

National artists follow path to Paducah

BY CORIANNE EGAN
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When former Paducah School of Art director Harvey Sadow and professor John Hasegawa began to curate the school's first national ceramic invitational, they were looking to create a cohesive, inclusive show that highlighted the work of nationally renowned artists.

Thursday at the Clemens Fine Arts Center, they will have just that.

The school's first National Ceramics Invitational includes work from 11 artists, including two local artists — Craig Rhodes and Wayne Bates — all who are nationally known for their work in ceramics. The opening reception at the gallery will be held Thursday night, and the gallery will continue the show until Feb. 12.

"This is an educational experience for our students, but it's also good for the community," Hasegawa said. "These works have been seen in textbooks and nationwide shows, and now they will be coming to our own town."

Hasegawa said that when the show was put together, he was concentrated on finding functional pieces, things he could show in class that would illustrate the different ways vessels could be shaped.

"They are all functional," Hasegawa said. "The result is this very cohesive, very interesting set of work."

Work by Bates and Rhodes, University of Missouri professor Bede Clarke, Arizona State University professor Sam Chung, Grand Valley State University professor A. Blair Clemo, Southern Illinois University professors Harris Deller and Matt Wilt, Thomas Hoadley of Lenox, Mass., University of Mississippi professor Matt Long, University of Miami professor Bonnie Seeman and Kathy Triplett of North Carolina.

The show also indirectly benefited other plans the Paducah School of Art has for the future. WKCTC president Dr. Barbara Veazey said that after the school expands into Madison Hall next fall, administration hopes to begin a series of workshops that bring some of the top national artists into the city for talks and lessons.

"We want to make connections with artists," Veazey

said. "That way when we can have the best of the best come here and teach our students and the community. That is something we are really excited about."

Hasegawa and the school's interim director Paul Aho said they were looking forward to the invitational being an annual event at the college.

"It's a great base event for the college," Aho said. "We have a lot to move on in the next year or so, and this event specifically can become a lot larger and have more to it. It's a great thing to be involved with."

Call Corianne Egan, a Sun staff writer, at 270-575-8652.

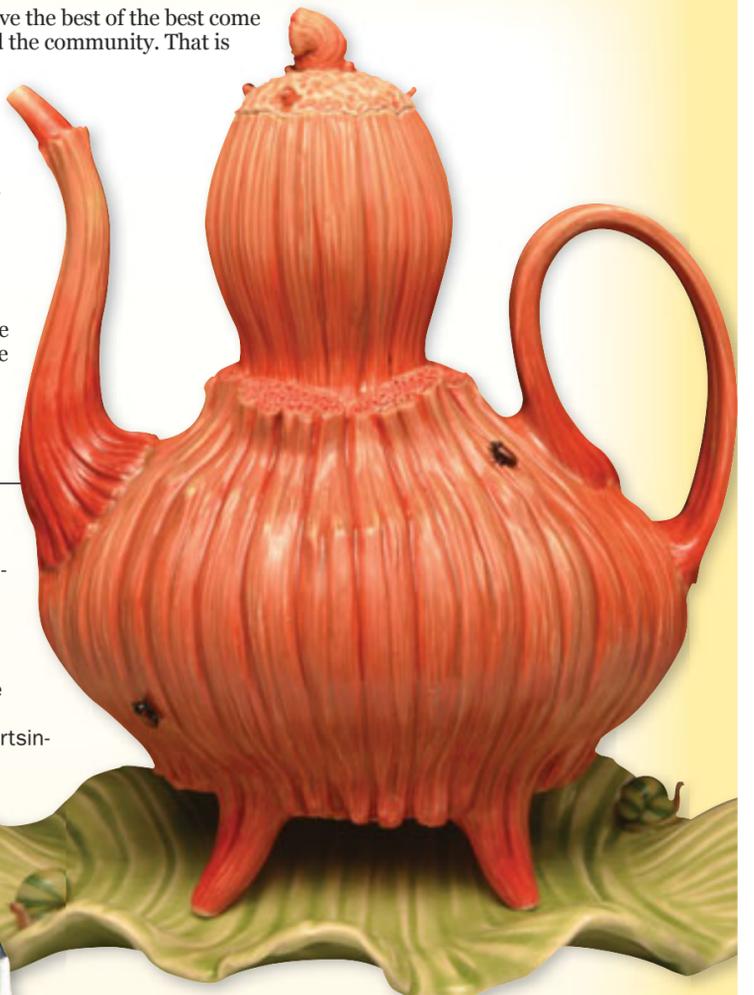
Want to go?

What: National Ceramics Invitational

When: Jan. 19 through Feb. 12. Opening night reception is Jan. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Where: WKCTC Clemens Fine Arts Gallery

For more information, go to artsin-focus.org.



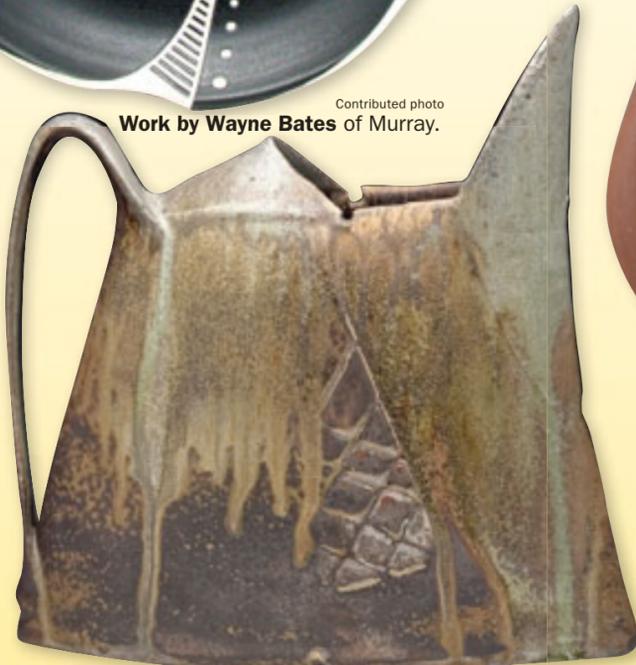
Contributed photo
Work by Bonnie Seeman, a professor at University of Miami.



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Work by Wayne Bates of Murray.



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Work by Harris Deller, professor at Southern Illinois University.



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Work by Bede Clarke, a professor at University Of Missouri.



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Work by A. Blair Clemo, Grand Valley State University professor.

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