childhood, cultural marginality and the artist’s Asian-American background. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m.

Green Gallery

1500 N. Farwell Ave.

Jessica Jackson Hutchins’ sculptures “traffic in abjection,” or so reported the Portland Mercury some years ago.

Wayne Ngan is an internationally known studio potter who also creates sculpture and paintings. New work by these artists will be on view, with a reception Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m.

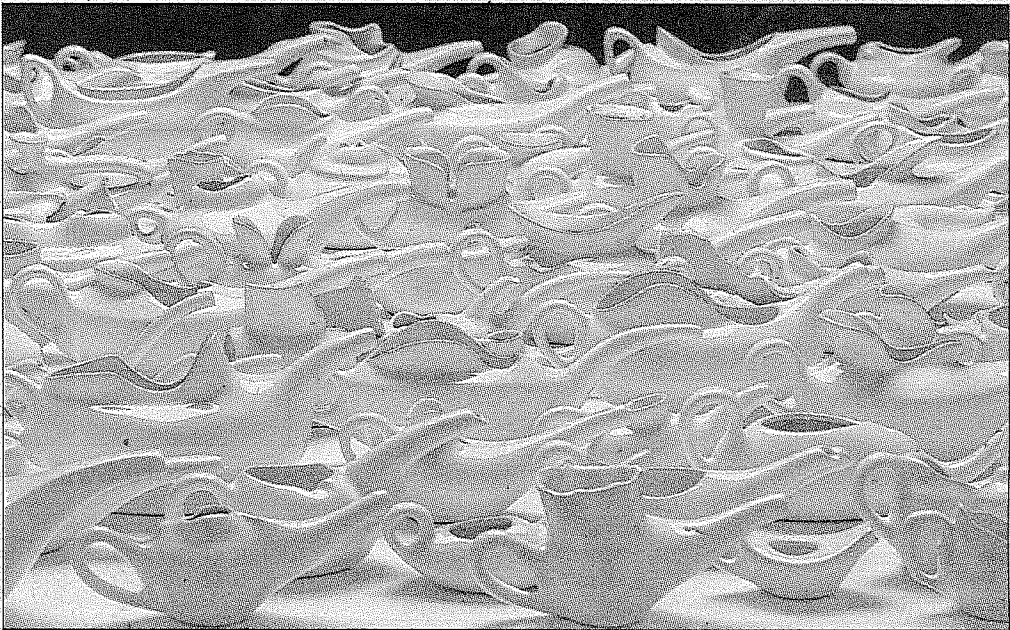
Greymatter Gallery

207 E. Buffalo St., 2nd floor

This brainy little gallery will present the work of **Shannon Sullivan**, who explores source material such as finger-print patterns, ocean currents and cellular forms in objects and installations that combine clay and other materials, such as metal, glass, polymer, wire and acrylic. Sullivan was injured in a car accident in 1999. She broke several ribs, had a collapsed lung, broke her pelvis and had multiple lacerations on her face and neck. Her recovery turned her attention to the workings of

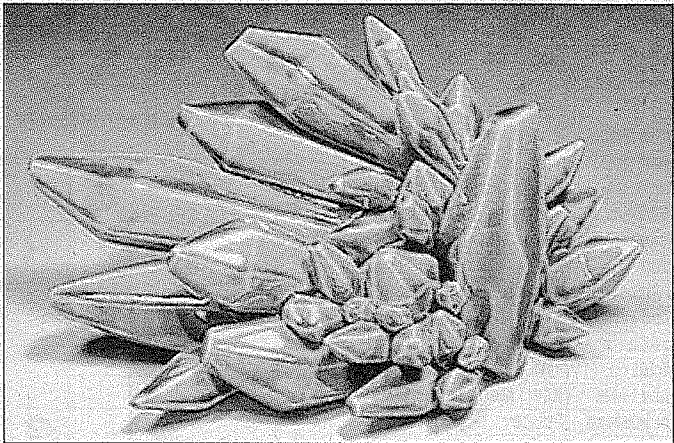


PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL TROPEA



COURTESY THE JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER

John Michael Kohler Arts Center: Denise Pelletier, “On Coming to Be and Passing Away” (detail), slip-cast vitreous china with glaze.



