

Richard Bresnahan

Artist-in-Residence and Master Potter

The Saint John's Pottery | Saint John's University

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Milestones

2010-2013 National exhibition tour, Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay

2002-2003 Regional exhibition tour, Body of Clay, Soul of Fire

1993-1994 Design and construction of Johanna Kiln, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

1980-present Instructor: Environmental Art and Architecture, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

1979 Design and construction of Takigama Kiln, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

1979-present Artist-in-Residence and Master Potter, the Saint John's Pottery, Collegeville, MN

1975-1979 Apprenticeship with Nakazato Takashi, Karatsu, Japan

1972-1976 B.A., Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

1953 Born in Casselton, ND

Exhibitions

2014 Red River Reciprocity: Minnesota and North Dakota Artists, Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND

2013 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay (national tour), Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI

2013 Minnesota Potters: Sharing the Fire (regional tour), Winona State University, Winona, MN

2012 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay (national tour), University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, MN

2012 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay (national tour), Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA

2012 The Contemporary Art of Chawan, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2012 NCECA Conference Teaware from the Edge, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma, WA

2012 NCECA Conference Teabowl Invitational Exhibition, POTS Gallery, Seattle, WA

2013 Minnesota Potters: Sharing the Fire (regional tour), MacRostie Art Center, Grand Rapids, MN

2012 Minnesota Potters: Sharing the Fire (regional tour), Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN

2012 Minnesota Potters: Sharing the Fire (regional tour), Grand Marais Art Colony, Grand Marais, MN

2012 Minnesota Potters: Sharing the Fire (regional tour), Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

2011 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay (national tour), The Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN

2011 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay (national tour), University of Minnesota–Morris, Morris, MN

2010 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay (national tour), Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

2010 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay (national tour), Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

2010 Art in Embassies Exhibition Program, U.S. Department of State, Vatican City and Rome, Italy

2009 Ceramics by Richard Bresnahan, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

2009 The Nature of Process, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN

2008 Transformations: From Ceramics to Paper, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

2007 International Wood-fired Tea Bowl Exhibition, Island Gallery, Seattle, WA

2007 Ten-Year Anniversary Exhibition, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

2007 Akar 5x30 Exhibition, Akar Gallery, Iowa City, IA

2006 International Wood-fired Exhibition, Northern University of Arizona Museum of Art, AZ

2006 Tea Time: Art of the Teapot, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI

2006 Japan/USA Exhibition, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, NM

2006 Peace and War Exhibition, The Rourke Art Gallery, Moorhead, MN

2005 The Shape of Tea, The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA

2005 East and West: Japanese and American Woodfired Artists, The Island Gallery, Seattle, WA
2005 International Ceramics Conference Invitational, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA
2005 Community College Exhibition Feature, Hibbing Community College, Hibbing, MN
2005 Midwestern Invitational, The Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN
2004 Kettles: Japanese Artistry and American Artists, Carleton College Gallery, Northfield, MN
2003 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire (regional tour), Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI
2003 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire (regional tour), Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth, MN
2002 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire (regional tour), North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks ND
2002 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire (regional tour), University of Minnesota–Morris, Morris, MN
2002 Twenty-Two Ways of Clay, University of Texas Tyler, Tyler, TX
2002 National Invitational: To Pour, Art Works Gallery, Bozeman, MT
2002 Here by Design: Made in Minnesota, Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth, MN
2001 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire (regional tour), Washington Pavillion, Souix Falls, SD
2001 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire (regional tour), Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN
2001 Here by Design, University of Minnesota Goldstein Museum, Saint Paul, MN
2001 The Making of a Book, General Mills Gallery, General Mills Corporation, Minneapolis, MN
1999 Different Strokes: International Woodfired Invitational, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
1999 Koie Ryoji, Richard Bresnahan, and Karen Terbstra, Woodard Gallery, Iowa City, IA
1996 First Fire: New Pottery by Richard Bresnahan, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
1986 East Meets West, The Rourke Art Gallery and Museum, Moorhead, MN
1985 Surface / Function / Shape, Southern Illinois Univeristy, Edwardsville, IL
1984 Functional Clay, North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND
1982 Richard Bresnahan and Tanegashima Ceramics, Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston
1982 Richard Bresnahan and Tanegashima Ceramics, The Rourke Art Gallery, Moorhead, MN
1981 Fire and Ashes, Pittsburgh Center for The Arts, Pittsburgh, PA
1980 Annual Midwestern Invitational Exhibition, The Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN

