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# Pushing boundaries



1  
Irina Okula, *An Apple for Adam*,  
porcelain,  $21\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ "

2  
Ben Ryterband, *Microbiome*,  
ceramic, magnets and wood,  
 $20 \times 19 \times 11$ "

3  
Meghan Sullivan, *Ecce Homo*,  
terra-cotta clay,  $15 \times 7 \times 5$ "

4  
Molly Cantor, *Pail for Mary Webster*, porcelain and wire,  
 $10 \times 8$ "

5  
Jan Schachter, *Casserole*,  
stoneware clay,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 9 \times 9$ "

**M**ore than 300 ceramists have participated in *The State of Clay Ceramics Exhibition* at the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society in Lexington, Massachusetts, throughout the last 18 years. The Fuller Craft Museum presents 35 of those artists in *The State of Clay: Pushing Boundaries*, beginning March 7, in conjunction with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference.

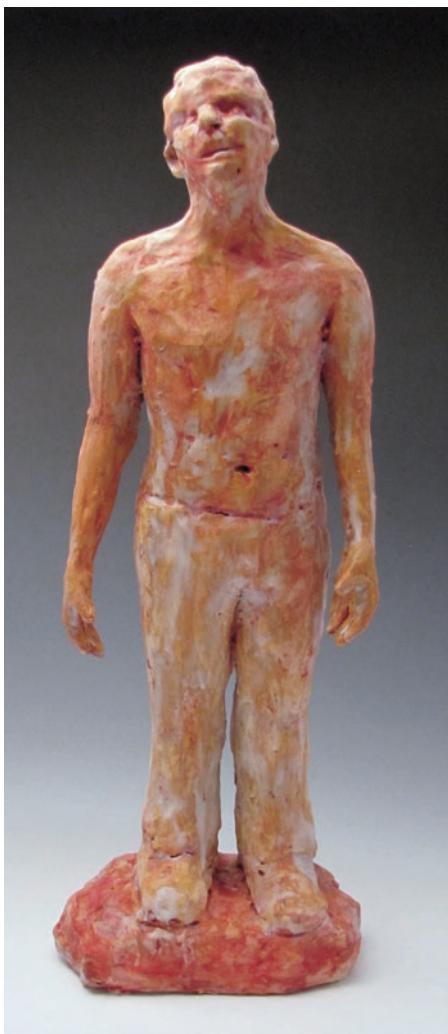
"The select artists pursue a craft that has inspired them to search out the best of themselves through their work. They are educators, studio potters, established professionals, emerging artists and craftspeople with both traditional and contemporary styles," say Alice Abrams and Joan Garcia curators for *The State of Clay*.

**Jan Schachter**, whose stoneware *Casserole* is in the show, has been in *The State of Clay* before and is excited to be included in the exhibition at the Fuller Craft Museum.

"I am thrilled to be in this iteration of *The State of Clay*, as I have been in the show numerous times," she says. "I love the variety of ways each person approaches the same medium to create something markedly unique."



2



3



4



5

Irina Okula does porcelain string and has been exhibited at the museum previously. Her piece *An Apple for Adam*, exhibited in *The State of Clay*, was inspired as the artist focused on the human figure by

making molds of the individual parts of porcelain string.

"The white purity of the porcelain provides a sharp contrast to the chaotic movement found in the vines of the clay,"

she explains. "This, along with the vibrant red of the apple...how could Adam resist?"

Meghan Sullivan's *Ecce Homo* will be on display. The work was inspired by the perceived conception and societal expectation of masculinity. "There can be a desire to project a tough exterior and to be emotionally and physically invulnerable. But that exterior runs counter to the human need for companionship and understanding," she says.

Many ceramists like the way clay challenges them as artists, like Suzanne Stumpf, whose piece *Kanban* will be at the Fuller Craft Museum.

"...Stone sculpture tends to involve subtraction, whereas working in clay is more often a process of addition," says Stumpf. "This type of building process essentially means starting "from nothing" and is hence very demanding in its creative process."

*The State of Clay: Pushing Boundaries* is one of three exhibitions at Fuller Craft Museum during the NCECA conference, and will be on display through May 24. ●