

Clay Chatter

SEPTEMBER 2020 • WWW.CLAYALLIANCE.ORG



Clay Alliance



Provided photos/Linda LeGendre

Bowls made at the Throw-a-thon are ready to find their forever homes at Empty Bowls on Nov. 1.

Hybrid Empty Bowls adapts to the times

New this year: drive-thru option, T-shirts

BY LINDA LEGENDRE

Please welcome Nancy Hopkins as co-chair for the event this year. She will make sure that things run smoothly. Nancy is stepping in because my son is getting married Oct. 30 in Florida, where he lives. So an extra thank you to Nancy from our family.

Amid this year's many canceled shows, we are grateful to be able to hold our 21st Empty Bowls with a new format. Richards Industries next to Queen City Clay has graciously given

us full use of its parking lot for the event. Patrons can attend the event in two safe ways:

- **Walk-thru:** Parties will be separated by 6 feet. Masks are mandatory and hand sanitizer or gloves are necessary to touch the bowls.
- **Drive-thru:** An artist-selected sanitized bowl will be ready for pickup during patrons' time slots.

Our fantastic orange Clay Alliance bags will be used for bowl sales.

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Empty Bowls 2020

When: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1

Where: Richard Industries parking lot, 3170 Wasson Road, Cincinnati, OH 45209

Tickets: <https://clayallianceemptybowls.square.site/>

Planning begins for 'bootstrap' Holiday Fair

As we all know, COVID-19 has caused many art shows to be canceled because of social distancing requirements. The Kennedy Heights Art Center Annex, where we've held Holiday Fair for the past few years, has closed and is not holding any events.

We have looked for other venues in which to hold the show, but either the prices were too expensive or the venues weren't opening to the public.

Luckily, Laura Davis at Core Clay has offered Clay Alliance the use of her large garage to host the 2020 Holiday Fair. Clay Alliance has accepted her offer and we are starting to plan the event.

A Zoom meeting was held on Oct. 1 to answer questions, listen to suggestions and gauge the level of interest from members.

Internally, we've been calling this year's show Bootstrap Holiday Fair 2020. Why? Because in this year of unknowns, everyone is trying to

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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WHAT'S GOING ON



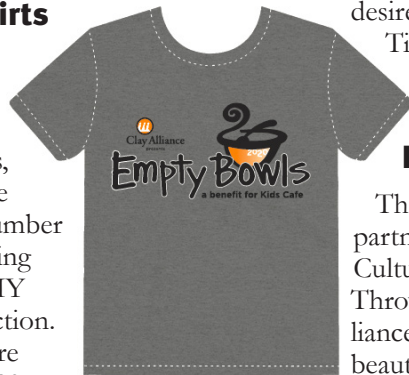
Provided photos/Linda LeGendre

Walk-thru and drive-thru patrons will wind through the Richard Industries lot.

Empty Bowls, continued

New this year: T-shirts

Sales of T-shirts designed by David Mill will replace the Buy it Now and Seconds tables, which will be missed. We just need to share the number of T-shirts we are ordering for Aaron Kent from DIY Printing to begin production. The dark grey T-shirts are 100% cotton and cost \$20, part of which will be donated to Kids Cafe. The shirts may be pre-ordered only from Oct. 1 to 14. For walk-thru patrons, T-shirts may be picked up in a separate tent during the event. For drive-thru patrons, shirt orders will be packed in the bowl bag. Thanks to Jeanette Blust for coordinating all the details about T-shirts.



desired items including T-shirts. Tickets may be purchased at <https://clayallianceempty-bowls.square.site/>.

Bowl donations

Thanks to Ryan Durbin for partnering with Baker Hunt Cultural Center to conduct a Throw-a-thon this year. Clay Alliance members made about 140 beautiful bowls. These bowls will have a special business card attached. We appreciate Baker Hunt supplying all the materials and firings.

Our current bowl count stands at 242. Any amount of bowls can be donated until Oct. 29, 2020, at Core Clay, 3846 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45212. In addition, Trish McLennan can accept donations from people who live north of Cincinnati. Email her at rtnclennan@fuse.net.

Volunteers needed

It's easy to volunteer, just sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094EABA623A5FB6-21st>.

I look forward to hearing about everything new this year, so take lots of photos!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for your ideas, perseverance

This year sure does continue to challenge us as humans, makers, small business owners and as an organization. As we attempt to get back to some sort of normalcy with neighboring businesses reopening,



outdoor events being planned with new rules and restrictions, and innovations arising to meet current challenges, we must also adjust and go wherever the tide may take us. As

a small business owner, I sure have been challenged selling my ceramics this year. I've improved my online marketing and selling and have found local in-person events that allow small businesses to sell directly to the public in a safe way for vendors and patrons. I've learned how to teach wheel-throwing to students with as little contact as possible.

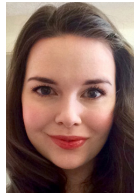
As the year has progressed, our organization has been open to change. We have come together to discuss our options for continuing the monthly Final Friday events at the Pendleton Art Center gallery and important annual events like Empty Bowls and Holiday Fair in collaboration with our local support system including Baker Hunt, Queen City Clay and Core Clay. Our board continues to meet monthly via video conference to address these challenges as they arise. I personally want to thank our board, event chairs and all volunteers who have contributed to pushing our organization forward so far this year. I think we will end up on the other side of this more refined and stronger for it all. Thank you!

