

# From the Melting Pot into the Fire: Contemporary Ceramics in Israel

February 14 – June 7, 2009 at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design

## Public Programs

Registration requested: 704/337-2098 or [programs@mintmuseum.org](mailto:programs@mintmuseum.org)

### Lectures:

#### **Gallery Talk: Contemporary Ceramics in Israel**

**Sunday, February 15, 3:00 p.m.**

**Free with admission.**

Artist and co-organizer of the exhibition *From the Melting Pot into the Fire: Contemporary Ceramics in Israel* Yael Novak will discuss the dynamic works created by artists in Israel today. Influenced by the melting pot of cultures, faiths and histories in the country, Ms. Novak will help visitors understand how territory and identity are expressed through ceramic sculpture and vessels.

#### **Curators' Tour**

**Thursday, March 5, 2:00-2:45 p.m.**

**Free to Mint members, or after admission.**

Tour *The Miniature Worlds of Bruce Metcalf* and *From the Melting Pot Into the Fire: Contemporary Ceramics in Israel* with Director of Craft + Design Annie Carlano and Assistant Curator Allie Farlowe.

### Films:

#### **Knowledge is the Beginning**

**Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m. at the Mint Museum of Art**

**Free, but with limited seating. Reservations are required.**

Complementing themes such as identity within the exhibit *From the Melting Pot into the Fire: Contemporary Ceramics in Israel*, the film *Knowledge is the Beginning* is the story of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, where young Arabs and Jews perform and live side by side. It is a film about what music can do; the way it can transcend cultural barriers, bring people together, defeat prejudice and overcome religious and political differences. For Daniel Barenboim, founder of the ensemble, the orchestra is a symbol for what could be achieved in the Middle East. Pre-screening in conjunction with 2009 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival.

### Artists' Demonstrations

#### **Taste of Art Fridays**

**Friday, April 17, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Hearst Plaza beside the Mint Museum of Craft + Design**

**Free.**

Bring your lunch and meet your friends at the Hearst Plaza alongside the Museum Shop! Enjoy area artists demonstrating their craft at lunchtime. Potter Julie Wiggins creates utilitarian wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramics that combine Eastern and Western influences. Her distinctive gestural lines reflect the inspiration she finds in architecture and the environment.

#### **Taste of Art Fridays**

**Friday, May 8, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Hearst Plaza beside the Mint Museum of Craft + Design**

**Free.**

Bring your lunch and meet your friends at the Hearst Plaza alongside the Museum Shop! Enjoy area artists demonstrating their craft at lunchtime. Adrienne Dellinger, potter and executive director of Clayworks Studio, makes pots from hand-dug native North Carolina clay and fires them in a traditional Catawba Valley ground hog kiln built in the 1930s. Her glazes consist of wood ash, native clay and recycled glass. To learn more about Adrienne's work, visit the Clayworks Web site: [www.clayworksinc.org](http://www.clayworksinc.org).

**Taste of Art Fridays**

**Friday, June 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Hearst Plaza beside the Mint Museum of Craft + Design**

**Free.**

Bring your lunch and meet your friends at the Hearst Plaza alongside the Museum Shop! Enjoy area artists demonstrating their craft at lunchtime. Leon Nichols a potter known for his large pots has worked with clay since 1970. Sections of Nichols' pots are stiffened with the help of a torch, then molded together and decorated. To learn more about Nichols' work, visit his Web site: [www.leonnicholspottery.com](http://www.leonnicholspottery.com).

**Special Workshops**

**Clay Workshop: A Sense of Place**

**Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the front lawn of the McColl Center for Visual Art**

**Tuition is \$45/Mint or McColl Center member, \$65/non-member.**

This collaborative clay workshop with McColl artist-in-residence Hedi Schoebel and UNC-C ceramic sculptor Keith Bryant complements the exhibition *From the Melting Pot into the Fire: Contemporary Ceramics in Israel*. Participants will explore the way a sense of place reflects cultural and personal identity. The workshop will culminate in an installation piece which will be left on the front lawn of the McColl Center. The workshop is limited to 18 participants. Materials provided.

**The Butterfly Project**

**Sunday, April 19, 2:00 & 3:00 p.m. at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design**  
**Free, but pre-registration requested.**

**In partnership with the Levine Jewish Community Center.**

Using the butterfly as a symbol of transformation, hope, faith and religious freedom, and inspired by a poem written by a child during the Holocaust, *The Butterfly Project* started with a group of students at the San Diego Jewish Academy. Now participants around the world are creating ceramic butterflies towards a goal of 1.5 million, representing the children who died in the Holocaust. The workshop led by a team from The Levine Jewish Community Center, will decorate 5-6 inch bisque-fired butterflies as families learn the project's historic background. Then the butterflies will be added to a community wall of remembrance in Shalom Park later in 2009. Join this special opportunity to honor Holocaust survivors, celebrate the exhibition *From the Melting Pot into the Fire: Contemporary Ceramics in Israel* and bring the Charlotte community together through this meaningful and inspiring hands-on ceramic art project.