

## CARY ESSER

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Kansas City Art Institute  
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## EDUCATION

1984                    **MFA**, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University  
1978                    **BFA**, Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI)

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2009                    **Evermore: Pattern & Process**, Epsten Gallery, Overland Park, KS

2009-2007            **Craft in America Exhibition and Catalog**, venues:  
Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AK  
Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR  
Mingei International Museum, San Diego, CA  
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, TX  
Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, OK  
Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA

2008                    **Simply Assembly**, Epsten Gallery, Overland Park, KS  
**Kansas City Flat Files**, KCAI H&R Block Artspace, Kansas City, MO

2007                    **It's Only Natural**, KCAI H&R Block Artspace, Kansas City, MO

2004                    **Tile: Matter and Motif**, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD  
**Connoisseurs of Clay: Collecting Contemporary Ceramics** (catalog),  
St. Petersburg, FL  
**Works by Artists in Residence at the International Ceramics Studio**, Kecskemet,  
Hungary, Kansas City Artists Coalition, Kansas City, MO

2003                    **21<sup>st</sup> Century Ceramics in the United States and Canada** (catalog), Columbus College  
of Art and Design, Columbus, OH  
**Facets of Clay**, Macalester College Art Gallery, Saint Paul, MN  
**Scripps College Annual Invitational**, Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery,  
Claremont College, CA

2002                    **Evidence**, Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO  
**Sculptural Clay Invitational** (catalog), Daum Museum, Sedalia, MO  
**Out of Academe**, Manhattan Arts Center, Manhattan, KS  
**Gathering Influence: The Artist as Collector**, KCAI H&R Block Artspace,

Kansas City, MO  
**KCAI Ceramics Faculty 1996-2002**, Vanderslice Hall, Kansas City Art Institute,  
Kansas City, MO

- 2000      **Artistry in Tile**, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, VA  
**The Summer Show**, Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
- 2000-1999      **Flora and Fauna in Ceramics Sculpture** (catalog)  
Traveling exhibition curated by Cary Esser, venues:  
Florida Craftsmen Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL  
KCAI H&R Artspace  
Karl Drerup Gallery, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH  
Pensacola Museum of Art, Pensacola, FL
- 1999      **Clay Invitational**, Kansas City Artists Coalition, Kansas City, MO  
**Departures from the Midwest**, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD
- 1998      **Living With Tile: The Art of Installation**, Wayne Arts Center, St. Davis, PA
- 1996      **Clay Works: A National Invitational Exhibition**, Zephyr Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 1995      **Tile '95** (catalog), Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI  
**Keepers of the Flame**, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
- 1993      **Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition**, Duke University Museum of Art, Durham, NC  
**Another View**, University Art Gallery, University of Massachusetts at  
North Dartmouth, MA  
**Six Women Who Make Art With Clay**, Arts Council of Wilson, Wilson, NC
- 1992      **Archie Bray Foundation Benefit Exhibition**, Owen Patrick Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 1991      **Ceramics Walls**, Brainard Gallery, Eastern Illinois University, Charelstonm IL
- 1990      **Artists in the Garden**, Peden Gallery II, Raleigh, NC  
**LSU Ceramics Exhibition**, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
- 1989      **North Carolina Arts Council Artist Fellowships 1988-89** (catalog), City Gallery of  
Contemporary Art, Raleigh, NC  
**Ceramic Sculpture in Open Spaces**, Charlotte Kemper Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- 1987      **Ceramic Sculpture Exhibition at New Mexico State University**, Las Cruces, NM
- 1985      **A Centennial Celebration: Highlights from Kansas City Art Institute Alumni**,  
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
- 1984      **40<sup>th</sup> Western New York Exhibition**, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 1982      **Architectural Ceramics**, Women's Interart Center, New York, NY  
**Annual Scripps College Invitational Ceramics Exhibition**, Claremont, CA

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 1999      **Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art**, Kansas City, MO

- 1998            **Grand Arts Studio**, Kansas City, MO  
**Exhibition of Rosettes**, public art projects work-in-progress, in collaboration with  
Al Frega, metal sculptor
- 1996-1992      **Annual Open Studio Exhibition**, Chapel Hill, NC
- 1994            **Laramie County Community College**, Cheyenne, WY
- 1992            **Duke University Bryan Center Gallery**, Durham, NC
- 1991            **Chapel Hill Preservation Society**, Chapel Hill, NC
- 1989            **Holden Gallery**, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC
- 1987            **Durham Art Guild**, Durham, NC
- 1986            **Galaxo Corporation**, Research Triangle Park, NC
- 1985            **305 West Cameron Gallery**, Chapel Hill, NC  
**Greenwich House Pottery**, New York, NY

