

MI Mud 2011 Brings Michigan Ceramics to Life

The Michigan Ceramic Art Association's bi-annual conference **Michigan Mud 2011** will be held at **Washtenaw Community College (WCC)** on **Friday and Saturday, October 7 - 8, 2011.**

I.B. Remsen, director/ coordinator of WCC's ceramics program is the site's host. The activities will be held in the ceramics studio and various auditoriums/ classrooms throughout the WCC campus in Ypsilanti MI. Clay enthusiasts, professionals, beginners and students of all levels are invited to collectively experience the ceramic diversity of Michigan.

MCAA is honored to have **Robert Piepenburg**, internationally recognized raku artist, as their keynote presenter. Piepenburg will demonstrate, exhibit and jury the student exhibition during this two-day event. Registration forms will be available later this year at www.michclay.com.

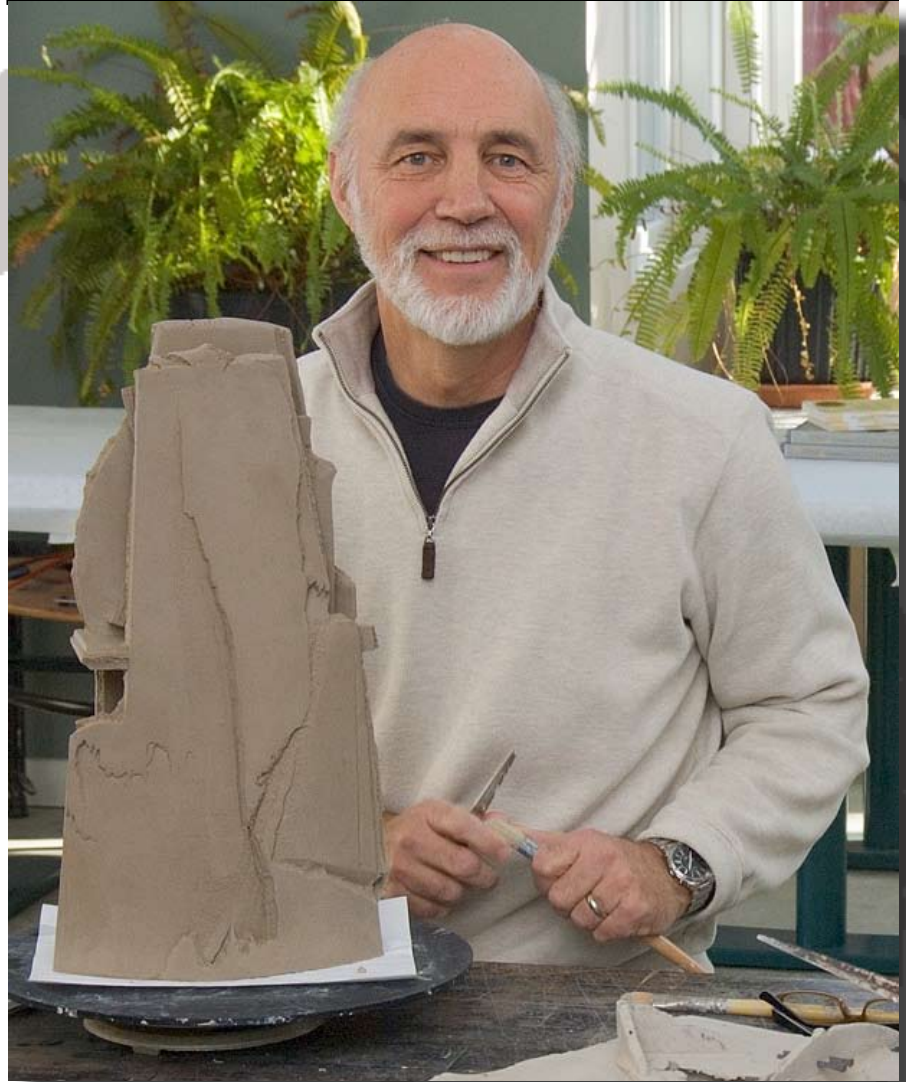


photo by Wade Harris

Robert Piepenburg

MICHIGAN MUD 2011 keynote presenter

"I now know that clay can be a fertile growing ground of the spirit. I've seen this same spiritual birthing scenario occur time and time again with students of mine who were new to clay. What I didn't know then, but have come to know now, is that you don't actually find yourself with clay...you make yourself with clay."

