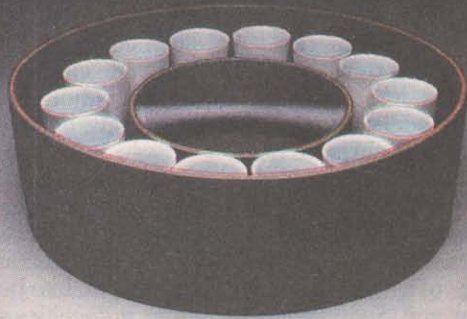


Clark College's Archer Gallery will display the works of 18 ceramic artists, including those shown at right by Peter Beasecker, in the exhibit called "minimal/ist." Beasecker is a professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.



A celebration of ceramics

Clark College, area galleries fete national conference

By TRICIA JONES
Columbian staff writer

Each artistic medium has its advocates. For Lisa Conway, professor of ceramics at Clark College, this is the joy of working with clay: Push it, and

it pushes back.

"It's not like wood or stone or steel; it's responsive, and extremely sensitive to the touch," Conway said. "I think it allows for the most amount of personal expression."

Samples of clay's many expressions will be on view in exhibits beginning Tuesday at Clark College's Archer Gallery and Frost Art Center.

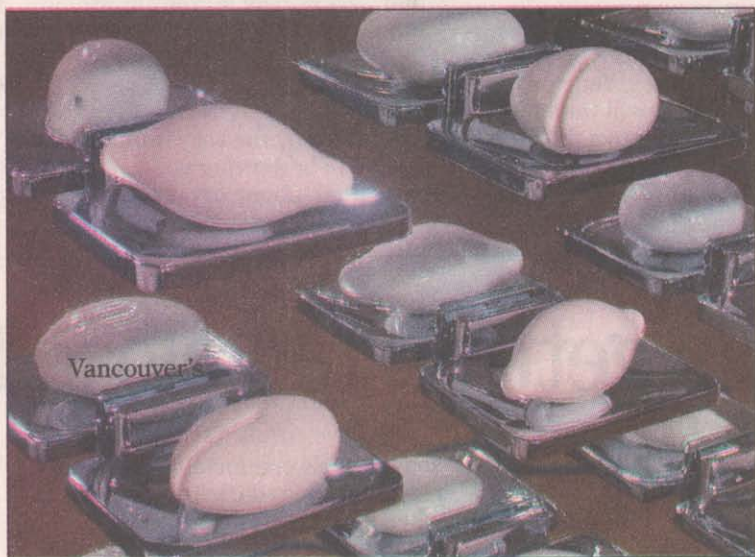
The two exhibits are linked to a national ceramic arts conference that's expected to bring thousands of teachers, students, artists, gallery owners, collectors and hobbyists to the Vancouver-Portland area in March.

Though the conference itself will take place at the Oregon Convention Center, its influence will be felt from the greater Vancouver area down the Interstate 5 corridor to Salem, Conway said.

"Not only is every school going to have a ceramics exhibit (and be) participating, but every single gallery space in the greater metro area will have a ceramics show in the month of March," she said.

Bus tours are scheduled to bring conference attendees to Clark College and other participating galleries. As a result, the college will be attracting a larger and broader audience than usual, said Marjorie Hirsch, Archer Gallery director. "For thousands of people very actively involved in the ceramics world ... to be coming to Vancouver to see these presentations at Archer Gallery and the Frost Art Center, that's really a major event," Hirsch said.

At Archer Gallery, visitors will see "minimal/



Portland artist Jacey Dunaway's "Soap Dishes" takes a wry look at consumer culture. Installations by Dunaway will be exhibited Tuesday through March 14 at the college's Frost Art Center.

ist," a gathering of two to four works each by 18 ceramic artists from across the country. Among them is the show's curator, Lynn Duryea, an assistant professor of art at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

Duryea selected the artists to be featured; Hirsch and Conway worked with the artists to pinpoint which of their works would best be displayed in the newly renovated gallery.

"The artists work in a variety of ways: functional potters, vessel makers, sculptors, and a couple of installation people," said Duryea, a former studio artist with more than 20 years of experience working in clay. Her goal for "minimal/ist" was to explore the influence of an art movement that she says was initially derided as simple, boring and unimaginative.

More people now understand that an appreciation for minimalism requires a level of sophistication "to understand the complexity behind the simplicity," Duryea said.