## **CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2005            **The Eye of the Colletcor: Art Pottery and More from the Morgan Collection**,  
Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, MO
- 2004            **Tile: Matter and Motif**, Baltimore Clayworks, Baltimore, MD
- 2002            **TRAX: An Exhibition of Sited Sculpture and Performance**, Union Station,  
Kansas City, MO  
**New Territory**, Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, MO  
**Evidence**, Sherry Leedy Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- 2000-1999      **Flora and Fauna in Ceramic Sculpture**, a nationally traveling group exhibition

## **AWARDS and HONORS**

- 2008-2004,  
2001, 1998-1996      **Faculty Development Grant**, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
- 2003            **Lighten International Artists Exchange Program**, Kansas City, MO
- 1994            **Professional Development Grant**, Duke University Institute of the Arts, Durham, NC
- 1993            **Research Grant**, Duke-UNC Program in Latin American Studies, Durham, NC
- 1988            **Visual Artists Fellowship**, North Carolina Arts Council, Raleigh, NC

## **COMMISSIONED PUBLIC WORKS**

- 1999-1996      **Old Revenue Building**, Raleigh, NC
- Contracted to collaborate with metal sculptor Al Frega to produce found-metal and carved ceramic sculpture with wall relief for lobby of renovated building.
  - Funded by Artworks for State Buildings Program, North Carolina Arts Council, Department of Natural Resources.
- 1994-1990      **Heritage Park**, Sanford, NC
- Designed and produced four ceramic murals, installed fall 1994. Funds received from City of Sanford, private donations, and New Works grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.
  - Artist/designer with landscape architect Carter Crawford and Downtown Revitalization Corporation, to develop master plan for pocket park and murals (1994-1990).
  - Led workshops for 150 Lee County residents to facilitate community brick murals.
- 1989-1988      **Paint Branch High School**, Burtonsville, MD
- Designed, produced, and installed two ceramic relief murals. Funded by the Montgomery County Art-in-Public-Architecture program (Percent for Art).

## TEACHING

- Present-1996      **Kansas City Art Institute**, Professor and Chair, Ceramics Department, Kansas City, MO
- 1994-1990      **Duke University**, Artist-in-Residence, Durham, NC
- Courses:
- Architectural Ceramics
  - Re-creating Pre-Columbian Material Culture, (co-taught with Dr. Dorie Reents-Budet, Curator of Pre-Columbian Art, Duke University Museum of Art)
  - Public Art/Private Concerns (co-taught with Professor Vernon Pratt, Department of Art and Art History)
  - Ceramic Sculpture
  - Introduction to Drawing
- 1996-1989      **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, Chapel Hill, NC
- Adjunct Professor, Art Fundamentals for Elementary Education (1996-1990)
  - Visiting Lecturer, Ceramic Sculpture (1991-1989)
  - Louisiana State University, Visiting Instructor in Ceramics, (1991)

## LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2004              **Nelson Atkins Museum of Art**, Kansas City, MO  
**Baltimore Clayworks**, Baltimore, MD  
**El Camino Community College**, Torrance, CA
- 2003              **International Ceramics Studio**, Kecskemet, Hungary  
**University of Central Florida**, Orlando, FL  
**University of Tulsa**, Tulsa, OK  
**Kansas City Artists Coalition**, Kansas City, MO
- 2001              **Archie Bray Foundation**, Helena, MT
- 2000              **Kent State University**, Kent, OH

- 1999 **Florida Craftsmen and St. Pete Clays**, St. Petersburg, FL
- 1998 **Forrest Park Community College**, St. Louis, MO
- 1997 **New Mexico State University**, Las Cruces, NM  
**Archie Bray Foundation**, Helena, MT
- 1996 **Anderson Ranch Arts Center**, Snowmass Village, CO  
**Boulder Potter's Guild**, Boulder, CO  
**American Crafts Council Southeast Conference**, Louisville, KY
- 1994 **University of Wyoming and Laramie County Community College**, Cheyenne, WY
- 1992 **University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ  
**Public Art Symposium**, Wake Forrest University, Winston-Salema, NC
- 1991 **National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)**, New Orleans, LA  
**American Crafts Council Southeast Conference**, Jackson, MS  
**Peters Valley Craft Center**, Layton, NJ  
**University of New Hampshire**, Durham, NH  
**Lee Brick Company**, Sanford, NC  
**Eastern Illinois University**, Charleston, IL  
**Southeastern Massachusetts University**, New Bedford, MA
- 1990 **Rhode Island School of Design**, Providence, RI  
**National Council on Education of the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)**, Cincinnati, OH  
**Wilson County Public Schools**, Wilson, NC  
**Paint Branch High School**, Burtonsville, MD

