



G R O S S M O N T  
C O L L E G E

News Release  
[www.grossmont.net](http://www.grossmont.net)

---

College and Community Relations

CONTACT: NCECA National Office

866-266-2322 (toll free)

303-828-0911/Fax

<http://www.nceca.net>, for exhibitions listings and conference

Richard Burkett  
San Diego State University  
[richard.burkett@sdsu.edu](mailto:richard.burkett@sdsu.edu)

Jeff Irwin, Grossmont College  
[jeff.irwin@gcccd.net](mailto:jeff.irwin@gcccd.net)  
619-644-7252

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2003

**National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts 37th Annual Conference  
*BORDERS IN FLUX MARCH 12 – 15, Town and Country Convention Center***

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts is pleased to announce that it is holding its 37th Annual Conference, BORDERS IN FLUX at the Town and Country Hotel March 12 – 15. The conference is expected to attract an international group of more than 4,000 attendees, who will participate in a full array of panels and lectures dealing with varied aspects of the ceramic arts, including theme-related topics.

Participants will also attend demonstrations, international, graduate student, and K-12 slide forums, screenings of videos on ceramic art, as well as special sessions on glazes and kilns. Over 100 art galleries, art spaces, studios, museums and alternative spaces throughout the San Diego County area will feature exhibitions with a focus on ceramic art during the week of the conference. Information on attending the conference events at the Town and Country Convention Center and exhibitions throughout the county can be found at the NCECA website,

[www.nceca.net](http://www.nceca.net).

All exhibitions outside the conference site are open to the public and are listed on the NCECA website. Openings for the various ceramic exhibitions are also free to the public. This is a countywide, week-long event with maps to the many exhibitions available in the March issue of Ceramics Monthly magazine, and to the conference attendees in the conference program.

Come to this extraordinary event and see the full range of the ceramic arts from functional pottery to sculptural ceramics and ceramic installations.

The conference theme, Borders in Flux, focuses on a global view of the ceramic arts, from the ancient traditions of pottery making to the most current cutting-edge contemporary art. As the borders of our world fade and merge, the cultural distinctions that once clearly defined much of what ceramists produced in the past have ebbed. San Diego's location at the edge of the Pacific provides an ideal setting for this forum. (The full conference theme is attached below.)

The conference Keynote speaker will be artist Robert Irwin, who will speak about creativity and his work on designing the JP Getty Museum gardens. On Thursday evening, the Randall Session (an annual presentation of interdisciplinary programs) will feature Afro-Cuban music with Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca. The closing ceremonies will take place at 12 Saturday with a slide lecture by noted ceramist Don Reitz.

NCECA is sponsoring two major exhibitions. The NCECA 2003 Juried National

Exhibition may be seen at the David Zapf Gallery and the R.B. Stevenson Gallery on Kettner Street, and the NCECA 2002 Regional Student Juried Exhibition will be held in the Flory Canto and Everett Gee Jackson galleries at San Diego State University. More than 100 additional ceramic art exhibitions have been especially mounted in galleries, alternative spaces, and museums in San Diego and in nearby cities to coincide with the conference. Faculty and students of several major ceramics programs from the Southern California area will be exhibiting their work in small exhibitions at the Town and Country Hotel. The public is welcomed to View all of these exhibitions.

The conference will also feature displays of ceramics equipment, technology, and publications in the manufacturers exhibition space at the Town and Country Hotel. Many schools and non-profits with ceramics will also have booths with information on their programs.

Also, in conjunction with the conference, The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts will present an endowment benefit silent auction and exhibition to take place at the convention center.

We are pleased to send you our program schedule, with Information on the program and exhibitions updated weekly at the NCECA website: [www.nceca.net](http://www.nceca.net).

Registration information may be obtained by calling the NCECA Conference Planner, Dori Nielsen at 866-866-2322 (toll free) or by checking our web page.

We invite you to cover this important event. Press should Contact Dori Nielsen, NCECA Conference Planner, by March 6 for press credentials.

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts is a not-for-profit [501(c)(3)] professional organization. Its purpose is to promote and improve the ceramic arts through education, research and creative practice.

NCECA offers programs, exhibitions and publications that are uniquely beneficial and rewarding to its membership, which includes ceramic artists, educators, students and patrons.

### Borders in Flux - the 2003 NCECA Conference Theme

We have seen boundaries between disciplines in art soften under the scrutiny and invention of twentieth century practice, similarly dividing lines between countries and cultures fade with accelerating communications, cultural and economic trade. As the three Americas become one, cultural uniqueness is diluted, even as it is celebrated. New art grows from the assimilation of once foreign forms and distant neighbors. How do we understand cultural context and traditional production in this new century of (free) image trade? How do we see artistic boundaries in our field, and how does that affect our perceptions of innovation and quality?

Perched on the western edge of the continent and the southern boundary of the nation, San Diego is a city of changing influences and geographic perspective. NCECA 2003 will provide an opportunity to examine the way we distinguish differences in art and location, contemporary expressions and ancient images, and explore the new artistic ground being tread as we travel across... Borders in Flux.

#