Ryan Durbin

MEET THE MEMBERS

Emily Hobart

Emily is originally from Flowood, Mississippi, a small suburban city just outside of the capital of Jackson. “I always had an interest in art but mostly focused on drawing until my sophomore year of college at Mississippi State University,” she says. “One semester, I couldn’t get into any of my drawing classes so I loaded up on as many ceramic classes as I could and decided to officially change my major. I’ve been making ever since.”

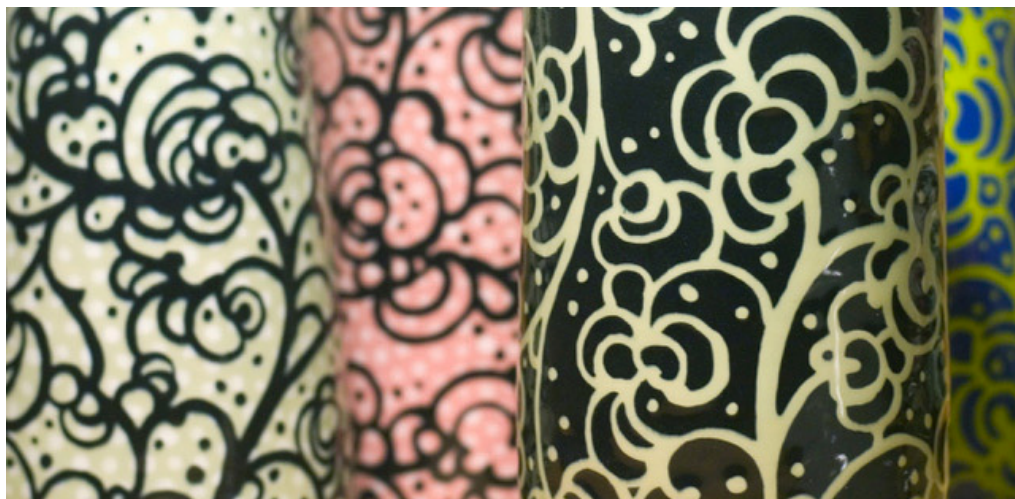


Emily currently makes functional pottery, mostly focusing on surface decoration. She has a home ceramics studio where she does almost all of her throwing. She also rents space from Core Clay where she can work on hand-building projects and can glaze and fire all of her work.

Emily continues to draw, but what doesn’t end up on pottery usually remains as a personal project. She has also adopted two cats since moving to Cincinnati in 2014.

“Julia Galloway has always been my pottery idol and I’ve been lucky enough to meet her on several occasions,” Emily says. “She’s always talked about the sense of joy that pottery, especially utilitarian pottery, can inspire. It can transform how we experience a small and simple act such as drinking our morning coffee or grabbing the butter dish for a meal.

“I’m so inspired by artists who can view the world in such a way. That love and joy for the small things can transform our lives. How do we as artists, and as people, make beautiful moments?”



Provided photos



MEET THE MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE

Want to be featured in “Meet the Members”? Just answer these questions in an email and send them to Jane Lester at janelester@me.com.

- Name
- Residence
- Family
- Where you’re from (Cincinnati or elsewhere)
- Where you work in clay

- How long you’ve been doing clay
- What kind of pieces you make
- Where you work (day job)
- Any other hobbies you enjoy
- Anything else of interest you wish to share

WHAT'S GOING ON

Three join NCECA Committee

After our call for volunteers to serve on an NCECA Committee in the last issue of Clay Chatter, we were lucky to receive a few responses from our members. We are happy to have Bruce Canfield, Sarah Horn and Julie Blair on our Clay Alliance NCECA Committee to keep members up-to-date about all things happening with NCECA 2021 here in Cincinnati.

The group has just begun discussions and brainstorming to see how our organization can get involved in a small way to support the efforts already happening with

the local NCECA planning committee. The 2020 conference that was scheduled to be held in Richmond, Virginia, back in March was canceled because of COVID-19. NCECA is deliberating what the conference can look like for 2021. A lot of unknowns remain, but this small committee will keep members informed when we know more.

Any ideas or questions can be sent to the committee at nceca@clayalliance.org. Thanks Bruce, Sarah and Julie for stepping up!

Ryan Durbin

Holiday Fair, continued

pivot and figure out ways to survive. It reminded us of the early days of Clay Alliance when we started our first outdoor show. We all came together, brought our energy, labor and ideas and managed to “bootstrap” our first show. It wasn’t perfect but we figured it out. We were in a parking lot next to the old Rookwood Pottery building and we had a wide variety of work. Parking was scarce and it was windy but we made it happen.

We feel that same spirit this year. We have to reinvent Holiday Fair to fit the reality of this very tumultuous time. Are we up to the challenge? I say YES!

Stay tuned for details!

If you have any interest in being on the committee, please email Terri Kern at terrikernstudios@gmail.com.

Terri Kern

Our next general meeting will be online on Wednesday, Oct. 7

Our next general meeting will be held online Wednesday, Oct. 7, at <https://www.gotomeet.me/ryandurbin/clay-alliance>.

Mingling starts at 6:30 p.m by clicking the link. Business starts at 7 p.m. On the agenda are updates about Empty Bowls, Holiday Fair, the Clay Alliance Gallery, NCECA 2021 in Cincinnati, new board positions available for 2021 and more.

Next Clay Chatter deadline: Friday, Dec. 4

E-mail submissions to
jeffersonation@gmail.com