

Ben Carter Schedule and Bio

NCECA has taken a major step forward in their programming this year. The addition of more live demonstrations and the Expo artist talks are well worth the price of admission alone. I am impressed that NCECA has diversified the variety of programs to match the diversity within the exhibition side of the conference. I have always thought the programming was more conservative than the work that was on display in NCECA shows. Glad to see this is changing and represents a major step to modernize the organization and conference.

For newcomers I have a few pieces of advice for your first conference. First, make a plan. Mine is flexible but I always start with a plan. My first conference was in 2001 for the Charlotte, NC NCECA. I spent most of my time wondering around lost and overwhelmed. Don't let this happen to you. A preliminary schedule is now available so take a few minutes to see what the conference has in store for you this year. (<http://www.nceca.net/static/documents/PreliminaryProgram.pdf>)

Second, rent a car. Try to see as many exhibitions as you can. A good schedule is equal parts lectures and exhibitions. To lower costs rent a car with a few friends. That way you get to save money and share in the excitement of seeing great art with people you like.

Third, Don't be afraid to meet your clay heroes. If you notice one of your favorite artists standing in your hotel lobby, walk up and say hello. You might only get to talk to them for three minutes before they rush off to their next event but you will be glad you did. The ceramic world is thankfully not Hollywood. Most people will be flattered you took an interest in their work.

With so much great programming in this year's schedule it is hard to choose which lectures to go to. Here are the highlights that I am going to make sure I see.

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

1:20pm - 1:40pm Hall A (Northern Clay Center) Gallery Expo Artist Talk By Kip O'Krongly

*Visit exhibitions

7:15pm - 8:30pm

Keynote: Yamaguchi, Soul Manufacturing Corporation and A Potter Named Dave. The Need for Blackness Within Contemporary Ceramics By Theaster Gates

8:45pm - 10:30pm

Randall Session: Leslie & The Ly's Live: Dance Blaster 1,000 By Leslie Hall

Thursday, March 20, 2014

9:00am - 9:30am Ballroom A

Process: Raw Glazing in Layers for Earthenware By Aaron Weaver

10:15am - 11:45am Ballroom C

Roundtable Discussion: Handle as Bridge: Creativity, Learning and Purpose (E) By Chris Staley [m], Brooke Davis Anderson, Theaster Gates, Erica Rosenfeld Halverson, Bill Strickland

12:00pm - 12:30pm Ballroom C

Lecture: From Genesis to Hogwarts: The Magic of Pottery (AH) By Robert Hunter

2:00pm - 3:30pm Ballroom D Workshop: Speculative Writing

By Mary Barringer [m], Amber Ginsburg, Alex Hibbitt, Kim Dickey, Paul Sacaridiz, David East

*Go see exhibitions

Friday, March 21, 2014

*****9:00am - 10:30am Ballroom C Panel: Virtual Realities, Material World (T)

By Ben Carter [m], Carole Epp, Adam Field, Michael Kline *****

If you are reading this blog then you might be interested in the panel I am leading on social media. Come on out for a great discussion on how social media can become a powerful tool in your creative toolbox.

11:30am - 1:00pm Ballroom D Panel: Igniting the Workshop Circuit (P)

By Tommy Frank [m], Linda Arbuckle, Bill Griffith, Sandi Pierantozzi

1:00pm - 4:00pm Hall B Demonstrating Artists Michelle Erickson and Ayumi Horie

*Go see exhibitions

Saturday, March 22, 2014

9:00am - 10:30am Ballroom NCECA's 49th Annual Conference presentation
Emerging Artists

One of the highlights of every conference is seeing the Emerging Artist presentations. Even if you have to drag yourself out of bed don't miss this.

Ben Carter is a ceramic professional based in Santa Cruz, CA. He received his Masters Degree in ceramics from the University of Florida. He maintains a studio, teaches workshops and exhibits nationally. He is the creator and host of the [Tales of a Red Clay Rambler](#) blog and podcast. You can see an online portfolio of his work at www.carterpottery.com.