

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Prominent Duluth Potter Featured at MN Pottery Festival
Weekend of Demonstrations and Hands-on Clay Activities**

HUTCHINSON, MN — Thirty-four potters from across North America will be on display at the seventh annual Minnesota Pottery Festival in Hutchinson, MN the weekend of July 28th and 29th.

The 2018 Featured Potter is Karin Kraemer of Duluth Pottery. Karin is most well known for her attention to detail which shines in her pottery. Karin's speciality is Maiolica pottery, an Italian tin-glazed pottery technique dating from the Renaissance period. She will be demonstrating the technique both days during the Festival. Karin recently relocated to a new bigger gallery and studio space in the Lincoln Park Crafts District of Duluth. Kraemer says, "I enjoy working in pottery and tile, because they bring art to the table and everyday use. Clay is a great medium for expression."

Also at this year's Festival are seventeen Minnesota potters and sixteen from other states as far away as North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas. The festival welcomes six potters for the first time including Eric Anderson from Markesan, Wisconsin, Jill Lorenz Washburn, Wisconsin; Ron Netten Storm Lake, Iowa; Jeff Unzicker Union City, Indiana; and Christy Wetzig Frederic, Wisconsin.

Each year the Festival promotes an Emerging Artist that is in the beginning of their clay career. Aaron Becker of Plymouth, Minnesota received the honor, and has their entry fees waived. Becker said, "I'm thrilled, it's a great opportunity put my work out to a whole new audience of clay lovers. And I get to meet successful potters and ask them about their experience with clay." Becker went on to say, "I'm really excited for the Pottery Olympics, in my own work I combine thrown pieces with handbuilding, I've been practicing some of my techniques for the competition."

The Festival provides an excellent day trip for clay-lovers, families, and collectors. Entrance and parking are free, there is a complimentary golf cart shuttle available and many dedicated handicap parking spaces. The two days are filled with on-site raku firing, Pottery Olympic competitions, and a Kids' Station where children of all ages can get their hands dirty. Food and beverages for sale provided by local favorites: Crow River Winery and Red Cedar Farms.

The Minnesota Pottery Festival takes place on the grounds of the Clay Coyote Gallery & Pottery, just one hour West of the Twin Cities. The backdrop includes thirty acres of conservation prairie land, two ponds, trails, and beautiful Todd Lake in the distance.

Another new feature of the 2018 Festival are three complimentary electric vehicle charging stations (one universal and two Tesla).

The Minnesota Pottery Festival is a nonprofit organization, it's mission is to provide a venue for quality clay artists to educate and engage with an increasingly knowledgeable public by raising the appreciation and understanding of pottery to help broaden the depth and breadth of ceramic arts in Minnesota.

This activity is made possible, in part, by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council (SMAC) thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The Minnesota Pottery Festival Board would also like thank our generous supporters: Continental Clay Company, Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply, Shimpo Ceramics and all of our generous individual donors and volunteers.

More information and full list of artists available at www.mnpotteryfestival.com.

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