

Walter McConnell

Born: Philadelphia PA 1956 Resides: Belmont NY

Education: New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University (MFA 1986)

The University of Connecticut, Storrs (BFA 1979)

### **GRANTS, AWARDS**

- 2014 New York Foundation for the Arts, Individual Artist Grant in Sculpture & Crafts
- 2010 The Joan Mitchell Foundation, Individual Artist Grant
- 2007 The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, Individual Artist Grant  
NYFA and The Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County, S.O.S Grant
- 2005 New York Foundation for the Arts, Individual Artist Grant in Sculpture
- 2004 NYFA and The Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County, S.O.S Grant
- 2003 The Constance Saltonstall Foundation, Individual Artist Grant
- 2001 New York Foundation for the Arts, Individual Artist Grant in Crafts
- 1999 European Ceramic Work Center, Residency Grant
- 1991 John Michael Kohler Arts/Industry Program, Residency Grant
- 1989 John Michael Kohler Arts/Industry Program, Residency Grant
- 1987 The Bemis Foundation, Residency Grant

### **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2018 Melting Point: Movements in Contemporary Ceramics. Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles CA (January)  
About Face. Montgomery Museum of Fine Art, Montgomery AL. (upcoming October)
- 2017 Itinerant Edens: A Measure of Disorder. The Bellevue Arts Museum. Bellevue WA
- 2016 Chinamania. The Freer/Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian, Washington DC  
Cont{r}act Earth: 1<sup>st</sup> Central Plains Ceramics Biennial, The Henan Museum, Zhengzhou, China  
Contemporary Clay: A Survey of American Ceramics. Bardo Arts Center, Western Carolina University NC  
Middle Ground. The Warehouse Gallery, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City MO  
Contemporary Ceramics. Lincoln Center, Fort Collins, CO  
Porcelania: East Meets West. Cross Mackenzie Gallery, Washington DC.
- 2015 Walter McConnell: Cross Mackenzie Gallery, Washington DC  
Itinerant Edens: Of Fable and Facsimile. American University Art Museum, Katzen Center, Washington DC
- 2014 Space. Cross Mackenzie Gallery, Washington DC  
Top Forty. Ferrin Contemporary at Gallery 244, Harvard Center for the Arts, Boston MA  
Color and Light. Harvey Meadows Gallery, Aspen CO
- 2013 Top Forty, Ferrin Contemporary at Red Star Studios, Kansas City MO  
\*Walter McConnell. Cross Mackenzie Gallery, Washington DC  
Biota. Mother Dog Studios, Houston TX.  
At A Glance: Faculty Drawing Show. Fosdick Nelson Gallery, Alfred, NY
- 2012 Fascination with Decay. The Cohen Center for the Arts, Alfred NY
- 2011 Overthrown: Clay Without Limits. Denver Art Museum, Denver CO
- 2010 Interactions in Clay. The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia PA  
The 66<sup>th</sup> Scripps Ceramic Annual. Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery, Claremont CA
- 2009 \*Prints by Walter McConnell. Cross Mackenzie Ceramic Arts, Washington DC  
Perils in the Sublime: A Poetic Consideration of Ecology, Landscape and Reconstruction. Arizona State U. Tempe AZ
- 2008 \*Walter McConnell: Itinerant Edens. The Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia MO  
Eastern Standard: Western Artists in China. MASS MoCA, North Adams MA  
The Bird: Homage to Brancusi. The Clay Studio, Philadelphia PA

