



contemporary craft

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## CONTEMPORARY CRAFT SHARES INTERSECTING NARRATIVES IN NEW CERAMICS EXHIBITION

*An exhibition that reflects on the stories of a global community*

### EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS:

Free admission  
Free hands-on making activity in the Drop-in Studio  
37 artists  
Companion exhibitions and programs  
NCECA ANNUAL EXHIBITION  
Guest Curator Winnie Owens-Hart

### EXHIBITION DETAILS:

**DATES:** March 14 – August 18, 2018  
**PLACE:** Contemporary Craft  
2100 Smallman Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**TIME:** Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**WEBSITE:** [www.contemporarycraft.org](http://www.contemporarycraft.org)  
**FACEBOOK:** [facebook.com/SCCPgh](https://facebook.com/SCCPgh)  
**TWITTER:** @SCCPgh  
**INSTAGRAM:** @SCCPgh  
**HASHTAG:** #VisualVoices, #TruthNarratives

### Pittsburgh, PA – January 22, 2018

In collaboration with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), Contemporary Craft is pleased to host the exhibition - *Visual Voices: Truth Narratives*. Featuring ceramic works by 37 nationally and internationally recognized artists, this expansive exhibition features artwork from a range of emerging and established artists. **Guest curator Winnie Owens-Hart** has brought together five invited artists, Syd Carpenter, Roberto Lugo, Sana Musasama, Reginald Pointer, and Janathel Shaw with **32 juried ceramic artists to display powerful works that speak to a variety of personal and global issues**. These narrative artworks, whether literal or abstract, acknowledge racial, religious, class, and gender biases that exist throughout the world. Together the works create a sense of interconnectedness among our global community.

A public opening reception is planned in conjunction with the NCECA conference on Thursday, March 15 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. The exhibition will be on view through Saturday, August 18, 2018 at CC's Strip District gallery located in the Produce Terminal at the intersection of 21<sup>st</sup> and Smallman Streets. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

### An Exhibition about Free Expressions on the Current Local and Global Community

*Visual Voices* explores universal human stories. Historically, ceramic objects have been used to tell stories through visual imagery, codification, and narratives. In this way, clay objects have enabled archaeologists to theorize on ceremonial, spiritual, and utilitarian societal markers that document the social and cultural contexts of their makers' communities. Today, artists continue the creation of narrative works using the ceramic medium. Contemporary ceramists, compared to their historical counterparts, are visually bombarded through technology and diverse media systems. Some work in *Visual Voices* is created based solely on the artist's personal experiences while others are influenced by what they see through the media; many today are shaped by both.

# VISUAL VOICES TRUTH NARRATIVES

## ABOUT GUEST CURATOR: WINNIE OWENS-HART

Winnie Owens-Hart was born in Washington, DC. She received her BA from the Philadelphia College of Art, and her MFA from Howard University. Active in the arts since the late 1960s, Owens-Hart has exhibited nationally and internationally for over three decades, and received numerous awards, including the individual Craftsmen Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Lifetime Achievement in the Craft Arts Award. A teacher, author, and sculptor, Owens-Hart uses clay to touch on women issues - both personal and global. Additionally, her work examines the correlation between external forces and a person's psyche.

"Our individual life experiences determine how we are shaped and, in turn, how we shape the clay."

- Winnie Owens-Hart

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR THE CERAMIC ARTS

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) promotes and improves the ceramic arts through education, community building, research, and creative inspiration. NCECA offers programs, events, and publications to support its membership of artists, students, individual and corporate patrons, gallery owners, museum curators and providers of ceramic arts-related products and services. As a dynamic, member-driven organization, NCECA is flexible in its program development, international in its perspective and responsive to the changing needs of its constituency. The 52nd Annual Conference of NCECA will take place March 14 – 17, 2018 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. CrossCurrents: Clay and Culture, the theme for NCECA's 2018 conference reflects Pittsburgh as a city of rivers, bridges, complex immigrant history, gritty perseverance, and reinvention.

## COMPANION EXHIBITION AND PROGRAMS

- CC's **Drop-In Studio** (free and open to the public during regular business hours) will feature a hands-on, art-making activity appropriate for visitors of all ages and skill-levels designed by exhibiting artist Natalia Arbelaez.
- **Group programs** for *Visual Voices* include guided group tours and hands-on activities for visitors to experience craft techniques and to have in-depth conversations on topics explored in the exhibitions. Schedule a group tour with CC at [nsweet@contemporarycraft.org](mailto:nsweet@contemporarycraft.org) or call at 412.261.7003.
- **Storyteller** will feature ceramic objects created using a 2000-year-old pottery process by Albuquerque-based artist Jami Porter Lara. Porter Lara is one of the "20 Artists Shaping the Future of Ceramics" named by Artsy in 2017; her artwork resembles the ubiquitous icon of modern life - the plastic bottle. *Storyteller* will be on view at CC's BNY Mellon Satellite Gallery, located in downtown Pittsburgh's Steel Plaza T-Station from February 16 to May 6, 2018. The exhibition is free and open to the public daily through midnight.

## FUNDERS AND SUPPORT

*Visual Voices: Truth Narratives* is made possible by the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts and media sponsored by 90.5 WESA and 91.3 WYEP (as of January 2018). Contemporary Craft is supported in part by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, the Elizabeth R. Raphael Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

## ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft mediums by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, Contemporary Craft (CC) offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of

# **VISUAL VOICES** **TRUTH NARRATIVES**

engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, CC offers meaningful art opportunities for 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists, filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community.

CC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Exhibition and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. Contemporary Craft is committed to making its exhibitions, programs, and services accessible to the public. For questions related to accessible accommodations, please contact us. For more information, call 412.261.7003 or visit [www.contemporarycraft.org](http://www.contemporarycraft.org).

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Please contact Stephanie Sun at [ssun@contemporarycraft.org](mailto:ssun@contemporarycraft.org) for additional details or high res images.