



Minnesota Women Ceramic Artists is a professional organization that supports ceramic artists who identify as women in Minnesota. MNWCA provides its members opportunities for exhibiting, networking and mentoring throughout their ceramic careers. MNWCA also furthers the creative and professional development of its members.

Member News • June 2020

ORGANIZATION NEWS

Statement About Recent Events from the Board of Minnesota Women Ceramic Artists (MNWCA)

George Floyd's murder exposed, once again, the injustices that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) live with every single day. We mourn with the family and friends of George Floyd and grieve for the hurt systemic racism has caused in our local communities here and throughout the United States. It is clear that in our country, systemic racism is pervasive and that we must all work together to end it.

As an organization based upon mentorship, MNWCA commits to being a resource for our membership to connect with BIPOC communities and organizations. Please follow the links below to communicate with your local state representative, to stand with our BIPOC communities in solidarity with financial or volunteer support and to become more informed in order to become an active ally to our BIPOC communities.

[MN Legislator Locator Map](#)

[Map for Mutual Aid Locations in the Twin Cities](#)

[Resources to support the Minneapolis protests](#)

<https://www.welovelakestreet.com/>

[scaffolding anti-racism resources document](#)

This document is highly recommended. It contains many links to websites, books, videos, podcasts and articles.

Another resource is from St Catherine University [Inclusive Excellence Guide](#) whose librarian added this information about the link. "All of the videos, articles, and websites that are linked look publicly available; however, some books are linked and those would not be available to

community members, at least through St. Kate's - but they could see the details if they wanted to find them through their public library or for purchase, etc."

The U of M Press is opening up their collection regarding racial justice for all to access, which may be of use: <https://manifold.umn.edu/projects/project-collection/racial-justice>

Specific Actions for MNWCA Going Forward

MNWCA continues to reach, engage, and support all ceramic artists who identify as women.

We recognize that we can do a better job, and want your feedback and advice. MNWCA is looking at immediate ways we can help our members, and long-term ways to strengthen our mission.

- If your home or studio has been damaged by the recent civil unrest in Minneapolis or St. Paul and has impacted your practice, please email Kimberlee Joy Roth at kimberleejoyroth@gmail.com, to discuss how MNWCA may help you.
- In order to inspire our membership we would like to showcase our members who are doing outreach. Members who have been engaging with communities of color, please share your stories with Jeanne Lukas at Lukasjeanne@gmail.com.
- If you have ideas of how our members can further our commitment to bringing clay experiences to diverse communities, join our Zoom discussion June 29 at 4:00. Please email Jeanne by noon on June 29 if you want to participate: Lukasjeanne@gmail.com.

DONNA'S CORNER

Art for The Just Because or Being a Part of Today's Movement

by Donna Ray

How would you want to be remembered? As the only one, the token: for your sexual preference, for your gender, for your race, for being the one-time eventer? Have you always been a social justice artist? Or simply because it's politically correct for the moment right now to be a social justice artist? There will always be a cause to rally around and the cause can last decades. For myself, I do not want all my art to be associated with Black Lives Matter or Malcolm X, no more than I wish to do -Afrocentric art designs only. The questions I ask: **How well is your art practice received around the world and does it have meaning? How many grants or awards have you received as acknowledgment for your success as an artist? Is this how you measure your success?**

She, her, and hers. I am first a ceramic artist, aiming to be recognized as a multi-disciplined artist working in many mediums and practicing various methodologies to arouse the consciousness of my prospective audiences. Art means many things to many people. It can be used to convey messages and relieve stress from our daily lives. It can be how you make your living to assist in paying your bills.

She, her, and hers, I identify as African American multi-racial, medium to dark brown skinned, over 50, woman, college educated, employed at a medical facility, born severely visually

over 50, woman, college educated, employed at a medical facility, born severely visually impaired since birth, social justice-driven ceramic artist. I never want to be defined by just my race, sexual preference, age, or class when I design or create art. My sexual preference gender, race, my disability: none of these will be carried or worn around my neck like a tag. I need to be defined in everything that I do as a creative individual who created the body of work.

The fear may always be there about being accepted for myself and the kinds of art I do: no matter which organization I affiliate myself with. In the end what matters most is how passionately I believe in myself and the art I create to share with the world.

FUTURE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

To submit information for the newsletter:

1. Send your info to denisetennen@centurylink.net
2. For your event: Include your name and what/when/where. Contact info if you want people to be able to get in touch with you. A good visual is always nice to have. Please use this template as your guide [Newsletter Submissions 6-19.docx](#). Any submissions that do not follow these guidelines may not be included in the newsletter.
3. For items offered for sale or give-away, or for items sought, be sure to include your contact info

Publication Schedule:

1. Newsletter will be published on the 15th of the month
2. Send your submissions by latest the 10th of the month of publication

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