Lectures, Presentations, and Workshops

2014 Keynote Speaker, Design Science Symposium, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
2013 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop and Lecture, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI
2013 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop and Lecture, Winona State University, Winona, MN
2013 TEDx Format Sustainability Lecture, White Oak Conservation Center, Yulee, FL
2012 Ancient Fire to a Humane Future Lecture, University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, MN
2012 Ancient Fire to a Humane Future Lecture, Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA
2011 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop, University of Minnesota–Morris, Morris, MN
2010 Ancient Fire to a Humane Future Lecture, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst IL
2009 Sustainability Lecture, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
2006 Ancient Fire to a Humane Future Lecture, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ
2005 Kiln Construction Workshop, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA
2005 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop and Lecture, Hibbing Community College, Hibbing, MN
2004 MNSCU Artist Workshop, Winona State University, Winona, MN
2004 Convocation Speaker and Faculty Workshop, University of Minnesota–Morris, Morris, MN
2004 Continuities in Clay Workshop, Augsburg College, Augsburg, MN
2003 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire Lecture, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
2003 Pottery Symposium, Lake Superior College and the University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN
2002 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop and Presentation, University of Minnesota–Morris, Morris, MN
2002 Pottery Symposium, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, ND
2002 Pottery Symposium, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

1999 Kiln Building Workshop, Red Lake Community, Red Lake Falls, MN
1998 Indigenous Resources Workshop, Red Lake Community, Red Lake Falls, MN
1997 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
1997 Artist-in-Residence, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Center, MA
1997 Kiln Building and Eco-Architecture Lecture, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
1996 Utilitarianism Workshop and Lecture, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
1996 Ceramic Arts of Tanegashima, NCECA keynote, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
1996 Tea Ceremony Workshop and Lecture, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
1985 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
1983 Karatsu Kickwheel Workshop, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
1982 Artist-in-Residence, Boston University, Boston, MA

Awards and Grants

2011 Paul Lawson Fund Grant, NCECA conference attendance and participation, Seattle, WA
2009 Exhibition Juror, It's Only Clay, Bemidji Community Art Center, Bemidji, MN
2006 Chip Fricke Award, Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, Saint Paul, MN
2003 Alumni Achievement Award, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN
2002-2007 McGlynn Family Foundation Apprenticeship Awards, Minneapolis, MN
1998 Lifetime Member Award, Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, Saint Paul, MN
1998 Charles Lindberg Individual of the Year, Minnesota State Historical Society, Saint Paul, MN
1996 Earth Day Award, Business for Social Responsibility Upper Midwest, Minneapolis, Minnesota
1996 Indigenous Clay Research Grant, Natural Resources Research Institute, Duluth, MN
1995 Grant Award, Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation, New York, NY
1994 Grant Award, Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation, New York, NY
1985-1990 Central Minnesota Arts Council Grants, Central Minnesota Arts Council, Foley, MN
1982-1996 Jerome Foundation Emerging Artist Program grants, Jerome Foundation, Saint Paul, MN
1980-2003 Grotto Foundation Apprenticeship Awards, Grotto Foundation, Saint Paul, MN
1980 Teaching Appointment, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN
1979-2007 Bush Foundation Grant Awards, Bush Foundation, Saint Paul, MN
1979 Taki-gama Kiln Construction, The Saint John's Pottery, Collegeville, MN
1979 Master Potter and Artist-in-Residence, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN
1979 Completion of Apprenticeship, Takashi Nakazato Pottery, Karatsu, Japan
1976 Grant Award, Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation, New York, NY
1976 Bachelor of Arts Degree, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN

Feature Films

2014 Richard Bresnahan and the Saint John's Pottery, Prairie Public Broadcasting/PPTV
2013 Richard Bresnahan feature, Prairie Public Broadcasting/PPTV
2012 Minnesota Potters: Sharing the Fire, Kathleen Laughlin and Mark Lambert for TPT
2007 Fire Artist, Documentary film about Shiho Kanzaki, Claude Gagnon Films
2004 Laura Lee Alban: Designing Lives Worth Living, recipient of Muriel Copper Award in Design
1998 Clay, Wood, Fire, Spirit: The Pottery of Richard Bresnahan, John Whitehead and PBS
1998 Documentary screenings at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Japan Society, and Sundance
1998 Documentary screenings broadcast nationally, recipient of two regional Emmy Awards
1996 The Firing, Tapes Rolling Series, John Whitehead and KTCA-TV

