

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eden Revisited: The Ceramic Art of Kurt Weiser

On view at Museum of Contemporary Craft October 31, 2007 – January 6, 2008

This mid-career retrospective and accompanying exhibition catalogue examines the stylistic development of Kurt Weiser's ceramic work from the 1970s to the present. Internationally recognized as a contemporary ceramist and educator, Weiser is known for his technical virtuosity with porcelain forms and his use of china painting techniques in a distinct contemporary style. His subject matter illustrates lush, mysterious landscapes and distorted narratives set amidst color-saturated flora and fauna that read as voyeuristic candid snapshots of the human condition. The exhibition is comprised of forty ceramic objects drawn from the artist's holdings, the Ceramic Research Center's collection, and public and private collections around the country. Funded by a generous grant from the Windgate Charitable Foundation, the exhibition is organized by Arizona State University Art Museum Ceramic Research Center and its Curator of Ceramics, Peter Held.

Weiser earned a BFA degree at the Kansas City Art Institute where he studied with Ken Ferguson, then received an MFA at University of Michigan. He became director of the Archie Bray Foundation from 1979-1988, and in 1989 became head of the ceramics program at Arizona State University where he has been the distinguished Regent's Professor of Art since 2000. Weiser's work is featured in several collections internationally including the Museum of Contemporary Ceramics in Japan; National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC; International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University in New York and Victoria & Albert Museum in London. He has received numerous awards, including two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Aileen Osborn Webb Award from the American Craft Council.

Committed to the advancement of craft since 1937, Museum of Contemporary Craft is one of Portland's oldest cultural institutions. Centrally located at an expansive new site on the city's North Park Blocks, the organization is a vibrant center for investigation and dialogue, expanding the definition of craft and the way audiences experience it. At the Museum, craft is engaged as a verb as well as a noun, pondering what it means to "craft" something. Questions are posed, conversations ignited by curated exhibitions and provocative educational programs. Special events and publications create an additional layer of engagement and The Gallery - Portland's retail destination for the very best in contemporary craft - provides visitors with the opportunity to extend the museum experience into their everyday lives.

With a value of being accessible, admission to the Museum is by donation only. The Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday 11AM-6PM, with extended hours every Thursday until 8PM.

Eden Revisited: The Ceramic Art of Kurt Weiser is sponsored by Skutt Ceramic Products.

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Museum of Contemporary Craft