



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2007-March 29, 2008

Galleries I & II *An Independent Spirit: The Potters of Seagrove Today*

Gallery III *Wood-fired Elegance: The Work of Donna Craven*

Artists' reception Friday, December 14, 6-8 pm. Open to the public free of charge

On exhibit November 30, 2007- March 29, 2008, two new exhibitions *An Independent Spirit: The Potters of Seagrove Today* and *Wood-fired Elegance: The Work of Donna Craven* focus on the work of Seagrove area artists. An artists' reception will be held Friday, December 14, 6-8pm and is open to the public free of charge.

An Independent Spirit: The Potters of Seagrove Today features the work of seventy potters working today in Seagrove. With a two-hundred year history as a pottery-making community, Seagrove today reflects the diversity of the potter and clay artist community in contemporary society. The range of personal expression is vast and includes not only form, but the scale of work, kiln technologies, the glaze surface, and traditional and international cultural influences. For the visitor, Seagrove is a democratic and eclectic adventure with few filters to separate the potter from their audience. This exhibit reflects that remarkable diversity.

The exhibition *Wood-fired Elegance: The Work of Donna Craven* features large richly ash-glazed vessel forms balanced by beautifully restrained incised and faceted surfaces. Donna says she is "challenged by each piece to create a continuity between the thrown form and the surface. Working on the wheel completely engages me. Then creating those optical accents on the piece, while labor intensive and time consuming, absorbs me and makes the form come to life." The work is created by wheel, coil, and paddle using a one inch extruded coil of commercial stoneware clay. After surface alterations, flashing slips, crackle slips, and glass runs are used in combinations often with a sprayed ash celadon glaze. Donna became a Seagrove journeyman in 1996 working at Humble Mill and Turn and Burn Potteries. She held the first opening of her groundhog kiln in 2001. In 2004, her work was seen in *Ceramics Monthly's* Upfront section. The Raleigh News and Observer *Living In Style* magazine did a feature article in September 2007 on Donna, fellow Seagrove potter Daniel Johnston, and Catawba Valley potter Matt Jones. 2007 exhibitions include the Wayne County Arts Council, the Moring Arts Center, Asheboro, and the Cabarrus Arts Council. Her work is represented in the Mint Museums, Charlotte, NC.

The North Carolina Pottery Center hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm. Funding for this exhibition is provided by the North Carolina Arts Council and Randolph County.

Exhibitions are made possible through the generosity of our membership, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, the North Carolina Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Covington Foundation, and the Cooke Foundation. Thank you!

The mission of the North Carolina Pottery Center is to promote public awareness of and appreciation for the history, heritage, and ongoing tradition of pottery making in North Carolina. The Center is located at 233 East Avenue in Seagrove, NC. For more information, please call 336.873.8430 or go to www.ncpotterycenter.com.