Bibliography

- 2013 Art Through a Lifetime: The Mary Griggs Burke Collection by Miyeko Murase, Washington Press
2013 Wood-Fired Ceramics: 100 Contemporary Artists by Amedeo Salamoni, Schiffer Publishing
2012 Made on Earth: Slow Art Pottery by Joe Sandor, MAKE Magazine, v.31
2012 Asian Flavors by Phyllis Louise Harris and Raghavan Iyer, Minnesota Historical Society Press
2010 Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay by Dr. Matthew Welch, Saint John's University Press
2008 Art and Life, Steeping in a Teapot by David Colman, The New York Times
2009 Visual Theology by Robin M. Jensen and Kimberly Vrudny, Liturgical Press
2003 Mentorship by Richard Bresnahan, Studio Potter, Volume 31, No. 2
2001 Here by Design exhibition catalogue by Lindsay Shen, Goldstein Museum of Design
2001 Betty Crocker's Indian Home Cooking by Raghavan Iyer, ceramics by Richard Bresnahan
2001 Body of Clay, Soul of Fire: Richard Bresnahan by Dr. Matthew Welch, Afton Historical Press
2001 Renewing the Countryside by Jan Joannides, Beth Waterhouse and Tim King
2000 Water and Wood-firing by Richard Bresnahan, Studio Potter, v.28, no.2.
2000 Water and Wood-firing by Owen Rye, Ceramics Technical Australia
1998 Japanese Pottery Influence on American Ceramics by Gerry Williams, American Craft
1997 First Fire: Richard Bresnahan and New Pottery from Saint John's, Asian Arts Council, v.2, no.3
1997 Starting From Here by Jerome Freeman, Ex Machina Publishing Company
1997 First Fire by Richard Bresnahan, Studio Potter, v.24, no.2
1997 Cultural Hero Richard Bresnahan: The Art Of Life, The Utne Reader, no.79
1997 Richard Bresnahan: Potter, Teacher, Environmentalist", by Jean Paschke, the Crafts Report
1996 Out of the Fire by Dr. Matthew Welch, published in Arts v.19 no.4, Minneapolis Institute of Arts
1992 A Portfolio of American Wood-fired Pottery, Studio Potter, v.11, no.1
1991 Lower Stumpf Lake Review arts journal
1991 American Wood-fire Conference, University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA
1985 Lower Stumpf Lake Review arts journal
1983 Lower Stumpf Lake Review arts journal
1983 Richard Bresnahan, Ceramics Monthly, v.31, no.4
1982 Gallery, American Craft, v.42, no.6

Selected Collections

The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA
City of Nagasaki, Nagasaki Holocaust Museum, Nagasaki, Japan
Edina Art Center, Edina, MN
Goldstein Collection, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Hill Reference Library, Saint Paul, MN
Hotel Donaldson, Fargo, ND
Idemitsu Museum, Tokyo, Japan
The Iowa Museum of Art, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
John and Kimiko Powers Collection, Carbondale, CO
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI
Mary Burke Collection, New York, NY
Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, Dayton, OH, Fargo, ND, and Edina, MN
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, MN
Nobles County Art Center, Worthington, MN

North Dakota Museum of Art, Grand Forks, ND
North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
Owatonna Arts Center, Owatonna, MN
Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND
Pope Benedict XVI Collection, Vatican City, Italy
The Rourke Art Museum, Moorhead, MN
Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, NM
Sarah and David Lieberman Collection, Phoenix, AZ
Society of Art and Crafts Museum, Boston, MN
Tweed Museum, Duluth, MN
University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, MN
Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences, Sioux Falls, SD
Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Yamanouchi Tea Ceremony Foundation, Kyoto, Japan

Firings of the Johanna Kiln

2013 Twelfth firing
2010 Eleventh firing
2008 Tenth firing
2006 Ninth firing
2005 Eighth firing
2004 Seventh firing
2002 Sixth firing
2000 Fifth firing
1999 Fourth firing
1998 Third firing
1997 Second firing
1995 First firing