

**Jess Benjamin**

## **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

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2021 *Jess Benjamin*, Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, TX. (Exhibit was extended during COVID)
- 2020 *Precipice*, Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, TX.
- 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.  
*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.

## **INVITED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2026 *BGSU Ceramics Retrospective*, NCECA Conference, Detroit, MI.

*The Creighton University Studio Art Faculty Exhibition*, Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

2025 *Made In The Plains*, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE.

*From the Great Lakes to Great Plains*, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE.

*Crimson Connection*, Jackson Dinsdale Art Center, Hastings, NE.

2023 *Water-Works*, Constellation Studios, Lincoln, NE.

*Along the Colorado*, A museum, Phoenix, AZ.

2022 *Along the Colorado*, Diane Berger Gallery at Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, CA.

*Along the Colorado*, Nevada Humanities Gallery, Las Vegas, NV.

2019 *Omaha Entertainment and Arts Showcase*, Petshop Gallery, Omaha, NE.

2017 *MILESTONES: A Celebration of BGSU School of Art Alumni*, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH.

2016 *American Craft Council*, Gallery 72, Omaha, NE.

*From One Place to Another*, RNG Gallery, Council Bluffs, IA.

2014 *Nebraska Arts Council Visual Arts Exhibition*, Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE.

*Herself: Art-Woman*, Gallery 72, Omaha, NE.

*It's All About Clay* Hilmer Art Gallery, College of Saint Mary's Omaha, NE.

2011 *HERE/THERE SHOW*, Kokomo Art Gallery, Indiana University, Kokomo, IN.

*UNO Faculty Show*, UNO Art Gallery, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE.

2010 *Legacy: the Aaron Macy Memorial Scholarship Exhibition*, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH.

*Legacy: the Aaron Macy Memorial Scholarship Exhibition*, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ.

2009 *HandMaid*, Jackson Artworks, Omaha, NE.

*Ceramics Invitational*, Hastings College, Hastings, NE.

*TXT/ART – Text and Art*, Lit Fest Exhibition, Omaha, NE.

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

*New Sculpture*, Hastings College, Hastings, NE.

2005 *The Art of Fine Craft Nebraska*, Elder Gallery, Lincoln, NE.

## JURIED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Nebraska Now and Spirit Art Auction*, Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE.
- 2025 *Sioux City Art Center Biennial: Climate/Change*, Sioux City Art Center, Sioux City, IA.
- 2022 *WaterWorks*, The Ellen Noel Art Museum, Odessa, TX.
- 2019 *International Juried Ceramics Exhibition*, The Center for Contemporary Art, Beminister, NJ.  
*Art of Water III*, James May Gallery, Algoma, Wisconsin.  
*Nebraska Biennial*, Gallery 1516, Omaha, NE.
- 2018 *Central Time Ceramics*, Bradley University Galleries, Peoria, IL.
- 2017 *Plates, Platters, and Nothing Else Matters*, Long Beach Island Foundation of Arts and Sciences, Long Beach, NJ.  
*Nature and Neon*, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN.  
*Off the Table: Clay for the Wall*, Missouri Western State University Clay Guild, Saint Joseph, MO.  
*150 Artists, 150 Artworks, 150 Years of Nebraska in Miniature*, Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art, David City, NE.
- 2015 *Art Seen: A Juried Exhibition of Artist' from Omaha to Lincoln*, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE.  
*Beyond the Brickyard*, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT.
- 2013 *River2River Juried Show*, *The Ceramics Center*, Cedar Rapids, IA.
- 2009 *Art of Fine Craft*, Lux Center for the Arts, Lincoln, NE.  
*Ceramics Invitational*, Hastings College, Hastings, NE.  
*TXT/ART – Text and Art*, Lit Fest Exhibition, Omaha, NE.

## AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2018 (Nominated but not awarded) *Painters and Sculptors Grant Program* \$25,000.00 Joan Mitchel Foundation  
*Spirit of St. Francis Faculty Award* Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

- 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

## 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

### Magazines

- Carpenter, K. 2017, January/February. "Very Serious Play: A Conversation with Jess Benjamin." *Sculpture Magazine*, pp. 41-47.
- . 2006, April. "Musk Thistles and Sweet Gumballs: New Interpretations by Jess Benjamin." *Ceramics Monthly*, pp. 44-45.
- . 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.

Ursch, B. 2023. March/April "Molding a Message," *Omaha Magazine*. 20-21.

## 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.

McDuff, Mallory. 2023. *Love Your Mother: A Roadmap into the Hearts of Women Leading America toward Climate Justice*. 800-word essay and photo. Broadleaf Books.

## Internet

Carpenter, K. 2017, January/February. "Very Serious Play: A Conversation with Jess Benjamin."

*International Sculpture Center*, [http://www.sculpture.org/documents/scmag17/janfeb\\_17/fullfeature.shtml](http://www.sculpture.org/documents/scmag17/janfeb_17/fullfeature.shtml)

———. 2017, January/February. "Very Serious Play: A Conversation with Jess Benjamin."

*CAA News*, [http://www.sculpture.org/documents/scmag17/janfeb\\_17/fullfeature.shtml](http://www.sculpture.org/documents/scmag17/janfeb_17/fullfeature.shtml)

Pastor, J. 2017, July 24 – "Jess Benjamin: Sobre la escala, y la fuente del problema."