- 2007 The Theory of Everything, Cross Mackenzie Ceramic Arts, Washington DC  
 Extraordinary Forms: Bi-national Clay. Kenan Center, Lockport NY  
 Drawn To Between. Goodall Gallery, Louisville KY
- 2006 Raw: McConnell, Morgin, Twomey. The Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis MN  
 Saltonstall: The First Ten Years. The Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca NY  
 Excess. Cummings Arts Center, Connecticut College, New London CT
- 2005 Strata: New Perspectives on Ceramics from Scandinavia and the U.S. Skulpturens Hus,  
 Stockholm, Sweden  
 Diverse Domain: Contemporary North American Ceramic Art. Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taipei,  
 Taiwan  
 Final Presentation: Ceramic Crossover. The 3rd World Ceramic Biennale, Yeosu, Korea
- 2004 Because the Earth is One Third Dirt, CU Art Museum, Boulder CO  
 A Theory of Everything, SOFA Chicago RawSpace, Chicago IL  
 Installations at Saint Patricks, Saint Patrick's Church, Indianapolis IN
- 2003 \*Itinerant Edens, Bowman Gallery, Allegheny College, Meadville PA  
 Reinventing Pleasure, University Art Gallery, San Diego State University, San Diego CA  
 To Dream the Impossible, The Pottery Workshop, Hong Kong, China
- 2002 Material Speculations, ArtSpace, Kansas City MO  
 1st Foshan International Modern Ceramic Art Invitational, Shijingyi Art Museum, Foshan, China  
 Installments: Walter McConnell, Denise Pellitier, Klemm Gallery, Siena Heights University, Adrian  
 MI
- 2001 Itinerant Edens, SOFA Chicago RawSpace, Helen Drutt Gallery, Chicago IL  
 Reunion, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia PA  
 Gardens of Pleasure, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI
- 2000 \*Effluvial Bloom, Marfa Studio of Arts, Marfa TX  
 Floating Time 2000, Museum Het Kruithuis, Den Bosch, Netherlands  
 Upstate Invitational, Pyramid Art Center, Rochester NY
- 1999 Floating Time, Museum Het Kruithuis, Den Bosch, Netherlands  
 Cooled Matter: New Sculpture. Canzani Center, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus  
 OH
- 1998 Ceramic Dialogues. State University of New York, Albany NY
- 1996 The Eight Triennial. The Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton MA
- 1995 Curators Choice: Connecticut Invitational IV, John Slade Ely House, New Haven CT  
 RAW Space, Real Art Ways, Hartford CT
- 1994 Pertinent Matter/Potent Material, Betty Rymer Gallery, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago II  
 Personally Defining Clay, New Orleans Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans LA
- 1993 \*10,000 Lakes, Northern Clay Center, Saint Paul, MN  
 49th Scripps Ceramics Annual, Lang Gallery, Scripps College, Claremont CA  
 Clay 1993: A National Survey, William Traver Gallery, Seattle WA
- 1992 \*Probe, A.R.C. Gallery Raw Space, Chicago, IL  
 CAFA 81st Annual Exhibition, Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich CT  
 The Contemporary American Landscape, Erector Square Gallery, New Haven CT (Juried)
- 1991 \*Reciprocity, Sculpture and Drawing, Artemisia Gallery, Chicago IL  
 New American Talent, Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin TX (Juried)  
 Arts/Industry Artists, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI  
 Painting Off the Wall, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln NE
- 1990 \*Distance/Longing, Windows on White, New York NY

- 1989 Bemis Foundation Sculpture, Kansas City Contemporary Arts Center, Kansas City, MO  
In Residence: Bemis Artists, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln, NE
- 1988 \*New Sculpture, Nexus Institute, Berkeley, CA  
Sculptural Clay, Arvada Center for the Arts, Denver, CO  
20th Joslyn Biennial, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha NE (Juried)
- 1987 Partners In Art: Walter & Sharon McConnell, Jane Hartsook Gallery, New York, NY  
Artquest 87, Gallery East, Art Institute of Boston, Boston MA (Juried)  
Artquest 87, California State University, Northridge, CA (juried)
- 1986 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, New York State College of Ceramics,  
Alfred University.

#### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 2017 Gers, Wendy. Con{t}ract Earth: 1st Central Plains Ceramic Biennale, Henan Museum, Zhengzhou, China.  
The Ceramics Reader. Edited by Kevin Petrie and Andrew Livingstone. London: Bloomsbury, 2017
- cfonline.org, June 08, 2017. "Chinamania: Walter McConnell's Monumental Sacred Piles of Kitsch"  
<https://cfonline.org/exhibition-chinamania-walter-mconnells-monumental-piles-of-sacred-kitsch>
- cfonline.org, June 16, 2017. "Encore, Walter McConnell's Chinamania - George Du Maurier's Cartoons"  
<https://cfonline.org/exhibition-encore-walter-mconnells-chinamania-george-du-mauriers-cartoons/>
- 2016 Moyer, Twylene. "The Facsimile Is Good Enough: A Conversation with Walter McConnell". Sculpture, April 2016, Vol.35 No.3  
Contemporary Clay and Museum Culture. Edited by Christie Brown, Julian Stair and Clare Twomey. London and New York:  
Routledge, 2016, pp.67-72.  
Brown, Glen. "Ceramics Process in the Museum: Revolution or Recidivism?" (book)  
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London and New York: Routledge, 2016, pp. 66-72.  
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July 2016 <https://bento.si.edu/from-the-collections/contemporary-art/the-man-behind-the-mania/>
- 2015 Dahn, Jo. New Directions in Ceramics: From Spectacle to Trace. (book) New York and London: Bloomsbury. 2015. pg.102-109,117

