

Kansas City is honored to host **The 50th Anniversary Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts**. The conference, *Makers, Mentors and Milestones*, runs March 16 - 19th, 2016. In conjunction, Haw Contemporary is pleased to host dual exhibitions of the studio assistants of two iconic figures in the ceramic world, Ken Ferguson and Toshiko Takaezu with a public **Opening and Reception, Friday, March 18, 5 - 9:30 PM.**

Legacy of an Icon - Ken Ferguson March 16 - April 16, 2016



photo: Gloria Baker Feinstein

Darcy Badiali
Ben Bates
Jeremy Briddell
Guy Michael Davis + Katie Parker
Michael Fujita
Steve Godfrey
Nathan Mabry
Nobu Nishigawara

Ken Ferguson (1928 - 2004) is considered to be one of the most influential educators in ceramic arts. Ferguson retired as Professor Emeritus from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1996 after 32 years of educating and mentoring young students. He transformed the Institute into a center for ceramic art and gave flight to a diverse generation of artists. Ferguson's dedication to his students as well as his own practice served as an inspiration and model to students and admirers alike. "Many times I tell students that you have to commit yourselves to something you really like and have enough nerve to stand behind it. There is no need to pretend anything."

In addition to an active exhibition career, in 1995 his work was surveyed in exhibitions at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Kemper Museum of Art, both in Kansas City, Missouri. Ken Ferguson received the College Art Association's Distinguished Teaching of Art award in 1997 and the American Craft Council's Gold Medal in 1998.

Collective Identity:

The Legacy of Apprenticeship Under Toshiko Takaezu

March 16 - 19, 2016

Hoyt Barringer
Bill Baumbach
Ben Eberle
Don Fletcher
John Mossler
Andy Rahe
Martha Russo
Liz Smith
Skeff Thomas
Komatsu Yuichiro



Courtesy of The American Craft Council

Toshiko Takaezu (1922 - 2011), a Japanese-American ceramist whose closed pots and torpedo-like cylinders, derived from natural forms, helped to elevate ceramics from the production of functional vessels to a fine art. Early in her career she made traditional vessels but in the late 1950s, strongly influenced by the Finnish ceramist Maija Grotell, she embraced the notion of ceramic pieces as artworks meant to be seen rather than used.

Takaezu taught for 25 years at Princeton University, where she was a mentor who shaped the lives of generations of artists. In 1975, she was inducted into the American Craft Council's College of Fellows, and in 1994, was awarded the organization's Gold Medal for consummate craftsmanship. Of the award she wrote: "Whenever I receive an honor or recognition, I think of my many mentors and feel they have played a very important part in my life. . . . I would like to recognize these people, most of whom are unaware of the role they played in furthering my career. I am also grateful for many years of teaching, which allowed me to grow and to experiment and should not be forgotten."

Also on display will be new works by artists Del Harrow, Andy Brayman and Michael Krueger.

Gallery Hours: 9-5 Tuesday through Friday, 12-5 Saturday

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