



## RETIRED ART EDUCATORS ISSUES GROUP

### RAEA MISSION:

To conduct programs of professional activities for state and national events;

To encourage continued personal involvement and development in art education;

To inform State Associations and NAEA of concerns relevant to members of long - standing;

To encourage and support, as well as provide mentorship for, student members of the NAEA.

# RAEA

## July E-BULLETIN 2016

### From the President

LINDA  
WILLIS  
FISHER

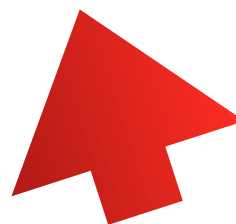
ILLINOIS

### Greetings!

I hope you are having a wonderful summer! It's a great time to enjoy activities in your local area or in places far away. I encourage you to seek out and enjoy arts opportunities wherever you are. The summer months are filled with arts workshops; art exhibits and festivals; amateur and professional theatre, music, and dance productions; as well as county and state fairs.

Please consider making some wonderful artwork to donate to the RAEA Silent Auction that will be held the first evening of the 2017 Convention. Remember that the proceeds of the silent auction are used to help support RAEA programming, which includes the Outstanding Student Chapter and the Emeritus Art Educator of the Year Awards.

**Save the Date!! 2017 NAEA National Convention,  
March 2 – 4, 2017, New York, NY**



# SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS



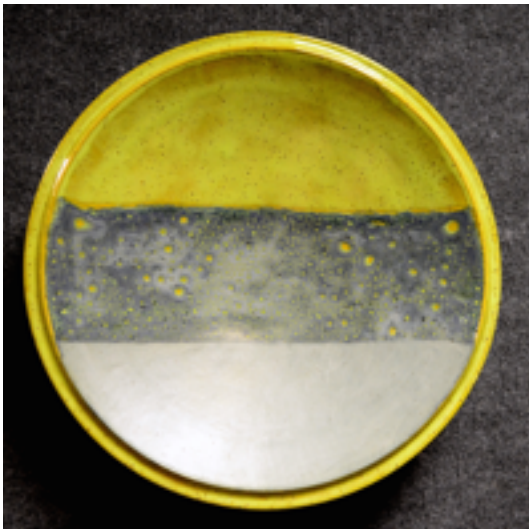
**DAN and  
MARY  
DeFOOR**

**GEORGIA**

**"SYMBIOSIS"**

In its most general definition, symbiosis describes a mutually beneficial relationship between two dissimilar and independent entities. Given that each piece we create is the product of a collaborative effort, the choice of *Symbiosis* as the title for this exhibition may seem an obvious one. Indeed, we have two singular artistic visions and two different ways of working in the medium of clay, but we find that these differences nurture, inform, and expand one another to produce a new gestalt. Dan's skill as a potter builds the foundation for our pieces with his wheel-thrown forms. He describes his work as a "blank canvas" which he turns over to Mary for sculptural alterations, surface decoration, and glaze design. However, this partnership goes beyond artisanal construction of the visual to the refinement of concepts, for true art lies not in the finished product, but in ideas. We find that the give-and-take of collaboration stimulates the creative process and yields work that is more than the sum of its parts. Nevertheless, the name *Symbiosis* captures more than our working relationship as artists. It begins with the interaction of artist and materials. Without the potter, the clay has substance without meaning, while the potter needs the clay to give visible artistic concepts. At its most basic level, the clay itself experiences a symbiotic relationship with fire. A raw clay vessel is laden with impurities; it is weak and ephemeral. But those impurities fuel the fire, and as the fire is fed, it purifies the clay, granting it strength and permanence in the process.





The show runs June 14 - July 22 at Harris Arts Center in Calhoun, Georgia. This is our fourth regional gallery show of our sculptural ceramic pieces since May 2015.

The title of the show "Symbiosis" reflects the collaborative nature of our work. I do all the wheel throwing and Mary adds the hand built elements and glazes.





# NEWS FROM THE STATES

Approximately two months ago I was surprised by a representative from the National Teachers Hall of Fame, as one of only five teachers nationwide that would be inducted. The five of us (Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Georgia and Idaho) would spend a week in Washington, D.C. with the NEA, Department of Education, and a meeting with the President.

