

Simon Levin
Director at Large
National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts
Owner: Mill Creek Pottery
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March 19, 2021

Ministry of Culture of Slovenia
Maistrova ul. 10, Ljubljana

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Simon Levin. I am a full time studio artist, kiln builder, writer, teacher, Fulbright scholar and I am now Director at Large for the largest ceramic organization in the United States. I have been lucky enough to travel and meet lots of artists. In 2017 I met Teja Hlacer at La Meridiana Ceramic School in Certaldo Italy. Teja was working there as a teacher, a studio assistant and pursuing her own research. It was immediately clear to me that Teja was dedicated to a life of ceramics, and that the work suited her.

Clay is a language, and Teja's facility with language shines. While I was in Italy Teja became my Italian teacher, tutoring me and helping me with pronunciation. La Meridiana put her to work directly with all the international visitors that come to study not only because of her language skills but also because she is so personable, kind and clearly likes people and teaching. Teja showed me her work and her inspiration of traditional Slovenian forms and decoration.

I enjoyed working with Teja, showing her what I know about wood firing, and learning from her. Since that time I have seen Teja in the United States attending the National Council of Education for the Ceramic Arts annual conference, and touring potteries in the United states.

You are blessed to have a capable, kind educated and dedicated teacher in Teja. She is clearly devoted to her work and identity as a Slovenian artist.

I wholeheartedly recommend you support Teja Hlacer in her endeavors and continue her funding as a teacher and artist.

-Simon Levin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Levin". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Simon" and last name "Levin" clearly distinguishable.

Curtis Benzle

706 Randolph Ave.
Huntsville, AL 35801
USA
curtisbenzle@gmail.com

March 10, 2021:

The Ministry of Culture, Republic of Slovenia, Maistrova ul.10, 1000 Ljubljana

Dear Sir or Madam;

It is an honor to write a recommendation for Teja Hlacer as I believe that she is an excellent teacher and designer in the field of ceramics and she deserves the right to be paid social security contributions from the state budget. Teja is a seasoned professional who finds herself at a point in her career where she has both the available time and a focused purpose that will fit well with the parameters of your position.

Teja's artwork has always occupied the challenging position between innovation and respect for tradition. Her creations consistently leave the viewer feeling both familiar and drawn into a new form of beauty. Likewise, her work challenges the viewer to identify source inspirations. Historical references appear and are just as quickly subsumed into a whole new genre.

I came to know Teja initially when she was my assistant at La Meridiana School in Italy. She was perfect in every way and helped make our time there memorable and successful.

Throughout her career as a teacher and artist, Teja has been respected for her communication skills. While working together at La Meridiana, these skills, coupled with an admirable work ethic and comprehensive knowledge of the field, were a remarkable benefit to everyone involved.

In addition to her attributes as a teacher and artist, Teja also brings the valuable asset of historic and cultural knowledge to any position she holds. It is truly remarkable to find an artist capable of balancing her own art, a commitment to teaching and academic discipline. That her chosen field in academia is the culture of Slovenia makes this all the more exceptional.

Please give Teja Hlacer's application your fullest attention. Having visited and admired Slovenia, I respect the value Teja would bring to your program and the nation. She is an exceptional artist, a wonderful colleague and the kind of person driven to make even good programs great.

Sincerely,


Curtis Benzle

Professor Emeritus, Columbus College of Art & Design

Member, International Academy of Ceramics

Teja Hlacer

To whom it may concern

Letter of Recommendation

Dear Madam or Sir

To be asked to write a letter of recommendation for Teja Hlacer is not simply a pleasure, it is both a pleasure and privilege. I hold Teja in the highest esteem.

I shall write my impressions under four topics, but will begin by summarising our acquaintance.

I have known the founder and director of La Meridiana International School of Ceramics since 1984 and, since then, have worked at that School in various capacities, including teaching. Since we met in 2014 my experience of working with Teja falls into two categories: working alongside her in the periods when she was an assistant at La Meridiana; and working with her when she was a student on the three month On Centre course from January to March 2016.

