

Jess Benjamin

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EDUCATION

2008 Master of Fine Arts, Ceramics, Bowling Green State University (BGSU) Bowling Green, OH

2001 Bachelor of Art, Studio Art, Hastings College Hastings, NE

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2014 *Cedar Point Artist Residency* at the Cedar Point Biological Research Station at Lake
McConaughy, Nebraska. Sponsored by the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. (UNL)

2013 *Individual Artist Fellowship in Visual Arts*, \$5,000 Distinguished Artist, Nebraska Arts Council
Honorable Mention, River2River Juried Show, Jurors: Clary Illian, Mat Rude, Delores Fortuna
The Ceramics Center, Cedar Rapids, IA

2012 *FUSE Grant Winner* \$2,500 student/mentor grant to build a wood kiln, UNO
FUSE Grant Winner \$2,500 student/mentor grant to build a salt kiln, UNO

2009 *Best 3-D Artist*, Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards, Omaha, NE

2008 - 2007 Full Assistantship, BGSU

Aaron Macy Memorial Scholarship, BGSU

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 *Empty and Full*, Gallery 72, Omaha, NE

2014 *Dry Times*, Great Plains Art Museum, Center for the Great Plains Studies, University of
Nebraska, Lincoln, NE (In connection with the National Drought Conference)

2011 *WATERCOLOR*, Hilmer Art Gallery, College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE

- 2009 *DAM*, Nebraska Arts Council, Fred Simon Gallery, Omaha, NE (Juried)
Paradox of Value, RNG Gallery, Omaha, NE
- 2008 *DAM NEBRASKA*, MFA Thesis Exhibition, BGSU Bowling Green, OH
- 2006 *Jess Benjamin Ceramics*, Museum Of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE
- 2005 *Urban Evolution*, Darkroom Gallery, Omaha, NE
- 2004 *O*, Darkroom Gallery, Omaha, NE

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *American Craft Council*, Gallery 72, Omaha, NE
From One Place to Another, RNG Gallery, Council Bluffs, IA
- 2015 *Art Seen: A Juried Exhibition of Artist from Omaha to Lincoln*, Joslyn Art Museum,
 Omaha, NE (Juried)
Beyond the Brickyard, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT (Juried)
- 2014 *Nebraska Arts Council Visual Arts Exhibition*, Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE
Herself: Art-Woman, Gallery 72, Omaha, NE (Invitational)
It's All About Clay Hilmer Art Gallery, College of Saint Mary's Omaha, NE (Invitational)
- 2013 *River2River Juried Show*, *The Ceramics Center*, Cedar Rapids, IA (Juried)
UNO Faculty Show, UNO Art Gallery, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE
 (Invitational)
- 2011 *HERE/THERE SHOW*, Kokomo Art Gallery, Indiana University, Kokomo, IN
 (Invitational)
UNO Faculty Show, UNO Art Gallery, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE
 (Invitational)
- 2010 *Legacy: the Aaron Macy Memorial Scholarship Exhibition*, BGSU Bowling Green, OH
 (Invitational)

Legacy: the Aaron Macy Memorial Scholarship Exhibition, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ (Invitational)

2009 *Art of Fine Craft*, Lux Center For the Arts, Lincoln, NE (Juried)

HandMaid, Jackson Artworks, Omaha, NE (Invitational)

Ceramics Invitational, Hastings College, Hastings, NE (Invitational)

TXT/ART – Text and Art, Lit Fest Exhibition, Omaha, NE (Invitational)

2007 *Splash: The Student Water Projects*, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH (Invitational)

2006 *Tugboat Gallery Presents*, The Hot Shops, Omaha, NE. (Invitational)

New Sculpture, Hastings College, Hastings, NE (Invitational)

2005 *The Art of Fine Craft Nebraska*, Elder Gallery, Lincoln, NE (Invitational)

ARTICLES WRITTEN

Benjamin, J and Carpenter, K. 2011, Summer, “Acquiring a New Studio Space: What You Need to Know Before You Invest.” *Clay Times Magazine*, pgs 31-33.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Arney, Suzanne. 2014 *Her Art/Herself*. Image and article. Publisher unknown.

Juried, 2012. *The Best of 500 Ceramics: Celebrating a Decade in Clay*. Image “38 State Battle.” Lark Books, p 176.

Wendling, Amy E. 2012. *The Ruling Ideas*. Book Cover Image by Jess Benjamin, “WATERCOLOR: THE OGALLALA AQUIFER” (2011). Lexington Books, a division of Rowan & Littlefield.