Three weeks after that we would go to Emporia State University for a week to be a part of many venues, including a rededication of the Fallen Heroes Memorial (Educators who lost their lives on the job) and the formal Induction of the five of us. This was the 25th Induction class, so now there are 125 teachers in the Hall. I am the first teacher to be inducted from Idaho, so this was extra special.

It happened that I also celebrated my 40th year of taking art to the tiny Prairie School, which was another milestone. Please go to the National Teachers Hall of Fame website as there is a livestream of our Induction ceremony.

**JENNIFER  
deGRASSI  
WILLIAMS**

**IDAHO**

**DONNA  
BANNING  
  
CALIFORNIA**

**Donna Banning** writes that lifetime CAEA member, Joan Allemand has produced “**An Appreciation: the Work of Juan Quezada**” , Alexander Roman, Director.

“The DVD focuses on how one uneducated man changed his entire village by saving it from poverty. He found ancient broken Indian pots and figured out how to dig a variety of colors of clay, to decorate, fire outdoors, and sell the finished pots to tourists. He taught the entire village and his family how to make and sell ceramic pots.

“An Appreciation: The Work of Juan Quezada “ has been accepted and awarded recognition in 7 film Festivals:

World Humanitarian Awards . Jakarta, Indonesia, A Silver Award.

Accolade Global Film Competition, Award of Recognition. LaJolla, CA.

Direct Short and Documentary Film Festival, Vancouver, Canada

California Women’s Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA.

Los Angeles Cine Fest

Filmmakers of the Year Film Festival, Silver Award

Vivo Latino Film Festival NYC International.

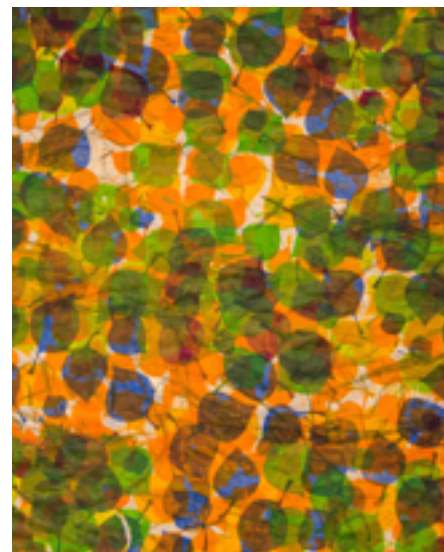
(Available : HYPERLINK "https://vimeo.com" <https://vimeo.com/119974250>  
Password all lower case: juan )

**VIDABETH  
BENSEN**

**NORTH  
CAROLINA**

**Vidabeth Bensen** has been working on a new series of screen prints using ginkgos and aspens as subject matter. They will be included in a show at the Greenhill Gallery in Greensboro and at Printocracy, a show of work by the Printmakers of North Carolina in Cary. Both shows take place in July.

They may also be seen at NC State in an exhibit of work of Chatham Artist Guild members. Vidabeth will present a workshop in Screen Printing at the NC Art Teachers Convention in Winston Salem in October.



A few weeks ago, four selections from my **56 Hearts Project** were installed, with the grouping titled "**The Heart of Teaching**" at Duke's Teach House. <https://ssri.duke.edu/news/full-house-living-and-learning-together>. Teach House is an innovative program housed in a lovely old home where several beginning teachers (Duke Teach House Fellows) live together and mentor one another.

The meaningful art installation models a best practice of teaching through the arts, and is a daily reminder and inspiration for the teachers and visitors to Teach House. It was a sublime honor for my art to be used in this way and a wonderful experience to meet the gifted Teach House Fellows and learn about their work. Several pieces of Durham Public Schools student art work are also exhibited in various places in this beautiful home.

To challenge myself as an artist, I did a painting each day for 56 days leading to my 56th birthday, which had a special meaning for me since I was born in 1956. I dedicated each one to a person, organization, or attribute that inspires me. As an art educator, many of the pieces were related to teaching, and the ideas and techniques were ones I had used often in my own art room.

