

P R E S S R E L E A S E

10 September 2002

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Texas Mud: ceramic artists in Texas

sponsored by U S Trust Company of Texas, Trinity Ceramics, Texas Commission on the Arts

Texas Wood: woodturners

Mix! Series: Vincent Valdez: large figurative drawings

sponsored by ExxonMobil Foundation

Exhibition dates:

November 1 – December 21, 2002

Public Opening & First Friday*

Friday, November 1, 6 - 9 pm

The state's significant ceramic artists will be exhibited in ***Texas Mud*** scheduled for the end of the year. The show owes its debt to Marty Ray, whom originated the concept when she wrote a proposal to the Texas Commission on the Arts. This will be a dramatic, attention-getting exhibition at holiday time.

Grand support for this exhibition includes sponsors U S Trust Company of Texas, Trinity Ceramics, and Texas Commission on the Arts. Trinity Ceramics President John Williams, who has been serving the area clay artists for decades, originated the "tagged artist" concept adding a new dimension to the exhibition that began as a juried show. U S Trust, a dedicated area art supporter, was founded in 1853 as a wealth management company that provides investment management, fiduciary and private banking services. Headquartered in New York City, U S Trust has \$93 billion in assets under management and serves affluent individuals, families, and institutions nationwide through its offices in California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

There are over 50 artists in the show, : 20 invited artists who are the spine of Texas ceramics; they have been invited to tag another Texas ceramist whose work is deserving of attention; and there will be work curated from artists who have sent slides. Most artists will have two works in the show.

"These artists make clay talk," says Director/curator Joan Davidow, "everything from elegant vessels to pieces dotting the floor and a stacked brick tower in the sculpture garden." Some of the captivating new work includes

Lee Akins' graceful archeological vessels

Bethany Andrée's creamy organic forms

Jill Bals' slumped irons

Barbara Brault's spiked thistles

Vincent Burke's overblown colored ellipses

Nick J de Vries' textures cones

Bill Dennard's funky sliced cups
Ryan Fitzer's black-and-white graceful pitchers
Juan Granados' gunmetal floor toys
Chris Gray's red and blue teapots
Christopher Hart's wall-mounted volcanic cylinders
Richard Parson's floating balls
Fred Spauldings' towering bricks
Kysia Stronski's neon blue amphoras
Katherine Taylor's personified blobs

Invited artists include Lee Akins, Peter Beasecker, Lisa Ehrich, Christopher Hart, James Watrel, Marla Ziegler, from Dallas; Bill Dennard, Nick deVries, from Houston; Nicholas Wood, Arlington; Dan Hammett, Irving; Barbara Frey, Commerce; Jim Bob Salazar, Alpine; Claudia Reese, Austin; Vincent Burke, El Paso; Rick Parsons, Galveston; Juan Granados, Lubbock; Daphne Hatcher, Gary Hatcher, Mineola; Piero Fenci, Nacogdoches; and Fred Spaulding, Victoria.

Tagged artists include Randy Broadnax, Sally Brogden, Sally Campbell, Vorakit Chinookoswong, Michel Conroy, Carol Cook, Verne Funk, Gary Huntoon, Liz Lurie, Paul McCoy, Susan Mollet, Anita Powell, Marty Ray, Thomas Seawell, Elmer Taylor, and Von Venhuizen.

Artists juried into the show include Bethany Andree, Jill Bals, Barbara Brault, Chris Gray, Ryan Fitzer, Rafael Molina-Rodriquez, Krysia Stronski, and Katherine Taylor.

Mix! Artist Vincent Valdez: large figurative drawings. Valdez from San Antonio rounds out the year's series. A figurative painter, Valdez's work portrays dark narratives of his Chicano friends.

Texas Wood: woodturners will be a small focus show of area artists turning wood. As another craft medium similar to clay, these artists explore the wood material in inventive ways.

The Contemporary, located in the Wilson Historic District on north edge of Deep Ellum, is free and open to the public Tuesday – Saturdays 10 am – 5 pm. For information, please call 214-821-2522; e-mail—thecontemporary@mindspring.com; or visit www.thecontemporary.net.

****First Friday is a new evening program open to the public for art, fun, and entertainment at The C!***