Ceramics:

From page D1

Conway agrees that what appears to be an unadorned rectangle, for example, offers opportunities to notice the richness and depth of the piece's surfaces. Still, she finds that the marriage between minimalism and the ceramic arts to be a curious partnership. Goopy clay, she says, is more "maximumlist" by nature.

"Clay takes up room. It's dirt, it gets under the fingernails, sticks to shoes," she said.

"People who can work with it in a spare, clean, light, thin manner — that's going to make me pay attention to the subtleties and particulars of an otherwise very plain shape."

Given that none of the 18 "minimal/ist" artists lives in the area, Clark College sought to add a regional element to the ceramics exhibits by spotlighting two Portland ceramic artists for the Frost Art Center.

Installations by Jacey Dunaway will be shown in display cases in the center's lobby.

Exhibitors describe her work as "slyly shine," Hirsch said.



ON THE WEB

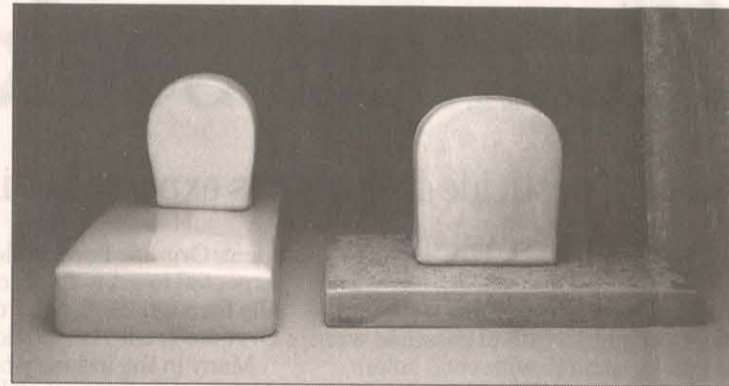
National Council
on Education
for the Ceramic
Arts conference
March 8-11
at the Oregon
Convention Center
www.nceca.net

skewed variations on the mass-marketed items of the consumer world."

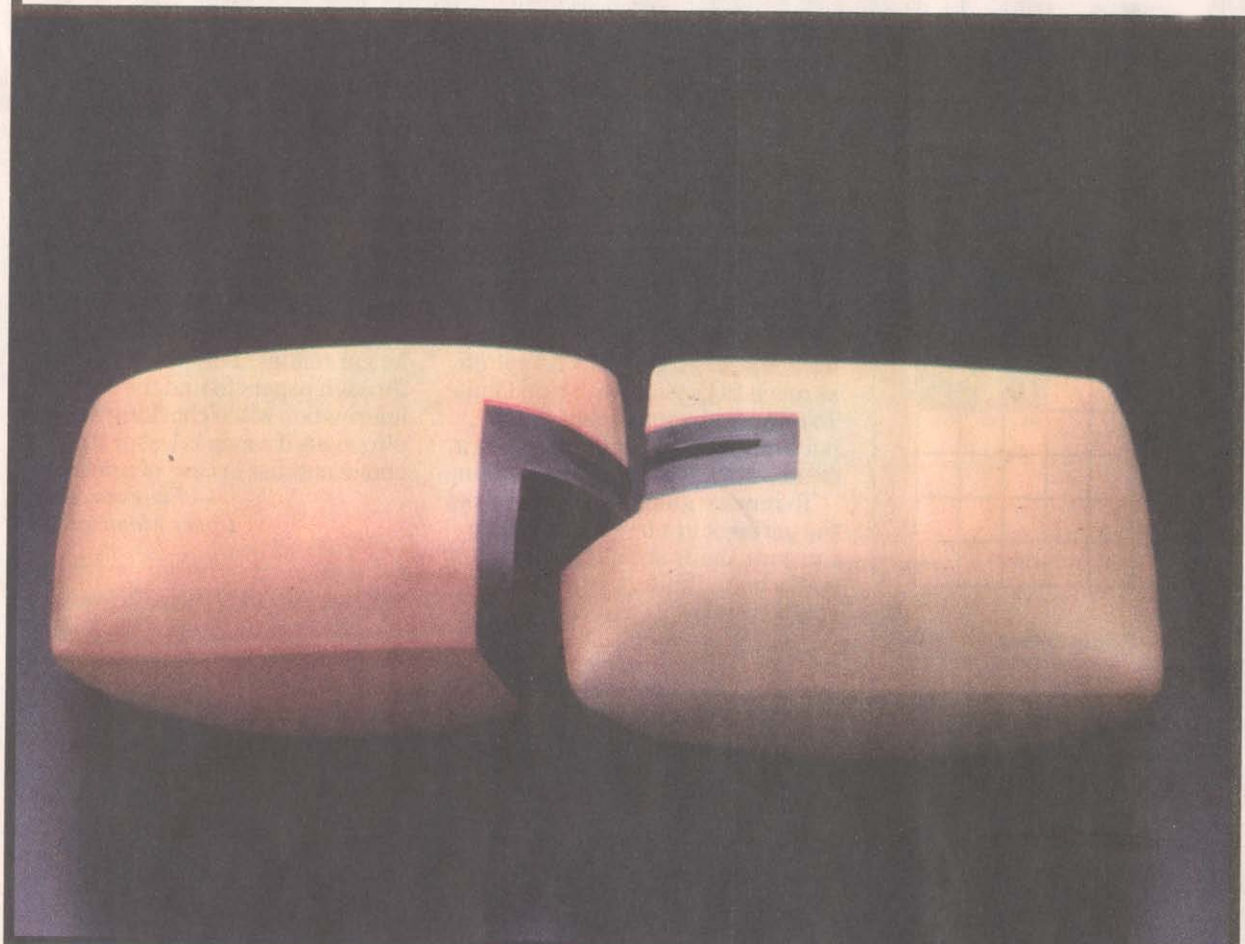
Life-sized human forms by J.D. Perkin will be displayed outside in the central courtyard.