Brown, Glen. 2009. *500 Ceramic Sculptures: Contemporary Practice, Singular Works (500 Series)*. Image “38 State Battle.” Lark Books, p. 398.

Internet

Smith, K. 2012, October 3rd-18th. "Artist Sculpts US Drought Monitor." *National Drought Mitigation Center*, drought.unl.edu/

2014, February 14th. "Cozad Native to have exhibit on display." *KRVN*, krvn.com

Magazines

Arney, S. S. 2005, November/December. "Jess Benjamin: Unexpected Beauty." *HER Magazine*, pp. 14-5.

———. 2005, Fall. "Weeds, Art." *Hastings College Today*, p. 44.

Carpenter, K. 2016, **Forthcoming**. "Conversation with Jess Benjamin." *Sculpture Magazine*

———. 2006, April. "Musk Thistles and Sweet Gumballs: New Interpretations by Jess Benjamin." *Ceramics Monthly*, pp. 44-5.

———. 2006, Spring. "Sculptor Jess Benjamin turns Weeds into Ceramic Art."

Today's Omaha Woman, p. 12.

———. 2005, March/April. "Transforming Quotidian Objects." *New York Arts Magazine* 10: 3/4, p. 89.

Thompson, P. 2012. October/November "Jess Benjamin Ceramic Climatologist." *HerLiving Magazine*. pgs 6-7.

Newspapers

Baker, S. 2012, May 12. "Artist's Inspiration comes from world around her." *Omaha World Herald*, Community Connection, pgs 1-2.

———. 2009, August. "State of Mind." *The Reader: The Weekly News of Omaha, Lincoln, and Council Bluffs*, p. 26.

———. 2005, October 13th "Free as a Weed." *The Reader: The Weekly News of Omaha, Lincoln, and Council Bluffs*, p. 27.

———. 2004, December 30th. "Artistic Differences." *The Reader: The Weekly News of Omaha, Lincoln, and Council Bluffs*, pp. 26-7.

- . 2004, May 8th. “Cozad Inspired Clay.” *The Reader: The Weekly News of Omaha, Lincoln, and Council Bluffs*, p. 22.
- Kraniak, M.J. 2009, June. “Hand Maid.” *Omaha City Weekly*, pp. 65-6.
- . 2005, March 9th. “Bang the Gong.” *Omaha City Weekly*, pp. 65-6.
- Martin, A. 2005, March 10th. “Bemis Center for the Contemporary Arts Slide Jam.” *The Reader: The Weekly News of Omaha, Lincoln, and Council Bluffs*, p. 26.
- Stansberry, R. 2005, December 15th. “We’re So Crafty.” *Omaha World Herald*, p. 1E.
- Thompson, D. 2016. October/November "Empty and Full." *The Reader*.
http://thereader.com/visual-art/empty-and-full/#.V_O4mojkPUw.facebook.
- Unknown. “Ranch Inspired.” 2004, May 20th. *Omaha World Herald*, special section “GO!” p. 8.

Radio

- Lyon, M. 2011, March 25th. *KIOS Omaha Public Radio*, airtime 8:30 a.m.

Television

- Larkin, T. 2006, August 4th. “That’s Clever.” *Home and Garden Television*, Episode no. 324.
- Mumgaard, A. 2006, March 24th. “Statewide.” *NET Television*. View at
http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/statewide/media2/extras/benjamin_032406_MSTR.mov

PERMANENT PUBLIC ARTWORK INSTALLATIONS

- 2016 **Water For Food Institute** Wall Slab.
- 2014 **Benson Business District Renovation** 5 seats created for a water retention garden.
 Omaha, Ne.
- Community Engagement Center, University of Nebraska Omaha** Wall Slab
- 2011 **Riverfront Place** 13’ long ceramic rebar wall depicting the water levels at Lake McConaughy is displayed in lobby. Omaha, Ne.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016 **Gallery Tour** *Dirt Meridian*, Joslyn Art Museum with Chief Curator, Toby Jurovics, Omaha, NE
Gallery Talk *Empty and Full*, Gallery 72, Omaha, NE
Artist Lecture *Empty and Full*, Water Learning Center, Ogallala, NE
- 2014 **Artist Lecture** *Water Quality*, Douglas County Farmers Union, Omaha, NE
Artist Lecture *Cultivating Creative Communities Statewide Arts Conference*, Nebraska Arts Council, Omaha, NE
Gallery Talk *Individual Artist Fellow*, Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE.
- 2013 **Associate Scenic Designer** *Take Me to the River*, Great Plains Theater Conference, Collaboration with Littleton Alston, Omaha, NE
- 2011 **Invited Speaker** *Thinking and Making*, University of Nebraska at Omaha, for the Barbara Willson Lecture Series, Omaha, NE
Artist Lecture *Meet the Artist*, 13th Annual Art Auction, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts
Studio Visit with Red Star Studio residents, Kansas City, MO
Invited Classroom Lecturer Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs, IA
- 2010 **Visiting Artist and Lecturer** Hartwick College, Oneonta NY (Three day visiting artist workshop)
Studio Visit with Creighton University Senior Critique class
Invited Classroom Lecturer *The Rise and Decline of Water*, Creighton University, Omaha, NE
Invited Panelist and Speaker United Nations World Environment Day, KANEKO, Omaha, NE
Studio Visit with Contemporary Artist Seminar, Bellevue University, Omaha, NE
- 2008 **Jess Benjamin Studio** I purchased a 4,300 square foot building with a loading dock and began the work of converting it into my studio.
- 2006 **Invited Speaker** *Mission Clay Project*, Tea Time Lecture Series, Bowling Green State

University, Bowling Green, OH

Invited Speaker *Jess Benjamin Ceramics*, Museum of Nebraska Art, Nebraska Now, Kearney, NE,

Invited Presenter Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts Slide Jam, Omaha, NE

2005-2002 **Assistantship** with Jun Kaneko, Omaha, NE

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

2013- **Adjunct Assistant Professor, Lied Art Gallery Director**, Creighton University

2012 – 2013 **Instructor – Ceramics** University of Nebraska at Omaha

Courses Taught: Ceramics I, II, III, 3-Dimensional Design.

Areas of Competence: Ceramics I, II, III, Glazes and Raw Materials, Kiln Building, Critique, 3-D Foundations

2011- 2012 **Adjunct Instructor** University of Nebraska at Omaha

Courses Taught: Ceramics I, II, III, 3-Dimensional Design

2007-2008 **Instructor**, Bowling Green State University as a MFA Candidate

Courses Taught: Ceramics I

STUDENT AWARDS

2012 **FUSE Grant Winner** I worked with ceramic student Angelica Nord. Nord wrote a proposal to build a wood kiln the UNO ceramics program does not have. We constructed the kiln in the spring semester of 2013.

FUSE Grant Winner I worked with ceramic student Cassandra Sullivan. Sullivan wrote a proposal to build a salt kiln the UNO ceramics program does not have. We constructed the kiln in the spring semester of 2013.

SERVICE

2014 **Curriculum Development Journalism, Media & Computing** I investigated 3-D Printing technologies while auditing a rapid prototyping class from The Energy and Technology

Department at Creighton University. I developed new curriculum for a 3-D Foundations class that includes both physical and computer aided construction of objects.

CU@The Arts Gallery Walk The Jess Benjamin Studio hosted artist, Betni Kalk, and Graphic Design students during an alumni event for Creighton University. The students created poster designs for Benson First Friday.

2013 **Art Selection Committee for the Community Engagement Center at UNO**

Clay Club UNO Clay Club hosted a spring sale in order to raise money for visiting artists and travel expenses for students to attend conferences. We raised over \$1,800.

UNO Art and Art History Gallery Committee

UNO Art and Art History Curriculum Committee

2012 **Clay Club UNO** Clay Club hosted a holiday sale on campus and raised over \$3,500. I started the student organization to aid in student travel expenses for conferences.

ThinkTank Host The theme was “Work” and a core group of 5 artists, philosophers, and landscape architects participated. During the five-day event in August, the artists each completed one new piece, and the philosophers’ work-shopped articles in progress. The landscape architect utilized the group to brainstorm a community based “Trug” project. The week was completed with the show, “Work: In Progress.”

<http://www.facebook.com/ThinkTankOmaha>

College of Saint Mary Fundraiser The Jess Benjamin Studio hosted the event “Taste of Israel,” to raise funds for the visual arts program for the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, NE. The Council for the Visual and Performing Arts requested my studio space to host their party. Fellow colleague, Avery Mazor, was the featured artist for the event.

UNO Art and Art History Curriculum Committee

UNO Art and Art History Gallery Committee

Artsarben I recruited five ceramic students to showcase their artwork at UNO’s Department of Art and Art History booth in September 2012.

Student Placement in Internship Ceramic student Cameron Conlon was an Exhibition’s intern at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.

Student Placement in Employment Katherine Goodwin received a job from Millard Manufacturing, which host's artist Ron Parks.

2011 **ThinkTank Host** A five-day event for people of diverse backgrounds to come together, share ideas across disciplines and formulate new ways of thinking. A core group of six artists and philosophers were on hand to engage in dialogues in an intellectual salon-style setting.