



Second Saturdays

ARTIST SERIES

Bracker's Good Earth Clays, Inc., invites a different ceramic artist to work in their studio on the second Saturday of each month. This series is free and open to the public from 10 am to 3 pm.

"My daughter, Anne M. Bracker, started this series in honor of my late husband, Bill Bracker, who would take advantage of any and ever opportunity to watch another potter at work," remarks Anne W. Bracker, "Even though Bill was an accomplished potter and former university professor of ceramics, he felt that he could always learn something new by observing a fellow potter." The Second Saturdays Artist Series is designed to give the public that same opportunity.

Bracker's Good Earth Clays, Inc. started their Second Saturdays Artist Series in December 2008 and has featured potters who throw on the wheel, handbuild, and sculpt both functional and non-functional pottery. The artists selected for the series can inspire casual art lovers with a new perspective on how pottery is created, an educator who is seeking new ideas for their students, and even a professional potter on a quest for continuing education of their craft.

"The idea for this series might have come from my memories of my father," says Anne M. Bracker, "but part of it was a little selfish because I don't get a chance to visit artists studios outside of Lawrence very often. I know other potters don't get that opportunity either, so the Second Saturday Artist Series brings the potter's studio to Bracker's Good Earth Clays, Inc., and it gives me great pleasure to share that with other interested potters."

Michael Smith, a potter for nearly 30 years, is the featured artist for May 2009. "When I am throwing, marking or altering pots, the process becomes like a dance - listening to the music of the wheel, creating and interacting with the rhythms, dancing on the edge of collapse," states Michael Smith, "when the last mark is made and the wheel stops, the pot, like a photograph, captures the dancer in motion. I strive to keep the movement alive in my work - allowing it to evolve as I participate in its creation, never losing the delight in creating pots that bring pleasure to everyday experience."

Professional potters, educators, and artists who interweave pottery into all aspects of their lives have been featured in the first six months of the series and the upcoming potters are just as diverse.

Trent Freeman, an eclectic artist who seeks inspiration from Old World and Asian techniques, will focus on his construction methods of wall hung fountains for his June Second Saturday appearance. Trent enjoys "the process of creation, the birth of a new idea, and the contemplation of pulling it all together from start to finish."

Taren Scott, a native Midwestern artist living and working in Kansas City since 1995, will share her commitment to functional wheel thrown pottery in July. Taren's unique surface decorations are "inspired by my love of gardening and often reflect the wildlife or fauna in the wooded hills around my home."

Bracker's Good Earth Clays, Inc. is a family owned and operated ceramics materials and equipment supply company since 1982.

For more information:

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