*~Robert Piepenburg - from introduction of *The Spirit of Clay**

Greetings from the MCAA president:



Welcome to all current and future MCAA members. For all of us on the MCAA board, the key word is "future". As President, my goal is for this letter to reach a membership that represents all of the diverse ages and occupations of people who have a passion for clay in the State of Michigan. Moving forward in 2011 the MCAA board is energized and passionate about reconnecting with the community of artists, educators, suppliers, manufacturers, students and collectors who support the ceramic arts across the state.

This is the year for **Michigan Mud 2011**, MCAA's biannual conference for the ceramic arts. I am excited to have **Washtenaw Community College** hosting this event, with Ceramic Studio Director **I.B. Remsen** as our on-site liaison. The conference is scheduled for **October 7th - 8th**, with **Robert Piepenburg** as the keynote speaker. I encourage all artists to come and take part in the lectures and demonstrations, and all ceramic educators to bring their students to be inspired by some of the best ceramic artists in the State of Michigan. As a reminder to all ceramic faculty, Michigan Mud is a time for your students to get well deserved exposure by entering their work in the **All Student Exhibition**. I would like to see participation for this exhibition grow over the next few years, so please encourage your students to get their work ready and enter the exhibition.

MCAA is also seeking candidates for the annual **2011 MCAA Scholarship Awards**. Faculty and students should be aware that winners will receive a \$500 award. These awards have been somewhat unnoticed in the past so please visit our website at www.michclay.com for more information on how to apply for this scholarship.

Part of my interest in becoming president of MCAA is to focus on the next generation of ceramic artists, the current ceramic students in our high schools and universities, and newly graduated B.F.A. and M.F.A. students who are making their way as young artists and educators. We are a community whose strength is our collective knowledge, talent and creativity and it is the MCAA's goal to be the network for the ceramics community in the State of Michigan.

The MCAA is reaching out to colleges and universities, guilds and art centers, galleries and private studios as well as ceramic businesses. We are embarking on a new membership campaign and are seeking your participation and feedback. By forming this partnership of mutual collaboration to promote more ceramic exhibitions across the state, we also anticipate bringing more ceramic lectures and workshops into your classrooms, guild studios, and community. To this end, we have created a new **\$100 Institution Membership** category designed to include all universities, colleges, guilds and businesses thru which we are able to facilitate our partnership endeavors. I urge you to get involved in MCAA as we grow in our 6th decade of serving the ceramics community.

Best regards,
John Leyland, MCAA President

MI MUD 2011 - Washtenaw Community College

by Charlene Harris

MI Mud 2011

Washtenaw
Community College (WCC)
Ypsilanti, MI

**Friday & Saturday
October 7 – 8, 2011**

The MCAA board is working with **I.B. Remsen**, Ceramic Studio Director at Washtenaw Community College (WCC) to finalize plans for the 21st MI Mud conference. Remsen is proud of the new state-of-the-art ceramics studio which opened in 2009. The facility has 20 pottery wheels, gas and electric kilns, and a very large spray booth. Remsen began his career as a potter in 1963 and works in his private studio on the historic old west side of Ann Arbor.

At the helm, **John Leyland**, the newly elected MCAA President is working hand in glove with Remsen to set the stage for a dynamic conference. Leyland became the Ceramics Studio Coordinator at University in of Michigan in 2003 and is Adjunct Faculty at College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

Robert Piepenburg will be the Keynote presenter giving both a lecture and Raku demonstration at the conference. Piepenburg is known for his work in Raku and is one of the most respected ceramic artists of the last 30 plus years. His work is displayed in museums around the world. Piepenburg,

recently retired from Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College after 41 years of teaching and has authored several books during his career. My personal favorite is his "Treasures of the Creative Spirit, An Artist's Understanding of Human Creativity". The book received a Best Books Award from USA Book News and should be in every artist's library, it is filled with timeless jewels of wisdom.