So, firstly: Teja was far from a beginner when I first met her, and far from a beginner at the start of On Centre, but she is someone who learns quickly both because of her commitment and because of her attitude that there is always, in every situation, something to be learned. Over the time I have known her she has extended her knowledge of clays, slips and glazes hugely. And her making skills in throwing, trimming and glazing have been refined to a high level. I would pick out her proficiency in glazing as being of a very high level – glazes are evenly applied, with experienced control of thickness and extremely precise application. As a repetition thrower she has that professional quality of working in an unrushed way and yet producing sets of work both speedily and accurately. She has developed the knowledge and confidence to fire wood kilns as well as gas. Thus, on technical level, I would say she is a very competent and accomplished potter.

Secondly: not all competent potters are ceramic artists and, equally not all ceramic artists are competent potters. Teja is a ceramic artist as well as a competent potter. While most of what she makes is functional she works with a very clear visual awareness both about three dimensional relationships in her forms – proportion, edge, thickness, curve, angle – and about the tone and colour relationships in the bodies, slips and glazes she uses. So, on a visual level, I would say she is a perceptive artist.

Thirdly: I have worked with Teja as my student during On Centre 2016 and when she was employed by La Meridiana as a co-worker and I am happy to state from both these viewpoints that she has an excellent work ethic, not simply doing what is expected of her role but seeing what

needs doing before she is asked. Though her university education occurred a long time ago, she still talks of it and I believe that the discipline of successfully undertaking Graduate and Masters Degrees in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology both informs and underpins her approach to learning (of course) but also to the organisation of employed work and self-directed work.

Fourthly, and lastly, as a person I know her to be friendly, open, considerate and always constructive – a pleasure to work with.

So, unreservedly, I am happy to recommend Teja for your most serious consideration.



John Colbeck : teacher, writer, potter.

Contact address : Email: john.colbeck50@gmail.com

Retired Art School and University teacher, mainly of pottery, (Bath Academy of Art full-time 1969 -1986; part-time 1961-69 and 1986 -2004 (various colleges incl. Brighton University, Central School of Arts and Crafts and others and External Examiner (West Surrey College of Art and Design, Ulster University and others).

Writer on pottery published: Pottery: Technique of Throwing 1969; Pottery: Techniques of Decoration 1983; Pottery Materials 1988 all published by B T Batsford Ltd..

Ministry of Culture
Maistrova ulica 10 ,1000 Ljubljana

Letter of support

For ceramic artist Teja Hlacer (February 23, 2021)

I am in a fortunate position of meeting and working with my colleague Teja Hlacer several times, and as I follow the work, lifestyle, and professional development of my younger colleagues with attention, I naturally support them.

Teja Hlacer attended a couple of my Masterclasses as my assistant: in Tuscany at La Meridiana International School, and at the International Ceramics Studio in Kecskemét, Hungary.

She is very well trained professionally, and you can tell by her awareness that she worked with many great Masters, so Teja was a great assistant at my daily teaching, problem solving, achieving good results, and leading successful Masterclasses.

I also observed how accurate and fair she is. In teaching, a good educator/teacher is an artist who does not differentiate between the creation of her/his own works, the artistic standard, and the transmission of knowledge: she teaches conscientiously at the same high level as she does her own creative work of art.

So I absolutely appreciate and support ceramic artist Teja Hlacer, when she addresses You a request.

Your Sincerely,



Maria Geszler Garzuly

Ceramic Artist,
Member of the IAC International Academy of Ceramics ,since 1982
Member of the Hungaryan Academie of Art

H-9700 Szombathely Gagarin u. 35 , email:geszler41@gmail.com

Recommendation for Ms. Teja Hlacer

It is with my great pleasure that I recommend Ms. Teja Hlacer. I have known Ms. Teja Hlacer since she worked as an assistant at the workshop of the artist Maria Garzuly in the International Ceramics Studio Kecskemet, Hungary in 2017. And after that I met Ms. Teja Hlacer in the workshop and symposium.

She has been carrying out a big creativity and responsibility for personal studio work as well as a team work in the International School of Ceramics La Meridiana, Italy. She also did well achievements and challenges in working with other staff members there and artists from all around world.

