

**The Noyes Museum of Art**

733 Lily Lake Rd, Oceanville, NJ 08231 • 609-652-8848 • [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 9, 2010

**CONTACT:** Erin Eddy, 609.652.8848 x17, [erin@noyesmuseum.org](mailto:erin@noyesmuseum.org)

**Mish-Mash Strikes Back: *Contemporary Clay Redefined***

OCEANVILLE, NJ– The Noyes Museum of Art will host *Mish-Mash Strikes Back* March 4 - June 13, 2010. Twenty-one contemporary clay artists from across the nation stretch the limitations of not only the physical properties of clay, but also the perception of what clay art can be. These artists offer a means to better understanding, awareness and tolerance of the world around us through compelling ceramic art. Celebrate this and three other exhibitions at our Spring Opening Reception, March 19 from 5-8 p.m.

The exhibit provides an opportunity for the voices of fringe, emerging, and non-traditional ceramic artists. Their personal vision of modern culture is presented, using the three dimensional medium of clay to tell their stories. Hand-built ceramic works utilizing cutting edge techniques, unusual found art elements and meticulous surface design make relevant contemporary statements for society. Themes explore the complexity of human interactions, societal dysfunction, and personal experience. Several artists use textures and forms inspired from nature while others explore sense of self and childhood nostalgia.

Matt Burton, Rick Crowley and Rick Parsons began to organize exhibitions to experiment, redefine and provide an opportunity free of the limitations of utilitarian rules. The “Mish-Mash” series has visited the following cities; Charlotte, NC, Kansas City, IN, and Baltimore, MD. The Noyes exhibit reunites some original "Mish-Mashers" and introduces new faces. Participating artists include: Emily Ward Bivens, Matt Burton, Doug Casebeer, Ray Chen, Rick Crowley, David East, Rain Harris, Katherine Johnson, Jerry Kaba, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Peter Morgan, Jill Oberman, Helen Otterson, Rick Parsons, Kelly & Kyle Phelps, Amy Santoferraro, Todd Shanafelt, Keith Smith, Fred Spaulding and Skeff Thomas.

*Exhibition Statement* (selection), Matthew T. Burton- Art is interaction with the viewer. The connection can be on many levels- visual, physical, sentimental, metaphorical, emotional, subtle or hysterical. The artists attempt to engage the viewer through manipulation of the medium and design elements in order to cause a stimulation of the senses and the changing of minds. The artist combines the physical appearance of the material, the significant historical context of the medium and subject along with the psychological implications, to make a relevant contemporary statement for society.

*The South Jersey Shore Clay Tour* includes 150 artists in 14 different exhibitions. Exhibitions will rotate throughout 11 venues across 6 southern NJ counties during March and April, 2010. This tour will be a pre-conference event in conjunction with the 2010 National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) conference in Philadelphia. For tour information contact Matt Burton, [m.t.burton@gallery.com](mailto:m.t.burton@gallery.com) ([www.mtburtongallery.com](http://www.mtburtongallery.com)) - 609.494.0006 or [matt@mtburtongallery.com](mailto:matt@mtburtongallery.com).

*The Noyes Museum of Art was founded in 1983 to collect, preserve and exhibit American fine art, crafts and folk art. An emphasis is on New Jersey artists and folk art forms, reflecting the area's long history, traditions, landscape and culture. The Museum is located one and a half miles south of Historic Smithville Village, off Rt. 9, on Lily Lake Rd. in Oceanville, New Jersey. Admission fees are \$4 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. Hours are Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.*

*Images available upon request*

###