Stay tuned for a complete line-up of ceramic artists that will enrich your clay experience at the MI Mud 2011. If you would like to receive a conference registration or membership application please email **Barb Svagr** bsvagr@gmail.com

GET TO KNOW ... CURRENT MCAA OFFICERS and CHAIRS

John Leyland, President of MCAA is the Ceramics Studio Coordinator at University of Michigan and Adjunct Faculty at College for Creative Studies. He received an MFA from Miami University, and a BFA from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

Blake Williams, Vice-President of MCAA is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Art and Art History at Michigan State University, East Lansing. She joined the MCAA Board in 2009 and spearheaded the MI Ceramics exhibition at the Lansing Art Gallery and the Michaelene Walsh Workshop, fall 2010.

James Adair, Vice-President of MCAA is currently Adjunct Professor of Ceramics at Oakland Community College. He retired after a 25 year career as a Creative Sculptor for General Motors Design and has an MFA Ceramics from Michigan State University and BFA in Ceramics from Western Michigan University.

Chrys Bonnay-Lewis, Secretary of MCAA is a recent graduate of the College for Creative Studies in Detroit where she received her BFA. She currently works at Pewabic Pottery in their education department and teaches clay classes at Oakland Community College.

Charlene Harris, MCAA Treasurer is a retired business woman and horticultural instructor. She is an avid gardener who returned to working in clay after retiring. She has a home studio and attends ceramic classes in the Ann Arbor area. She enjoys playing with mud indoors and outdoors.

Barbara Svagr, MCAA Membership Chair and Conference Registrar and has been a member of the MCAA board since 2003. She is retired from Ford Motor Co. Her love of clay began with classes at Oakland Community College where she continues to audit classes and works at home. She is also an avid seamstress with her own embroidery machine.

Ceramic Workshop at Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center **ULTRA-THIN CERAMICS**

March 5, 2011

Saturday, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

BBAC Member: \$ 75; Guest: \$115

To register,
call BBAC (248) 644-0866

Join ceramic artist and author Frank James Fisher as he demonstrates his ultra-thin slab porcelain techniques. Using a variety of textures, including printing plates, Fisher creates intricate graphic designs and messages on the clay surface. The final results are 3-dimensional, hand-built ceramic sculptures. His innovative construction process allows for successful firing from cone 10 through low fire, including withstanding the thermal shock of western raku firing. Several projects will be demonstrated to showcase a variety of techniques and approaches. A 45-minute Power Point presentation will be available after the workshop describing the creative evolution of Frank's work. Mr. Fisher's work and writings appear regularly in Ceramics Monthly, Pottery Making Illustrated and in numerous books. His work is exhibited nationally. For more information, visit www.frankjamesfisher.com





Call for applications

The **Michigan Ceramic Art Association** is seeking candidates for the **2011 MCAA Scholarship Award**. The number of students that will be chosen to receive these awards will be at the MCAA Governing Board's discretion. **Winners will receive \$500 each.**

This award is to encourage students to further their ceramics education. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled for the Fall 2011 semester at a post-secondary institution within the state of Michigan. We are looking for students who desire a career in ceramic arts or ceramics industries, and/or the teaching of ceramics arts.

Students may be judged on works either completed or in progress. The Governing Board will view photos, slides, and/or digital images of a student's work, review their statement of need, and letter(s) of recommendation. Works shall be judged on talent, skill, inventiveness, originality, craftsmanship, form and subject(s). All judgments/decisions by the Governing Board will be final.

The application must be completed and postmarked by applicants no later than **May 31, 2011**. Include 4 or more images of your best ceramic art work as directed in the application. Applicants will be notified by **July 1, 2011**.