COURTESY GREYMATTER GALLERY

Greymatter Gallery: Shannon Sullivan's work will be on view. This piece is titled: "Nature Excels at this Game."

is described as a “spirited reflection on the labor integral to creativity.” Selby is a London-based artist who explores the performative nature of working with clay in installations that combine found objects, sound, video, clay and performance. An opening reception will be held Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. with a performance featuring **Sarah Buccheri** and **Kim Miller** at 7:30 p.m.

J. Nikolai Art

207 E. Buffalo St., 3rd floor

A family-owned business, the Paoli Clay Company in Belleville, Wis., just south of Verona, is celebrated in “Generations of the Paoli Clay Family.” From elementary schools to the studios of fine artists, the family-run company provides materials throughout the state and beyond. A long list of artists associated with the company will have work on view. A reception

John Michael Kohler Arts Center

608 New York Ave., Sheboygan

A seminal 40-year retrospective of the internationally recognized artists residency program at the Kohler Co., designed to spark collaborations between fine artists and industrial artisans, will feature nearly 350 works of art. More than 400 artists have worked on the production floor, using the pottery, foundry and enamel shop at the Kohler Co. to make works they likely wouldn’t have otherwise in their own studios. A reception will be held Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Katie Gingrass Gallery

207 E. Buffalo St., 1st floor

A tightly juried show of alumni from the Rochester Institute of Technology will be

Racine Art Museum: Works from "Magic Mud." These are from Toshiko Takaezu's Star Series.

Milwaukee Art Museum

700 N. Art Museum Drive

“Flow” is a themed and invitational exhibition curated by NCECA’s exhibitions director, **Linda Ganstrom**, and former assistant curator of 20th-century design at the Milwaukee Art Museum **Mel Buchanan**. This show will explore the idea of “flow” in a broad, physical, historical and symbolic sense, which seems suited to the constantly changing views of light and lake inside the museum’s long gallery, where the show will be on view. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.

Milwaukee Clay

228 S. 1st St.

This one-night-only pop-up art gallery will feature the work of ceramics artists such as **Valaria Tatera, Heather Eiden, Darlene Wesenberg Rzezotarski, Kathryn Miller, Steven Anderson** and **Linda Wervy Vitamvas**. Friday from 4 to 8:30 p.m.

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

273 E. Erie St.

MIAD will be host to a juried exhibition of student work, featuring the work of 57 artists from schools across the nation. A reception will be held Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Portrait Society Gallery

207 E. Buffalo St., 5th floor

The artists in the “f(c)” exhibition have all been artists in residence at the internationally known sundaymorn-ing@ekwc in the Netherlands, formerly called the European Ceramic Workcentre. The “f” in the title refers to function in the mathematical sense, a finite number with an unknown number of output possibilities. The “c” references

country. A reception will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with Russian artist **Sergei Isupov**, who is pushing the narrative possibilities of clay. The reception is free for members and conference attendees wearing badges. Admission is free. Book signing will take place at 8 p.m.

Timothy Cobb Fine

207 E. Buffalo St., 1st floor

Artist **Stephanie Rozene** is interested in conceptual, historical and functional approaches to ornament, particularly the patterns and politics of European and American dinnerware. She uses her own visual language, inspired by plates of presidents and French plates that addresses issues of consumption and excess. Also on view will be ceramic helmets based on animal heads and inspired by Etruscan decorative objects by **Carrie Chimenti**. A reception with the artists present will be held Thursday 5 to 9 p.m.

Timo Gallery

270 E. Buffalo St., 1st floor

Phoenix-based **Michael Prep** has been teaching ceramics to high school students and others for more than 20 years. When he retired in 2000, he built a studio for him, where he now concentrate exclusively on his work. Both sculptural and functional, his show features the work he’s made during those years. Reception will be held Thursday and Friday evening 5 to 9 p.m.

