



Dr. Judith S. Schwartz

Dr. Judith S. Schwartz, Professor, Department of Art and Art Professions at New York University, directs the *Sculpture in Craft Media* area (Clay, Metals, and Glass) and teaches studio courses in ceramic sculpture.

When one considers the concept of a distinguished craft educator, the image which comes to mind is of a highly skilled craftsperson, particularly adept at passing on the skills acquired to make objects for future generations. Yet, there are quite clearly other skills and talents which qualify an individual as a distinguished craft educator. *Foremost among these qualifications is an outstanding ability to increase student and public understanding, awareness and appreciation for the rich history and traditions with a particular field of craft.* Among many academicians working in the field of craft studies, one of the most prominent well regarded and influential is professor, author, curator and craft advocate Dr. Judith S. Schwartz.

This nomination is a small sampling of her abilities and accomplishments in educating students and imparting public understanding and appreciation. During her career, she continuously adheres to the principle of not only teaching but never forgetting her students and how hard it is for them to get started and to build a career as ceramists. After graduations, she remains an advisor, curator, teacher, and most of all a friend, to her former students. Her attention to the field of education extends into the public understanding of craft as well. Here is her story and the reason she is a prime candidate for the James Renwick Alliance Distinguished Educator Award.

Her doctoral dissertation in 1983 identified the use of satire in the ceramic work of Arneson, Kottler, and Gilhooly's ceramics. Since then, she has expanded her interest to identity an international movement of artists who use clay confrontationally - more specifically upon those artists who employ clay to reveal personal alienations, social and political struggles, popular and material culture at its worst, all within the context of art activism.

In her role of increasing student and public understanding, awareness and appreciation for the field of ceramics, she lectures extensively and has published numerous journal articles, reviews of artists' work and catalogues for both national and international journals, served as head juror to the World Ceramic Exposition Foundation in Korea and continues as a consultant to the Korean Biennale for the past 10 years. She has presented lectures and moderated panels at the National Council on Education in the Ceramic conferences (NCECA) since 1982.

She was the educational consultant to the Lenox China Company, president of the University Council for Art Education, president of The Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts (and still serves on

the Board), served on the Board of *Studio Potter Magazine*, the K12 Ceramic Art Foundation, the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University and is an elected member of the International Academy of Ceramics. She received the JD Rockefeller III grant in Art Education and the Everson Museum's award for service and excellence in the field of ceramic education. Most recently she was honored by the Clay Art Center in Port Chester, NY for service to ceramic education and made an honorary member of NCECA. She chaired two national conferences: *The Case for Clay in Secondary Education* and *Criticism in the Craft Arts: Crossings, Alignments and Territories*.

In her role of public awareness of the field of ceramics, Dr. Schwartz has curated numerous exhibitions - most notably: *New York, New York: Clay, Form and Transformations: Ceramics, Art to Industry, Confrontational Clay* and is currently working with Exhibits USA to tour *The Artist Provocateur* in 2013-15. Her book, ***Confrontational Ceramics***, is a study of the history of the use of clay as a tool for social commentary. More specifically, it represents a global perspective upon those artists who employ caricature, parody, satire, obscenity, erotica and the grotesque - to focus attention upon the inequities of the human condition, and one finds work of many of her former students' in the exhibition. She is a trustee of the Howard Kottler estate and facilitated the publication of two books about him as well as numerous national exhibitions of his work. She is president of the established Museum of Ceramic Art (to be located in Long Island City).

Acting as a special advisor/curator to the Westchester Council for the Arts, she planned a month-long celebration *All Fired Up!*, highlighting the many facets of clay with more than 25 cultural institutions in the Westchester county area. Most recently, she was awarded a senior specialist Fulbright grant and will be working at the National Design School in Dublin, Ireland in the fall of 2011. Dr. Schwartz is familiar to James Renwick Alliance members for her presentation of work of the Board of Directors artist members of Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, New Castle, during the JRA Caucus study tour to Maine in 2008, when, through sales of their work, earned \$75,000 for Watershed. She exemplifies all the traits of a distinguished educator as an art activist with the outstanding ability to create student and public understanding, awareness of the nuances of her particular field and appreciation for the long and varied history and traditions in the field of ceramics.