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Abrams, Janet. "Overthrown: Clay Without Limits", Ceramic Review, Jan/Feb 2012, Issue 253, p27
- 2011 Kuspit, Donald. Overthrown: Clay Without Limits (exhibition catalog) Denver Art Museum, DAM, 2011  
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- 2010 Brown, Glen R. "Intervention, Interaction and the Will to Preserve. Ceramics in the Expanded Field, Contemporary Essay Five.  
<http://www.ceramics-in-the-expanded-field.com>  
Interactions in Clay: Contemporary Explorations of the Collection. Time lapse Video, The Philadelphia Museum of Art  
<http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/389.html>
- 2009 Brown, Glen R. "Walter McConnell at the Daum Museum", Ceramics: Art and Perception, V.19  
Tourtillott, Suzanne J.E. "500 Ceramic Sculptures: Contemporary Practice, Singular Works". Asheville: Lark
- 2008 Daum Museum of Contemporary Art. "Walter McConnell: Itinerant Edens, A Theory of Everything", Sadalia: Daum Museum  
Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation. "2007 Awards". New York: Tiffany.  
Lu, Pinchang. Ceramics: Contemporary Art and Technique. Shijiazhuang, China: Hebei  
Schwartz, Judith. Confrontational Clay. London: Black
- 2007 Dawson, Jessica. "Nothing like that special feeling of un-togetherness." The Washington Post, March 17  
Tourtillott, Suzanne J.E. The Figure in Clay. Asheville: Lark
- 2006 Abbe, Mary, "Raw Show Comes to The Northern Clay Center." The Minneapolis Star Tribune, July 27  
Hanessian, Holly, "Encountering Abundance: Multiplicity in Clay." Ceramics: Art and Perception, V. 63  
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Pellitier, Denise. Excess. New London: Cummings Art Center  
Zhang, Yushan. World Contemporary Public Ceramic Art. Yunnan, China: Hunan
- 2005 Bai, Ming. World Famous Ceramic Artists' Studios: Vol. 2 of America. Shijiazhuang, China: Hebei  
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Skulpturens Hus. Strata: New Perspectives on Ceramics from Scandinavia and the United States. Stockholm: Skulpturens Hus  
Taipei County Yingge Ceramics Museum. Diverse Domain: Contemporary North American Ceramic Art. Taipei: Yingge
- 2004 Campbell, Kira. "Environmental Ethics in Ceramic Art." The Alchemy of Art and Science: The NCECA Journal, V. 25  
Becker, Lisa Tamiris. "Because the Earth is 1/3 Dirt: Toward Paraidaeza." Because the Earth is 1/3  
Boulder: CU Art Museum
- 2003 University Art Gallery. Re-Inventing Pleasure, San Diego: SDSU
- 2002 Bai, Ming. Oversea Contemporary Ceramic Art Classics. Yunnan China: Jiangxi Art  
Brown, Glen R. "Walter McConnell: The Irony of Eden." World Sculpture News, summer.

Hackman, Kate. "Material Speculations." New Art Examiner 29/5: May/June  
Kuspit, Donald, "Speculative Objects." Material Speculations. Erie, CO: NCECA

#### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 1997 New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University, Alfred NY  
Professor, Division of Ceramic Art, 1997- present
- 1989 University of Connecticut, Storrs CT  
Assistant/Associate Professor of Art, 1989 - 1997
- 1991 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago IL  
Visiting Assistant Professor.
- 1991 Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME
- 1988 University of Nebraska Omaha, Omaha NE  
Lecturer, Ceramics, 1988-1989
- 1988 University of Nebraska Lincoln, Lincoln NE  
Lecturer, Drawing and Life Drawing