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A Dinnerware Show at Clay Gallery 2014  
Regional Ceramic Competition *Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio*

Juror's Statement  
Dr. Margaret Carney  
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Dinnerware is ubiquitous. It provides a window on our material culture, norms and attitudes towards food and dining. Ceramic artists from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio were invited to create a place setting with three to five pieces. Thirteen artists were chosen through the jurying process to be included in the upcoming exhibition at the Clay Gallery. *TABLE OF CONTENTS*, opening in January 2014 during restaurant week in Ann Arbor, is truly a celebration of a significant aspect of our daily lives.

The thirteen artists selected to be included in the exhibition *TABLE OF CONTENTS*, each offers a distinct vision of how our food should be presented. The combination of the lyrical forms and calligraphic designs of the dinnerware created by 1<sup>st</sup> place awardee Shirley Knudsvig are inspirational in their almost zen approach. They reveal a serene and reassuring experience for the diner.

2<sup>nd</sup> place awardee, Nancy Beeman, clearly explores the juxtaposition of simple rather expected forms and patterns with visually complex and tactilely seductive materials. There is both a rhythm to her dinnerware, along with the element of surprise in the curvilinear and angled patterns and colorful presentation.

When 3<sup>rd</sup> place awardee, artist Diana Pancioli creates dinnerware, one knows its function is not theoretical. Her seemingly simple, beautiful forms with their harmonious and distinctly delicious glazes beg to be used at the earliest possible opportunity. Her dinnerware compares favorably with the creations of the Japanese artist and epicure Rosanjin (1883-1959). He is known to have created his own dinnerware based on traditional Japanese Mino, Shigaraki, Bizen and Kutani ceramics -- on which his fine culinary creations could be presented. Through the creation of unique dinnerware, both artists demonstrate their own aesthetic theories on the relationship between food and the design of the ceramics on which it was/is served.

There were other favorites among the artists selected. Honorable Mention was awarded to CJ Niehaus for her attractive dinnerware place setting – undulating forms adorned with mesmerizing designs. She states her dinnerware is about memory and her mother. Her presentation will offer new memories for the lucky diner who is allowed to use it.

Each of these dinnerware artists included in this exhibition has created their unique interpretation of what the dining experience should be all about.