Dr. Alan Teasley and I worked together to select four paintings that represented the four licensure areas in the Duke Master of Arts in Teaching program. It was a joy to see my own art used to model best practices of teaching through the arts, especially in the caring and creative way that Dr. Teasley imagined and commissioned the Heart of Teaching grouping.

The Being of a teacher is still with me, though I may not be in the classroom anymore, and my hope is that **The Heart of Teaching** will provide ongoing encouragement, connectivity and inspiration.

**BETH  
PALMER**

**NORTH  
CAROLINA**

# NEW WORKS BY MEMBERS

**KAREN  
BRANEN**

**FLORIDA**



All works: Pastel







**MICHAEL  
RAMSEY**

**KENTUCKY**

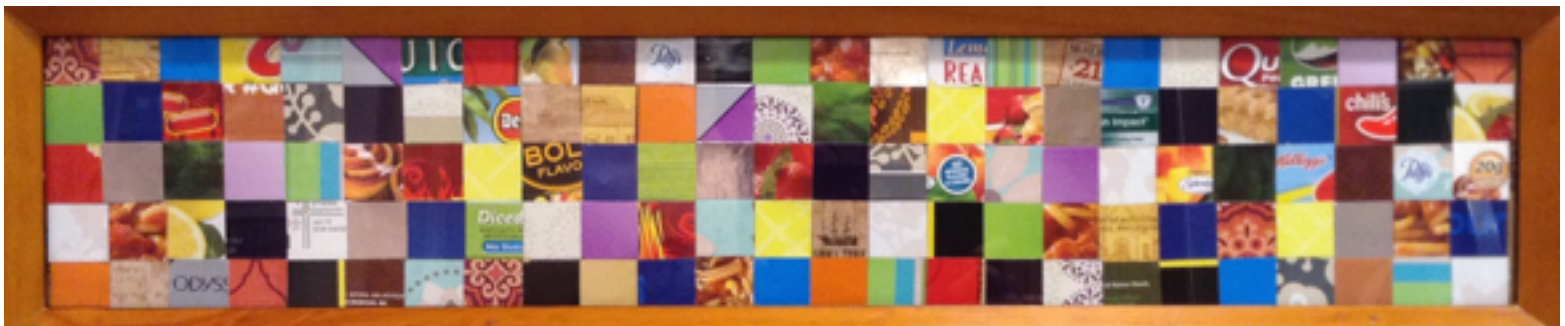
New Pottery Forms

**KIM  
HUYLER  
DEFIBAUGH**

**VIRGINIA**



Great  
Expectations,  
15" X 17".  
Fabric, floss,  
fiberfill. 2016.  
On display  
through August  
12, 2016 at the  
Williamsburg  
Contemporary  
Art Center,  
Williamsburg.



Bits and Pieces, 27" X 6.5". Recycled cardboard packaging. 2016. Currently on display at the Stryker Center, Williamsburg, VA

For Mom, 12" X 12". Fabric, floss, seed pearls, fiberfill. 2016. On display through July 24, 2016 in the Vaughn Eames Gallery, Kean University, Union, NJ.



