



PRESS RELEASE

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## 17th Annual PALO ALTO CLAY & GLASS FESTIVAL

Featuring fine glass and ceramic art, hands-on activities & eco-friendly products

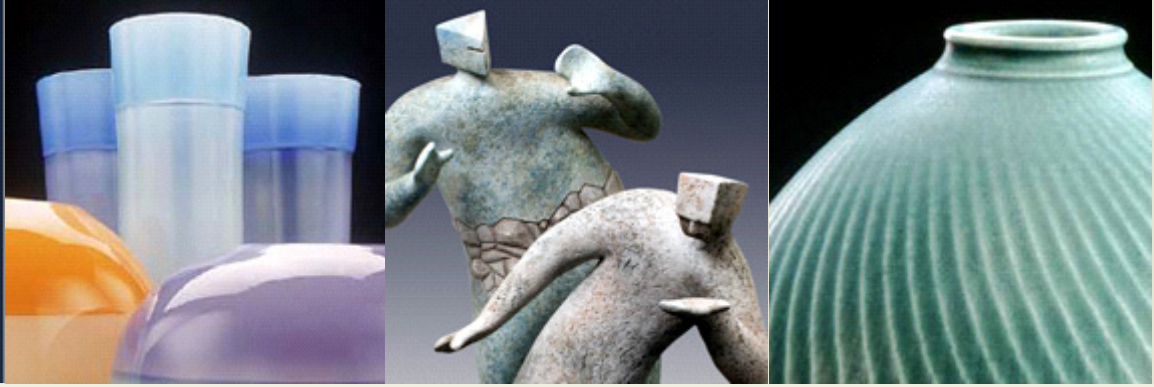
**Palo Alto, CA**—The Association of Clay and Glass Artists (ACGA) of California has a summer treat for savvy shoppers and discriminating collectors alike — **the 17th Annual Palo Alto Clay & Glass Festival**—running Saturday, July 11 through Sunday, July 12, 2009; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From massive stoneware urns to elegant fused-glass pendants, this free event offers a spectacular range of traditional and contemporary pieces, making it the largest clay and glass festival in the United States. Visitors can stroll through the open-air setting to find exceptional values on handcrafted glass and distinctive ceramics, as the festival returns to the beautiful, wheelchair accessible, Palo Alto Art Center located at 1313 Newell Road in Palo Alto, California.

“The Palo Art Clay & Glass Festival is one of the most diverse and highest quality events of this kind in the country,” said ACGA President Barbara Sebastian. “As the artists in ACGA grow and evolve, so does the festival.” This year’s emphasis is on affordable and eco-friendly designs. Many artists are incorporating recycled materials and sustainable practices into their work, and demonstrations highlighting some of these innovative techniques—like the use of solar-powered pottery kilns—are planned.

More than 175 skilled clay and glass artisans participate in this acclaimed event. From richly textured Raku ware to delicate blown glassworks, the Palo Alto Clay & Glass Festival has something for everyone. Throughout the site, an abundance of natural light showcases the luminous beauty of the artists’ creations. The festival is as a treasure trove of functional and decorative delights, including: stunning handmade jewelry, stylish chandeliers, ornate glazed dinnerware, whimsical teapots and impressive garden sculpture.

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There are several interactive and educational workshops scheduled. Demonstrations of wheel-throwing pottery thrill audiences as artists transform clay slabs into graceful vessels, and the “Ikebana” Japanese floral arrangement demos are crowd-pleasers too. Plus, adults and children can roll-up their sleeves to create their very own ceramic pieces in the “Clay For All” workspace.

Additionally, there will be a special indoor exhibition of work by ACGA members reflecting global and colloquial trends. The refined Center gallery shows how ceramic and glass artwork can enhance the aesthetics of both interior and exterior spaces.

The Palo Alto Clay & Glass Festival is presented by the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California (ACGA), and co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Art Center and KFOG-FM Radio Station. Free parking is available at the Center and along the street. Valet parking is also available. The festival is accessible by public transportation via Caltrain to the Palo Alto station, and connection to Valley Transit Authority (VTA) buses 35 or 86, which stop within two blocks of the Center.

For more information please visit [www.acga.net](http://www.acga.net) or call (650) 329-2366. High-resolution JPEG images are available on the website or by contacting Sharon Poynor at (415)789-9150, [poynor@aol.com](mailto:poynor@aol.com).

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*The Association of Clay and Glass Artists (ACGA) is one of the country’s oldest and largest ceramics and glass non-profit membership organizations. With more than 500 members ACGA will celebrate its 65th Anniversary in 2010. The ACGA offers space at the festival to other organizations that support artists such as Potters For Peace, the Crafts Emergency Relief Fund (CERF), and the Clay and Glass Arts Foundation (CGAF). Several of these programs are scheduled to be at the Palo Alto Clay & Glass Festival in July. Visit [www.acga.net](http://www.acga.net) to learn more about ACGA’s history, member artists, and other programs benefiting artists, art students, and art lovers.*