Please direct questions to:
MCAAscholarship@umich.edu

Mail applications to:

Jeri Hollister
801 Amherst Ave.
Ann Arbor, Mi 48105
734-761-1971
jerih@umich.edu

2011 MCAA Scholarship Application Form

Deadline May 31, 2011. *(Please print clearly.)*

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Summer address, e-mail and phone if different from above:

School you currently attend _____

Degree sought _____ Current year in program _____

Previous degree _____ From which institution _____

STATEMENT OF NEED: *(about 1 page):*

Please attach a separate sheet stating your current need for funds to further your study. You might include other sources of income you have or have pursued (*loans, scholarships, jobs, etc.*) and other financial obligations that contribute to that need, as well as your goals in the study of ceramic arts and the costs of that study. **Include: name, phone number and e-mail address of current ceramics instructor.**

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION AND REFERENCES:

Please attach a letter of recommendation from current or recent ceramics instructor. **Include: names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of two other relevant references.**

IMAGES OF WORK:

Include at least 4 images, either photos, slides or digital images on a disk, representative of your body of work and labeled with your name, title of work, dimensions, and technique (*e.g., handbuilt, altered wheel thrown, stoneware, raku, etc.*).

Label each digital image with your name and title of work (*abbreviated if needed*) and include with the disk a printout with full information for each work. Write your name and institution on the disk in permanent marker.

MCAA MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

To fulfill its mission throughout the state, the **Michigan Ceramic Art Association** sponsors exhibitions, workshops, and lectures in partnership with other organizations. These cover a wide range of subjects from ceramic techniques and history to running a business.

MCAA sponsors a biennial juried competition, **MCAA MI Ceramics**. This exhibition celebrates the work of ceramic artists throughout the state. A nationally known clay artist juries the show and awards prizes in several categories representing the diversity within ceramic expression.

Our second major biennial event is **MI Mud**. This two-day educational conference features demonstrations, exhibitions, slide lectures, and discussions. A nationally celebrated ceramic artist is invited, as well as several prominent Michigan artists and teachers, to demonstrate and lecture.

Institution Membership Services:

- Link on MCAA website to institution's website
- Ceramic related ads for institution on MCAA website
- Table provided at MI Mud Conferences to promote organization (space available)
- One-institution representative membership

MCAA publishes a **quarterly e-newsletter** along with **electronic updates** to serve as a communication network for artists, students, educators, art organizations and all connoisseurs of the ceramic arts. As the Michigan Ceramic Art Association evolves, our organization continues to fulfill our mission to serve the ceramic community of Michigan.

join MCAA today!

Membership and volunteer opportunities are open to all interested in the ceramic arts.

Annual dues are as follows:

Individual \$25

Family \$30

Full Time Student \$18

(Copy of class schedule required)

Patron \$50 and up (tax-deductable donation)

Institution \$100 (College, University, Guild, Business)

Total amount: \$ _____ Ck # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please tell us about yourself:

Hobbyist Professional Instructor

Student Years of experience _____

What is your major area of ceramic interest?

Mail application & dues (payable to MCAA) to:

MCAA c/o Membership Chair
1535 Northumberland Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309-2959

For more information contact:

Barbara Svagr
(248) 375-9956

bsvagr@gmail.com

Download membership application at:
www.michclay.com

MCAA Officers

President:

John Leyland (734) 763-4199
E-mail jleyland@umich.edu

Vice President:

Blake Williams (517) 281-5576
E-mail blakejw13@hotmail.com

Vice President:

Jim Adair (248) 202-8716
E-mail james.adair2@gmail.com

Secretary:

Chyrs Bonnay-Lewis (313) 822-0954
E-mail chrysbonnaylewis@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Charlene Harris (734) 433-9773
E-mail charlene@charleneclayart.com

Membership:

Barbara Svagr (248) 375-9956
E-mail bsvagr@gmail.com

E-Newsletter/graphics:

Joanne Daniels (517) 223-9138
E-mail daniels1@earthlink.net

MCAA e-newsletter

Send news for inclusion in the e-newsletter to:

Joanne Daniels

daniels1@earthlink.net

Send membership dues and inquiries to:

Barbara Svagr

1535 Northumberland Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309-2959
(248) 420-3922
bsvagr@gmail.com

Membership rates:

Individual	\$25
Family	\$30
Full time Student	\$18
Patron	\$50 & up
Institution	\$100

Send web information and inquiries to:

Wade Harris, Web Master

wade@wadephoto.net

www.michclay.com