<https://ojosnegros.blog/2017/07/21/jess-benjamin-sobre-la-escala-y-la-fuente-del-problema/>

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

Stewarding Our Aquifer. 2017 "Art and the Aquifer"

<https://medium.com/stewardingouraquifer/art-and-the-aquifer-99225c48919a>

2014, February 14th. "Cozad Native to have exhibit on display." *KRVN*, [krvn.com](http://krvn.com)

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> "Free as a Weed." *The Reader: The Weekly News of Omaha, Lincoln, and Council Bluffs*, p. 27.
- . 2004, December 30<sup>th</sup>. "Artistic Differences." *The Reader: The Weekly News of Omaha, Lincoln, and Council Bluffs*, pp. 26-7.
- . 2004, May 8<sup>th</sup>. "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 9<sup>th</sup>. "Bang the Gong." *Omaha City Weekly*, pp. 65-6.
- Martin, A. 2005, March 10<sup>th</sup>. "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 15<sup>th</sup>. "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](http://thereader.com/visual-art/empty-and-full/#.V_O4mojkPUw.facebook).
- Unknown. "Ranch Inspired." 2004, May 20<sup>th</sup>. *Omaha World Herald*, special section "GO!" p. 8.

## Radio

Griffin, M. 2026, January 29. Riverside Chat KIOS Omaha Public Radio, (upcoming)

Lyon, M. 2011, March 25<sup>th</sup>. KIOS Omaha Public Radio, airtime 8:30 a.m.

## Television

Larkin, T. 2006, August 4<sup>th</sup>. "That's Clever." *Home and Garden Television*, Episode no. 324.

Mumgaard, A. 2006, March 24<sup>th</sup>. "Statewide." *NET Television*. View at

[http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/statewide/media2/extras/benjamin\\_032406\\_MSTR.mov](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 were 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

2026 **Host Family** *Nebraska Cattleman's Ball*, Fundraiser for Fred and Pamela Buffet Cancer Research Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Cozad, NE.

2025 **Invited Speaker** *Gallery Tour of From the Great Lakes to the Great Plains*, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE.

**Invited Classroom Lecturer** *Gallery Tour of From the Great Lakes to the Great Plains*, Environmental Ethics, Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

2024 **Host Studio** *Joslyn Art Museum*, Young Art Patrons Field Trip, Omaha, NE.

**Invited Panelist** *BFF*, Benson High School, Omaha, NE.

**Studio Visit**, Kearney High School, Omaha, NE.

**Classroom Visit**, *Environmental Artist*, Brownell Talbot Preparatory School, Omaha, NE.

2023 **Invited Speaker** *Art Around Town*, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE.

**Invited Panelist** *Women in Clay*, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE.

**Studio Visit** with Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School, Omaha, NE.

2022 **Invited Panelist** *Along the Colorado*, Diane Berger Gallery at Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, CA. (zoom)

**Invited Panelist** *Along the Colorado*, Nevada Humanities Gallery, Las Vegas, NV. (zoom)

**Invited Panelist** *WaterWorks*, The Ellen Noel Art Museum, Odessa, TX. (zoom)

2021 **Invited Speaker** *Ceramic Climatology*, Hastings College Lecture Series Student Symposium.

**Invited Classroom Lecturer** with professional practices class, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, (zoom)

2020 **Invited Speaker** *Precipice: A conversation between Jess Benjamin and Dr. Alex Hunt*,

Amarillo Museum of Art, <https://youtu.be/HhXqc3e9CK8>

**Invited Classroom Lecturer** Amarillo Museum of Art, (zoom)

- Academy Juror** *Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards*, Visual Arts, Omaha, NE.
- 2019 **Invited Panelist** *Farming, Natural Resources & You: A Panel Discussion*, W. Dale Clark Library, Omaha, NE.
- Faculty** *Open Space*, a week-long art camp for recruiting at Hastings College.
- Invited Panelist** *Spirit of Saint Francis Award Recipients*, Creighton University, Omaha, NE.
- Academy Juror** *Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards*, Visual Arts, Omaha, NE.
- 2018 **Mentor** *Open Space*, a collaboration between KANEKO and Hastings College to recruit High School juniors.
- Studio Visit** with UNO Professional Practices Class, Omaha, NE.
- Academy Juror** *Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards*, Visual Arts, Omaha, NE.
- 2017 **Invited Panelist** *Science on Screen*, Film Streams, Omaha, NE.
- Studio** *Woven: Grounding Feminist Thoughts and Practices*, Funded by the OCI, Omaha, NE.
- Juror** *Omaha Creative Institute (OCI)*, Artist grants, Omaha, NE.
- Academy Juror** *Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards*, Visual Arts, Omaha, NE.
- 2016 **Museum Tour** *Dirt Meridian*, Joslyn Art Museum with Chief Curator, Toby Jurovics, Omaha, NE.
- 2014 **Invited Speaker** *Water Quality*, Douglas County Farmers Union, Omaha, NE.
- Invited Speaker** *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*, 13<sup>th</sup> 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*, 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, Kearney, NE.
- Invited Presenter** Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts Slide Jam, Omaha, NE.
- 2005-2002 **Assistantship** with Jun Kaneko, Omaha, NE.

## ACADEMIC 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 MFA Candidate  
 Courses Taught: Ceramics I