

The American Museum of Ceramic Art Presents

David Furman: The Artist is in the Details



Pomona, CA, AMOCA presents *David Furman: The Artist is in the Details* from May 16 through July 25, 2009. The museum will hold the artist reception on Saturday, June 13, 2009 from 6 – 9 p.m. in conjunction with the second Saturday art walk in the Pomona Art Colony.

David Furman: The Artist is in the Details at AMOCA is a retrospective exhibition that will include a number of dissimilar bodies of work, starting with his early emphasis on miniature environments, through his *trompe l'oeil* stage to his current figurative work, called *Body Language*. Furman has embraced a number of working methods, technical approaches, historical references, and themes. By exploring multiple perspectives of "reality" and intimacy through gesture, Furman imbues his sculpture with human characteristics and emotion. The spectrum of his interpretations are subtle with wit, humor and whimsy yet do not ignore the melancholy or darker complexities of life. Quoted as having to "rely on nuance and gesture" the sculptures of David Furman could be autobiographical or mere reflections of the artist-as-observer; "emotions are generally ephemeral and feelings are often hidden" he says, " I've explored the possibilities for helping these figures become compassionate and human."

David Furman has a unique place in contemporary ceramic history. His work represents a break with ceramic artists Wayne Higby, Don Reitz, Paul Soldner, Peter Voulkos and others of that period who used a potter's wheel, adhered to the vessel format, and who linked their ceramic sculpture to the age of "abstract expressionism." Studying under Howard Kottler at the University of Washington, Furman was greatly influenced by Kottler's conceptual approach. Additionally, Furman admired Robert Arneson and has perhaps more in common with other Northern California's "fool-the-eye" artists such as Richard Shaw and Marilyn Levine. Furman's work in this area, more real-looking than the "real thing," such as cups of coffee, pencil cans, artists brushes, palettes, ceramic bulletin and chalk boards, are his most well-known work, and will be exhibited among others.

American ceramist and teacher **David Furman** earned a BA at the University of Oregon in 1969 and an MFA at the University of Washington in 1972. Now a Professor Emeritus, Furman has taught in Claremont, California, since 1973, at both Pitzer College, where he held the Peter and Gloria Gold endowed chair, and at the Claremont Graduate University. Furman earned numerous awards, including NEA Fellowships in 1975, 1986 and 1996, and Fulbright Senior Artist Fellowships in 1979 (Peru), 1990 (Costa Rica) and 2000 (Peru). In 2005 he won a Silver Medal at the 3rd World Ceramic Biennale in Korea. Furman has had numerous solo shows and group exhibitions, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Los Angeles County Art Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution.

David Furman: The Artist is in the Details will be accompanied by a full-color catalog documenting the works of David Furman, complete with essays by Kirsten Ellsworth, Elaine Levin, Mary MacNaughton, and a foreword by David Armstrong. This publication is funded in-part by the Pasadena Art Alliance.

David Furman's work is rich in diversity, allowing viewers to draw comparison and contrast between Furman's distinctive periods of art production. Given AMOCA's broad interest in ceramics from all over the world and from all time periods, programs such as *David Furman: The Artist is in the Details* are fundamental to our museum's mandate to encourage comparison, evaluation, and appreciation of the diversity of human creativity.

Special Event: Guest Artist Talk with David Furman

Saturday, June 27, 5-7 p.m. Open to the public, \$5 admission; *free for members*

To RSVP, please call 909/865-3146 or email: frontdesk@ceramicmuseum.org

IMAGES, left to right:

Yellow Floater, 1989, David Furman, Earthenware, under-glaze, glaze, luster, enamel

Room Service, 2000, David Furman, Midrange porcelain, under-glaze, glaze

The Retirement Dinner, 2007, David Furman, Midrange porcelain, under-glaze, glaze

Still Life with Water Color Tray, 2004, David Furman, Earthenware, under-glaze, glaze, luster, enamel

American Museum of Ceramic Art 340 S. Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91766

Open: Wed.-Sat., 12-5 pm & 2nd Saturday of the month, 12-9 pm, or by appointment.

Admission: Adults \$3; Seniors & Students \$2, Members & Children under 12 are free.

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