



## Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC

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properties of the raw material, from its soft malleable texture to the alchemy of slips and glazes, and its propensity to melt and harden, are at the core of the artist's passion. The exhibition begins with a recap of the earlier 20th century masters, then moves to works that demonstrate the two different strains of influence that informed contemporary makers - from the historicism of Bernard Leach and his successors to the refugee modernism embodied by Lucie Rie.

A plethora of "honest pots" highlights the straightforward, form-following-function vessels and platters of master potters such as Richard Batterham, Clive Bowen and Bill Marshall. The show then explores the sculptural forms of Gordon Baldwin, Ken Eastman and Nicholas Rena, moving on to the figurative and narrative compositions of Christie Brown, Claire Curneen and Phil Eglin, ending with a look at the most recent intersection of ceramic art, design and social commentary.

"The most thrilling quality of Contemporary British Studio Ceramics is that the field remains free from a defining aesthetic and cannot be tied together by one common visual thread," said Annie Carlano, Director of Craft + Design and curator of the exhibition. "There has never been a comprehensive exhibition on either side of the pond about these objects. Building on

the Mint's internationally recognized collection of historic English ceramics, this exhibition allows us to explore a wider wealth of riches and continue the story from art pottery to clay art today."

*Contemporary British Studio Ceramics: The Grainer Collection* will be accompanied by the eponymous book, published by Yale University Press. Academic and lavishly illustrated, it features contributions by Tanya Harrod, Glenn Adamson and Michelle Mickey, as well as an interview with Diane and Marc Grainer. Edited by Annie Carlano, this important publication underscores the Mint Museum of Craft + Design's commitment to scholarly excellence. The exhibition is organized by The Mint Museum and sponsored by Duke Energy.

The Museum will also be presenting the exhibit, *New Visions: Contemporary Masterworks from the Bank of America Collection*, on view through April 17, 2011. The exhibit offers over 60 works from the bank's Art Collection. Widely regarded as one of the world's finest corporate art collections, the Bank of America Collection is noted for its high quality, stylistic diversity, historical depth and attention to regional identity.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 704/337-2000 or visit ([www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org))



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