Overall, Ms. Teja Hlacer is unique in her work and has the ability to enjoy life without any stresses and strives to complete her work by dedication and passion. She also loves to meet new challenges as well. As a ceramist and a colleague, she is co-operative, flexible, social and above all a team player and enjoys working with other people.

Ms. Teja Hlacer has proven her to have the enthusiasm and initiative for further development in Ceramic Art. I believe you can see her active activities in Slovenia and will bring good inspiration to many artists and she can make an exchange with them. I would therefore highly recommend her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Min Kyoung Kim', written in a cursive style.

Min Kyoung Kim / Ceramic Artist

Letter of Recommendation- Teja Hlacer

It is my sincere pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Teja Hlacer.

As a 2nd generation Ceramic Artist and a teacher of ceramics for the past 40 years I have had many assistants in the courses and workshops that I have lead internationally.

I taught for 15 years at Sheridan College of Craft and Design in Oakville, Canada which was considered the top craft/design school in Canada. I have also conducted professional workshops in China, Korea, Japan, Wales, Italy and all over Canada and the USA.

By way of looking in my rear view mirror of all the assistants I have had I would rank Teja Hlacer as one of the very best. If there is one quality that I rate highest it is "initiative". Teja shows a willingness to get things done and take responsibility. What I like most about this personal quality is that they see what needs to be done before the teacher has to ask and when asked does the job and you can rest assured it is done well.

Number 2 on my list of applaudable attributes is "energy". Look at this young woman's track record. It is exhausting and applaudable! Teja speaks an embarrassing number of different languages and she is such an amazing diplomat.

They say the eyes are the mirror of ones soul. When I worked with Teja on a Ceramic project at La Meridiana in Italy you could actually see the twinkle in her eyes at the enjoyment she felt in the creation of the ceramic piece.

Here in North America we have an expression "top shelf". The top shelf is where you put your very best. I would place Teja top shelf.

Support of Teja is a very wise and good investment. She will do your country and the Ceramics community proud.

I highly recommend your support of this very fine artist/teacher, author and ambassador of the Arts.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Tony Clennell Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Education, Master of Fine Arts, Royal Canadian Arts Academy Inductee

Ceramic Artist, Educator and Author

184 Caverly Road,

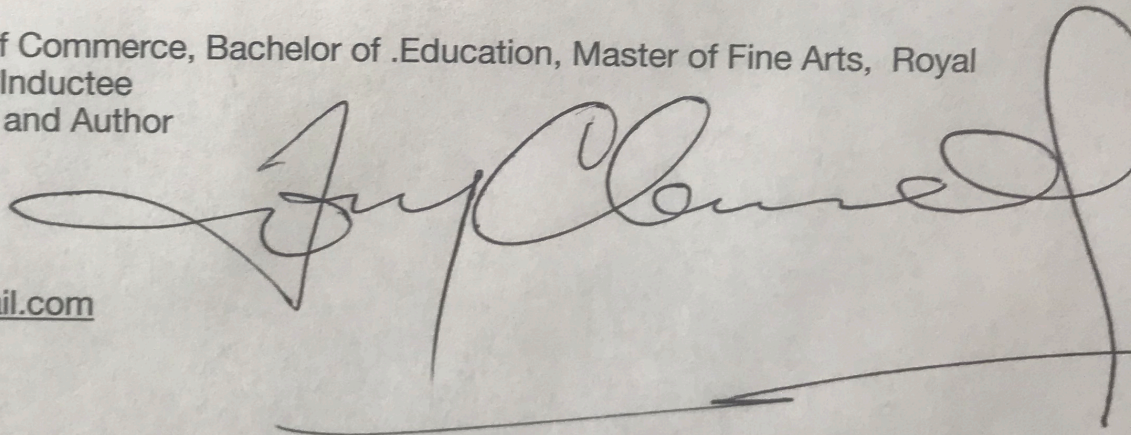
Aylmer, Ontario

Canada

N5H 2P4

email: tony.clennell@gmail.com

cell # 1-289-442-7750

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Tony Clennell'. The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends across the page.