

## **Northern Exposure: A Ceramic Survey Curated by Peter Held**

This showcase highlights the talents of Peter Held as guest curator featuring three invited ceramicists: Don Reitz, John Glick and Maren Kloppmann. We are also including ten juried clay artists. Those artists include Margaret Bohls, Ursula Hargens, Randy Johnston, Clay Leonard, Simon Levin, Heather Nameth-Bren, Mary Roettger, David Smith, Michelle Tobia and Geoffrey Wheeler. These artists were selected from an open call of ceramic artists active in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin; over fifty submissions were reviewed.

This project started with my friendship with Peter Held. We met when we both moved to Arizona at the turn of this century. I have done quite a lot of photography work for Peter at the Arizona State University Art Museum where he is the curator of ceramics of the Ceramics Research Center. Over lunch we discussed Don Reitz and his connection to the University of Wisconsin, Madison. From that juncture came the amazing selection of world renowned ceramic artists for this exhibition.

Peter Held is one of the foremost scholars of American ceramics and was brought to ASU to provide leadership to one of the most significant collections of ceramics in the United States. In addition to his scholarship, Peter is also a curator, lecturer and author.

Don Reitz is no stranger to Wisconsin or the ceramics world, having taught at The University of Wisconsin-Madison until his retirement in 1988. Now that he nears 80 years, it's hard to imagine using the term retirement to describe Don. He is still actively producing large and small ceramics in his studio near Cottonwood, Arizona. I have also had the pleasure of knowing Don Reitz through my photo work at the Arizona State University Art Museum.

Maren Kloppmann and John Glick are also highly regarded artists. Since I do not personally know them I will let their work speak for themselves. Maren and John, as well as the ten participating artists, were all selected by Peter Held. I trust that you will all enjoy this important showcase of Midwestern ceramics.

Daniel Swadener  
Exhibition Curator  
Promega Corporation