

DATE: November 23, 2009

EVENT DATE: Reception December 12, 6 – 8 p.m. exhibit continues through February 11, 2010

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

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ATTACHED PHOTOS:

01-Alice Ballard	Pods
02-Peter Lenzo	Face Jug
03-Nathan Cox	Pagoda Jar
04-Jim Connell	Sandblasted Carved Bottle
05-Diane Gilbert	Leopard Sleeping
06-Cynthia Link	Brown Trout Jar
07-Virginia Scotchie	Everyday Object

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### The Up'State of Clay

The **Pickens County Museum of Art & History** will be presenting new exhibitions from **December 12, 2009 through February 11, 2010**. Please join us from **6:00 until 8:00 p.m. on December 12** as we host a reception to meet some of the artists featured in **"The Up'State of Clay"**. This exhibition will continue through February 11, 2010.

This collection of works from some of the Upstate's most influential ceramic artists includes **Alice Ballard, Sharon Campbell, Bob Chance, Gary Clontz, Jim Connell, Nathan Cox, Kyleigh Daigle, Roger Dalrymple, Rob Gentry, Diane Gilbert, Sue Grier, Amy Goldstein-Rice, Lynn Jenkins, Peter Lenzo, Cynthia Link, Jennifer Mecca, Johnny Nutt, Jay Owens, Renee Rouillier, Virginia Scotchie, Paula Smith, Chris Troy, Mike Vatalaro, Ashley Womack, Denise Woodward Detrich and David Zacharias.**

The exhibition is guest curated by the Johnny Nutt who says about the show, "South Carolina has a long, rich tradition of ceramic production. Edgefield, South Carolina is recognized widely as the birthplace and earliest center of the alkaline-glazed stoneware tradition in the southern United States, and from there spread as far west as Texas and on up into the northeast. By the middle of the 20th century, however, there were virtually no traditional potters working anymore in South Carolina. Today however, a combination of thriving university-based ceramics programs, such as those at Clemson, the University of South Carolina, Winthrop, and Furman, along with the Professional Clay Program offered by Piedmont Tech in Edgefield, have revitalized ceramic production in South Carolina. Graduates of these programs, along with newly-immigrated South Carolinians and self-taught outsider-artists have brought an incredible diversity of ceramic production to the Upstate area of South Carolina. It is the hope of the Pickens County Museum, through this exhibition, to highlight not just the work of the twenty-six participating artists but to provide a unique opportunity for folks to see, in a single stop, the wide array of ceramic art being produced in the Upstate of South Carolina in these early days of the 21st century."

This exhibition is part of the museum's 2009 – 2010 exhibition season sponsored by **Pickens Savings & Loan and Upstate Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery & Dental Implant Center.**

The Pickens County Museum of Art & History is funded in part **by Pickens County, members and friends of the museum** and a grant from the **South Carolina Arts Commission**, which receives support from the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

Located at the corner of Hwy. 178 at **307 Johnson Street** in **Pickens SC**, the museum is open **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays** from **9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**, **Thursdays** from **9:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.** and **Saturdays** from **9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.** Admission is free but donations are welcomed.

For more information please contact the museum at (864) 898-5963.



Alice Ballard – Pods



Peter Lenzo – Face Jug



Nathan Cox – Pagoda Jar



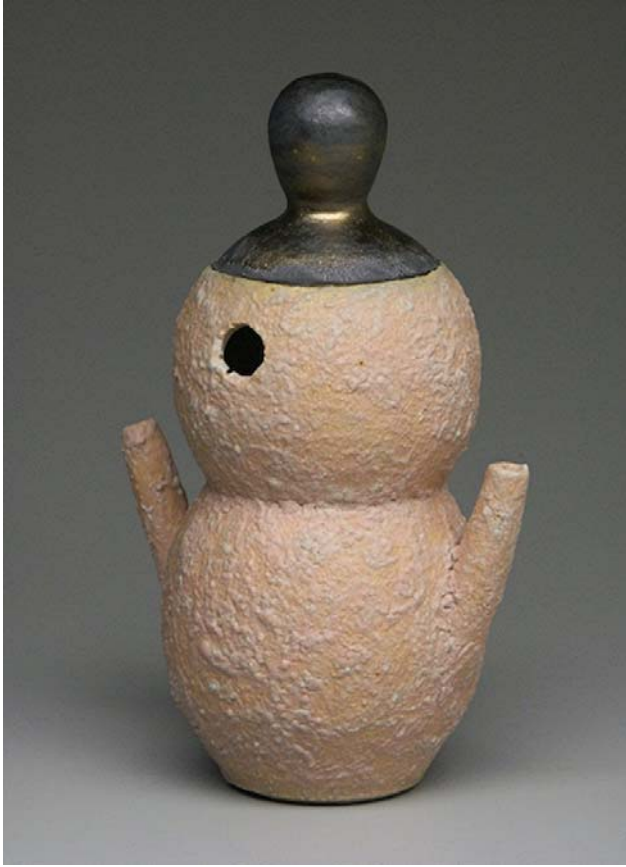
Jim Connell – Sandblasted Carved Bottle



Diane Gilbert – Leopard Sleeping



Cynthia Link – Brown Trout Jar



Virginia Scotchie – Everyday Object