Preparing three campus exhibit sites for so many anticipated visitors may be a challenge, but the extra effort has a payoff for Hirsch and the many people on campus involved with making pedestals, unpacking art and producing exhibit signs.

"It's our opportunity to



Also part of the "minimal/ist" exhibit is "May Frost" by Jae Won Lee, a professor at Michigan State University in East Lansing.



If you go

■ **What:** "minimal/ist," an exhibit of national ceramic artists, and installations by Portland ceramic artists Jacey Dunaway and J.D. Perkin.

■ **When:** Both exhibits are from Tuesday to March 14. An artists' reception for "minimal/ist" will take place from 4:30 to 7 p.m. March 7, with a curator talk at 6 p.m. Hours for "minimal/ist" are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Hours for the second exhibit are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Both exhibits are closed on Feb. 17.

■ **Where:** Clark College, 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd. "Minimal/ist" will be at Archer Gallery, which is in the Penguin Student Union building on the campus's northwest corner. The installations will be at Frost Art Center, in its lobby and the central courtyard outside the center. Frost Art Center is on Fort Vancouver Way, between McLoughlin and Fourth Plain boulevards.

■ **Cost:** Free.

■ **Information:** Call 360-992-2246 for information about "minimal/ist," or 360-992-2370 for information about either exhibit.

"Two Pillows" is a porcelain creation by Maren Kloppman.

AREA GALLERIES JOIN CERAMICS FESTIVITIES

In addition to Clark College's Archer Gallery and Frost Art Center, here are area galleries planning exhibits to coincide with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference in March.

■ **Aurora Gallery:** Works by Hank Murrow of Eugene, Ore., will be displayed from March 3 through 31 at 1004 Main St., Vancouver. An artist's reception will be from 4:30 to 8 p.m. March 9. Call 360-696-0449.

■ **North Bank Gallery:** "Explorations, Navigations ... The Resonance of Place" will be from March 8 through 31 at 1005 Main St., Vancouver. The title refers to two exhibits. "Grand Prairie Studio: 25 Years, 10 Potters" is a display of works by 10 ceramic artists from six states, including Washington. "Dimples and Doughnuts" is an exhibit featuring the works of California artists Mark Boguski and Kris Lyons. An artists' reception will be held from 4:30 to 8 p.m. March 9. Call 360-693-1840.

■ **Sixth Street Gallery:** Two shows run from March 8 through 26 at 105 W. 6th St., Vancouver. A group show called "Stability in Transition" will be displayed as well as "Deirdre Daw," a self-titled exhibit of works by the Seattle artist. An artists reception will be from 5 to 9 p.m. March 10. Call 360-693-7340.

■ **White Sturgeon Art Gallery:** Ceramic work by Margaret Haydon of Laramie, Wyo., and Meredith Dalglish of Portland will be shown from March 9 to April 30 at the Water Resources Education Center, 4600 S.E. Columbia Way, Vancouver. An artists' reception is from 5 to 8 p.m. March 9. Call 360-696-8478.