Tory Folliard Gallery

233 N. Milwaukee St.

“The Figure in Clay” is a show curated by the gallery and artist **Berti**, which features figurative work by artists recognized nationally and internationally. Also on view is “Cerning Nature,” a show of Berti’s quieter works made from a variety of recycled materials. Artists on view include **Chris Antemann, Tom Mark Chatterley, Lisa Clague, Fekete, Debra Fritts, Arthur Michael Gross, Beth Lo, Rose Laura O'Donnell, Heidi Preu, Kevin Snipes, Richard Swan, Sunkoo Yuh**. Antemann, known for re-imagining 18th-century decorative arts, will give a talk on Friday evening. Reception will be held Friday from 5 to 8 p.m.

Vanguard Sculpture Services

3374 W. Hopkins St.

While a little out of the way, it shows at this full-service bronze foundry are among the more anticipated. “Complicated History” features the work of 10 artists who attempt to re-explain something about the world, whether personal, historic, cultural or social, in their work. The artists include **Ben Ahlvers, Mark Burns, Peter Chalmers, Jill Foote-Hutton, King, Linda Lopez, Mathew, Peter Morgan, Matt No, Mariko Paterson**. “Rift” is an installation about metamorphosis. There will be a reception with the artists on Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum

2220 N. Terrace Ave.

The “Species & Specimens” exhibition will showcase the work of 11 artists from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee ceramics program, both faculty and alumni. The roster includes **Jim Bender, Angela Biederman,**

THREE COURSES: GETTING A SNACK



Kate Maury
American, b. 1965
Luncheon snack set,
November 2013
Cone 6 Porcelain Oxidation
13" x 10" x 4"
\$350



Linda Huey
American, b. 1947
Fossilized Luncheon Tray,
400 Million B.C.
October 2013
Cone 6 Clay and Glaze
3.75" x 8" x 6.25"
\$250



Kate Maury
American, b. 1965
Luncheon snack set,
November 2013
Cone 6 Porcelain Oxidation
12.5" x 10" x 3.5"
\$350



Katie Parker and Guy Michael Davis
Americans, b. 1980 and 1978
Rat Snack, November 2013
Porcelain, underglaze transfers,
decals
Plate Diam: 8.75" Cup H: 3"
SOLD

THREE COURSES: GETTING A SNACK



Lisa Orr
American, b. 1960
Luncheon snack set,
November 2013
Earthenware, glazed
Tray L: 12" Cup H: 3.5"
\$300



Peter Scherzer
American, b. 1971
Luncheon set, October 2013
Earthenware
5" x 10" x 6"
SOLD



Stephanie Rozene
American, b. 1980
*Snack Sets Held Hostage:
The Politics of Hunger in America*,
2013
Porcelain, glaze and iron decals
Plate Diam: 8.5" Cup H: 3"
\$200



Paul McMullan
American, b. 1959
Heart Plate snack set, 2013
Tray L: 10.5" Cup H: 5.5"
Earthenware, glazed
\$250

THREE COURSES: GETTING A SNACK



Colleen McCall
American, b. 1973
Luncheon snack set, 2013
Stoneware, glazed
6.25" square tray
2.75" H cup
\$200



Amy Santoferraro
American, b. 1980
Luncheon snack sets, 2013
Terra cotta, found objects
Trays 11" x 6" Cup H: 3.5
Group of three
SOLD



Sanam Emami
American, b. 1971
Luncheon set, November 2013
Meissen brown stoneware, laser cut
silk screen transfers
Plate Diam: 11" cup H: 3"
\$275

The Dinnerware Museum is offering the luncheon sets created and donated by these contemporary artists for the special exhibition *Getting a Snack* for sale to support the museum.

To purchase, please contact the museum at 607-382-1415 or email director@dinnerwaremuseum.org.