## **PULICATIONS, ARTICLES and REVIEWS**

- 2007 *Craft in America: Celebrating Two Centuries of Artists and Objects*, by Jo Lauria and Steve Fenton, published by Clarkson Potter
- 2006 “**Myra Morgan Collection at Dennis Morgan Gallery and Belger Center**”, by Andrea Norris, Review, February
- 2004 “**Matter and Motif**”, Clay Times, September/October
- 2003 “**21<sup>st</sup> Century Ceramics in the United States and Canada**”,  
Ceramics Monthly, December  
*21<sup>st</sup> Century Ceramics in the United States and Canada*, exhibition catalog edited by Bill Hunt, The American Ceramics Society
- 2002 “**Regeneration**”, NCECA Conference Preview, Article by Cary Esser,  
Ceramics Monthly, March  
**TRAX Exhibition Brochure**, curator's statement by Cary Esser  
**Sculptural Clay Invitational Catalog**, essay by Sherry Cromwell Lacy, Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO, March  
“**KANSAS CITY: New Territory**”, review by Stephanie Bowman, Art Papers,  
July/August  
“**Curating Clay: A Troika of Tactics**”, review by Alison Zimmer, Review,  
May/June  
“**Glaze Daze**”, NCECA exhibitions preview by Kate Hackman, The Kansas City Star,  
PREVIEW section, March 15-21

- The Pennland Book of Ceramics*, by Angelica Puzo, Lark Books  
**“Cary Esser Gives Kansas City an NCECA Look”**, interview by Marcus Cain, Review, March/April  
**Openings**, Review, listings and comments by Kate Hackman (March/April 2002)  
**Photo**, Review, March/April
- 2000      **“Humans, Nature, and Human Nature”**, by Elizabeth Kirsch, The Kansas City Star, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
**“KCAI and the Capacity for Ceramics”**, by Elizabeth Kirsch, The Kansas City Star, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
**“An Elegant Show of Naturalistic Clay Sculpture”**, by Kate Hackman, Review, April
- 1999      *Flora and Fauna Exhibition Catalog*, curator’s essay by Cary Esser  
**“Timeless Tiles”**, by Cara Walz, Pitch Weekly, November 11-17  
*Surface Decoration*, by Lynn Peters, Lark Books  
**“Kansas City Art Institute Ties”**, Ceramics Monthly, September  
**“No Shortage of Variety”**, by Elizabeth Kirsch, The Kansas City Star, May 29<sup>th</sup>  
**“Living with Tile”**, by Nancy McCroskey, Clay Times, January/February  
**Gallery Section**, American Craft, December 1998/ January 1999
- 1998      *Making Molds*, by Pierce Clayton, Lark Books
- 1995      **“Celebrating Ken Furgeson”**, by Patricia Degener, American Craft, October/November  
*Tile ’95 Exhibition Catalog*, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI  
*Keepers of the Flame Exhibitions Catalog*, Kemper Museum
- 1992      **“When Art Goes Public”**, by Kate Dobbs Ariail, Independent Weekly, January 15<sup>th</sup>
- 1989      *North Carolina Arts Council Artists’ Fellowships 1988-89 Exhibition Catalog*, by Vernon Pratt, City Gallery of Contemporary Art, Raleigh, NC
- 1985      **“Architectural Clay Focus”**, Ceramics Monthly, April
- 1983      **“Scripps Invitational”**, Ceramics Monthly, February

## **RESIDENCIES**

- 2003      **International Ceramics Studio**, Kecskemet, Hungary
- 1999      **Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts**, Newcastle, ME
- 1982      **Resident Artist**, Arts and Industry Program, Kohler Manufacturing Company, WI
- 1982-1980      **Resident Artist**, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

- 2004      **Juror**, Regional Juried Student Exhibition, NCECA conference, Indianapolis, IN
- 2002-1999      **On-Site Liaison and Board Member**, NCECA conference, Kansas City, MO
- 2001      **Juror**, Emerging Artists Program, NCECA conference, Charlotte, NC

