



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2011

Come get your hands dirty and Experience Clay with MAH! Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17 2011

The Museum of Art & History @ the McPherson Center will be celebrating clay all weekend long. Mark your calendars for Santa Cruz's muddy summer art event! Everyone is invited to **Experience Clay** on **Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17** from 10am-5pm. The Museum's Abbott Square and ground floor will become a discovery area, allowing visitors to experience clay in all shapes, sizes and forms. Outstanding local artists will be giving demonstrations, presentations, and low-cost workshops.

There will be many ways for the public to Experience Clay with us:

- If you want to dive into a project and create your own art piece, outstanding local ceramists Coeleen Kiebert, Jenni Ward, Nancy Howells, Beth Gripenstraw, Sylvia Rios, and Kathleen Crochetti will be teaching workshops Saturday and Sunday. No experience is necessary to participate in the workshops, with ceramic topics ranging from mosaics, to ceramic jewelry, to group sculpture. For more information and workshop registration visit santacruzmah.org/experienceclay.
- If you would prefer to observe masters at work, there will be demonstrations all day long both days by Andy Ruble, Allan Wilks, Jenni Ward, Tasha High, Jeannine Niehaus, Richard Bennett, Geoffrey Nicastro, Cynthia Siegel, Stephanie Schriver, Iver & Jennifer Henning, Elaine Pickernell, Lila Klapman, Kevin Wahl, Kathryn McBride, Beth Gripenshaw, Dan & Laurie Henning, Sylvia Rio, Bob & Sandy Kinzie, Steven & Bonnie Barisof, Liz Crain, and Joel Magen.
- If you want to take some of these amazing works home with you, ceramic work by all the participating artists will be for sale in the atrium all weekend. There will be a reception on Saturday evening from 5-6pm, an opportunity for the public to mingle with the artists before a presentation at 6pm by Karen Massaro on *Big Creek Pottery*.

MAH is proud to present this community event, which serves a dual purpose of fun and preservation. First, we are offering an opportunity for our community to interact with and learn from the amazing ceramists who live and work in Santa Cruz County. Second, this event celebrates and displays the successful and ongoing fulfillment of one of MAH's primary art collecting and exhibition objectives: Santa Cruz Studio Ceramics. Beginning in 1997, when the Museum presented the exhibition, *Time and Place: Fifty Years of Santa Cruz Studio Ceramics* and most recently *Big Creek Pottery: A Social History History of a Visual Idea*, MAH has a sustained commitment to preserve and display the legacy and significance of studio ceramics as

both a crucial force in the Santa Cruz County arts community, and throughout California. Experience Clay with us!

This event is generously sponsored by:

Phoenix Ceramics, First Alarm, Kolb Construction, Su Gatch Lettering and Design and Susana Arias, Event Organizer.



Partially funded by a grant from the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County

- WHAT:** *Experience Clay – A Weekend of Ceramics*
- WHERE:** Museum of Art and History @ the McPherson Center
705 Front Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- WHEN:** July 16-17, 2011
- COST:** \$5 general admission, workshop costs info at www.santacruzmah.org/experienceclay
- HOURS:** 10am - 5pm
- INFO:** Call the Museum at (831) 429-1964
On the web at: www.santacruzmah.org/experienceclay

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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.