



## NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2010

The Museum of Art & History @ the McPherson Center presents:  
*The Big Creek Pottery School 1967-1983, an Artistic and Historic Viewpoint*  
March 26 – July 17, 2011

A profile exhibit, “The Big Creek Pottery School 1967-1984, an Artistic and Historic Viewpoint” will be on view in the main Solari Gallery at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, California from March 26 to July 17, 2011. Featured are 70 vessels made at or brought to the Big Creek workshops by visiting master potters and the founders. A prized photo collection documents the school at its beginnings along with workshop experiences. Writings by workshop leaders and students at Big Creek window the vitality of learning and camaraderie among all.

Forty-three years ago, students “found and pursued their own thing”. They traveled west to meet their hosts, Al Johnsen, Bruce and Marcia McDougal. The McDougals took over the school in 1970 and created an international destination. Workshops for the novice and experienced were led by illustrious potters: John Glick, Paulus Berenson, Michael Cardew, Warren McKenzie, Toshiko Takaezu, John Reeve, Jim and Nan McKinnel, Paul Volkening, Harry Davis, Karen Karnes, Ruth Duckworth, Michael Casson, Cynthia Bringle, and Bruce McDougal. For several weeks, they threw, glazed, built and fired kilns: cooked, ate and made music together on a restored late 19<sup>th</sup> century, central California coast dairy ranch near Davenport, California. Big Creek Pottery School opened in 1968, perhaps the first residential school for pottery making in America’s Western states and by 1984, its last year, over eleven hundred students and teachers had shared fifty workshops.

Guest curator, Karen Thueson Massaro shaped this multi media exhibition to celebrate the accomplishments of the school and share the captivating Big Creek Pottery experience.

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**705 Front Street | Santa Cruz | California | 95060**

**831.429.1964 | Fax 831.429.1954 | [www.santacruzmah.org](http://www.santacruzmah.org)**

***The Museum of Art & History is a non-profit educational institution that promotes a greater understanding of contemporary art and the history of Santa Cruz County through its exhibitions, collections, and programs for the benefit of residents and visitors to Santa Cruz County.***

**WHAT:** *The Big Creek Pottery School 1967-1983, an Artistic and Historic Viewpoint*

**WHERE:** The Museum of Art & History @ the McPherson Center  
705 Front Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**WHEN:** March 26 – July 17, 2011

**COST:** \$5 general; \$3 students 18+ and seniors 62+; \$2 Students 12-17; free to Museum members, Children under 12; FREE the First Friday of the month

**HOURS:** Tuesday-Sunday 11 am-5 pm

**INFO:** Call the Museum at (831) 429-1964  
On the web at: [www.santacruzmah.org](http://www.santacruzmah.org)

*Digital images from this exhibit are included.*

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