# **PATSY PARKER VIRGINIA**



Coiled Baskets with  
buttons



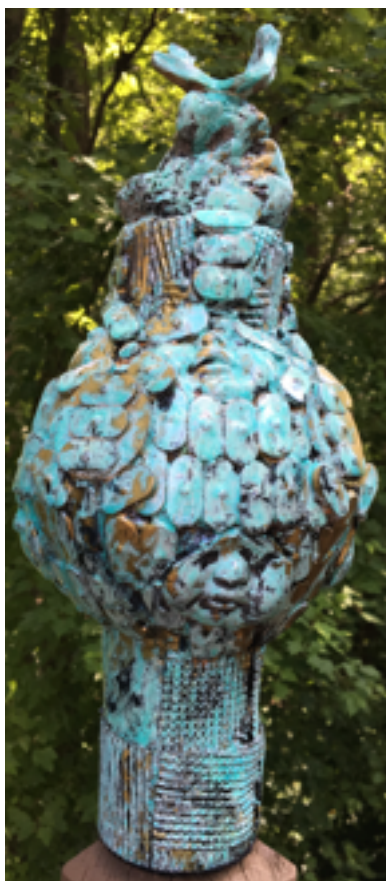




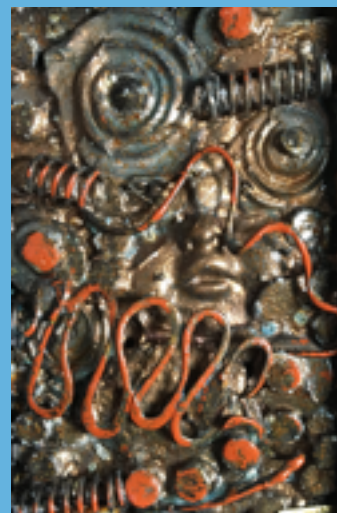
Hybrid Assemblage Pottery Form



Assemblage: "The Fork in the Road"



Hybrid Assemblage Pottery Form



Small Framed Assemblage



Assemblage: "A Little Bit of This, A Little Bit of That...."

**DEAN  
JOHNS**

**NORTH  
CAROLINA**



## ITEMS IN NEED OF ACTION

# COMMIT TO RAEA

**COMMIT** to exhibiting in the RAEA Members E-Gallery. When submitting work please include YOUR NAME AND STATE, THE TITLE OF THE WORK, THE MEDIUM AND SIZE, AND A SHORT DESCRIPTIVE COMMENT. HELP MAKE THE E-GALLERY A SUCCESS.

**COMMIT** to keeping us updated on member news; changes in RAEA State/Province leadership, gallery exhibits, milestones, deaths.

**COMMIT** to creating new opportunities for yourself and those around you!

**YOU ARE THE RAEA!!! DO YOUR PART TO MAKE THE RAEA A VITAL ISSUES GROUP OF THE NAEA!**

**SEND** Dean Johns the name and contact information of your state/province representative.

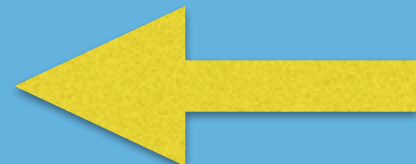
**COMMIT** to informing the editors of subjects you would like to see addressed.

**COMMIT** to contributing an article for inclusion in the E-Bulletin.

**COMMIT** to contributing artwork and/or sponsoring an auction table for the RAEA Silent Auction at the NAEA Convention (the only revenue source for RAEA).

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE E-BULLETIN IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION: DECEMBER 15 FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY 15 FOR MARCH, APRIL 15 FOR MAY, JUNE 15 FOR JULY, AUGUST 15 FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 15 FOR NOVEMBER.**

**NEXT DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15**





**THE RAEA E-BULLETIN IS SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO CURRENT MEMBERS OF NAEA WHOSE MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION IS “RETIRED” AND WHO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE WITH NAEA. IT IS PUBLISHED IN MONTHS WHEN THERE IS NOT AN NAEA NEWS. SPECIAL ISSUES ARE PUBLISHED AS NEED ARISES.**

## **CONTACTS**

**RAEA PRESIDENT:** Linda Willis Fisher, [lmwfis@ilstu.edu](mailto:lmwfis@ilstu.edu)

**RAEA PRESIDENT ELECT:** Woody Duncan, [woodyduncan@comcast.net](mailto:woodyduncan@comcast.net)

**RAEA PAST PRESIDENT:** Dean G Johns, [deangjohns@gmail.com](mailto:deangjohns@gmail.com)

**E-BULLETIN CO-EDITORS:**

Robert W. Curtis, [rwcurtis37@gmail.com](mailto:rwcurtis37@gmail.com)

Dean G. Johns, [deangjohns@gmail.com](mailto:deangjohns@gmail.com)



## **2016 - 2017 RAEA BOARD**

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**JOIN US AT NAEA IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
MARCH 2-4, 2017**

**THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE**