**Kelly Connole**
Carleton College
One North College Street
Northfield, MN 55057
kconnole@carleton.edu
www.kellyconnole.com

**Selected Exhibitions**

2026 *Field Notes*, faculty exhibition, Perlman Teaching Museum, Carleton College, Northfield, MN
*Ceramics Invitational*, Abel Contemporary Arts, Stoughton, WI
*12x12: Faculty and Staff Show,* Carleton College, Northfield, MN

2025 *Danny Saathoff Distinguished Alumni Exhibition (works in collaboration with Kelly Connole),* University of Wisconsin, Stout, Menomonie, WI
*Beasts and Monsters*, Abel Contemporary Gallery, Stoughton, WI
*Form in Formation*, in conjunction with the NCECA conference, Material Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
*What the Cat Dragged In*, Boliou Gallery, Carleton College, Northfield, MN
*Celestial Bodies,* Abel Contemporary Gallery, Stoughton, WI
*A Flag and 8 Faces*, collaboration with Mariko Bolton, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

2024 *Ripple Effect*, Clay Center of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
*Murder of Crows*, Abel Contemporary Gallery, Stoughton, WI

2023 *Ceramics Invitational*, Abel Contemporary Gallery, Stoughton, WI
*Feature Window,* Gallery 360, Minneapolis, MN
*The Light of Day*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*New Work by Studio Art Faculty,* Perlman Teaching Museum, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

2022 *Keeping Time: New Works by Kelly Connole and Danny Saathoff*, No. 5 experimental space, Abel Contemporary Gallery, Stoughton, WI
*Beautiful Fiction*, Abel Contemporary Gallery, Stoughton, WI

2021 *Prairies and Potholes*, Northfield Arts Guild, Northfield, MN
*Eleven McKnight Artists*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Pearl,* invitational, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Clever Birds*, Abel Contemporary Gallery, Stoughton, WI

2020 *Six McKnight Artists: Traveling Exhibition*, Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN
*5 Foot Exhibition*, Gallery360, Minneapolis, MN

2019 *Sins: Seven Deadlies in Clay*, Perlman Teaching Museum, Carleton College, Northfield, MN
*Place: Artists of the Cannon River Clay Tour*, Northfield Arts Guild, Northfield, MN
*Heart Land Stories*, Q.arma Building, Minneapolis, MN
*Women Who Teach*, St Kate's College, St. Paul, MN

2018 *NCC Residential*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

2017 *SEE: Faculty Exhibition*, Perlman Teaching Museum, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

*By Recommendation*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

2016 *Featured Artist*, MN Original Episode #708, Twin Cities Public Television
*McKnight Award Artists,* St Peters Art Center, St Peters, MN
*McKnight Award Artists*, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
*McKnight Award Artists*, The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI

2015 *Six McKnight Artists*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*McKnight Traveling Exhibition*, Winona State University, Winona, MN
*More than One: Excursions into the Uncanny*, Kolman & Pryor Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
*Grant Recipients,* Northern Clay Center Expo, NCECA Conference, Providence, RI

2014 *Midwest Mentors and their Students*, LillStreet Expo Booth at NCECA conference, Milwaukee, WI
*Red River Reciprocity: Contemporary Ceramics in Minnesota and North Dakota,* The Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND

2013 *Flights of Fancy*, Paramount Visual Arts Center, St Cloud, MN (solo)

2012 *Ibid: Artists Respond to Collections,* Perlman Teaching Museum, Carleton College, Northfield, MN
*Minnesota Funk,* Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
*Fins, Fur, and Feathers II,* Cinema Gallery, Urbana, IL
*Push Play NCECA Invitational*, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
*What is a Rabbit?*, John Natsoulas Gallery, Davis, CA

2011 *Clay Dwelling: Six Ceramic Artists*, Macalester College Art Gallery, St Paul MN
*Minnesota Nice*, Lillstreet Art Center, Chicago, IL
*Setting Roots,* Northfield Arts Guild, Northfield, MN

2010 *20th Anniversary Exhibition*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Water Street Artists—Watershed Artists*, Stable Gallery, Damariscotta, ME
*Bird x Bird,* Gallery 322, Minneapolis, MN
*Foot in the Door,* Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

2009 *In Between: Kelly Connole and Beth Lo*, Carleton Art Gallery, Northfield, MN
*Minnesota Women Ceramic Artists Exhibition,* Gallery 322, Minneapolis, MN
*Firing a Legacy,* Pence Gallery, Davis, CA
*30 Ceramic Sculptors*, CCACA, John Natsoulas Gallery, Davis, CA
*Beasts and Botanicals*, Clark College, Vancouver, WA
*College Bowl II,* Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Gallery Artists*, Circa Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
*Winds of Inspiration, Winds of Change,* Hillstrom Museum of Art, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN
*Natural Resourcery*, Carleton Art Gallery, Northfield, MN
*Starting a Hare in Ceramics*, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI

2008 *Monica Reede and Kelly Connole,* Circa Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
*Where the Sky Meets the Earth*, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN (solo)
*Cats Invitational*, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, NM
*Jerome Retrospective*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

*2nd Annual Concordia Continental,* Concordia University, Saint Paul, MN
*Grant Recipients Exhibition*, Minnesota State Arts Board, Saint Paul, MN

2007 *NCECA 2007 Clay National Biennial Exhibition*, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville, KY
*Ceramics Today*, Flaten Art Museum, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN
*The Big Muddy,* Quigley Gallery, Clark College, Dubuque, IA

*Bird x Bird*, Gallery 322, Minneapolis, MN

2006 *What is a Cup?*, Vulcan 5 Gallery, Oakland, CA
*Circus Surreal,* Reflect-Arts, Brooklyn, NY
*Materials: Hard and Soft*, Greater Denton Arts Council, Denton, TX
*Good Bird/Bad Bird*, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR
*19th International Exhibition of Animals in Art*, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
*Bird x Bird*, Gallery 322, Minneapolis, MN
*Soul Searching*, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

2005 *Under the Big Tent*, Red House Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (solo)
*Red Heat*, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK
*The Art of Fine Craft*, Elder Gallery, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE

2004 *Collaboration,* Macalester College Gallery, Saint Paul, MN
*Consolidated Circus: Kelly Connole and Sarah E. Paul*, Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI
*Move: Invitational Exhibition*, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN
*College Bowl II*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN

2003 *Hares & Hands, Crows and Cups*, Kellie Theiss Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (solo)

2002 *Invited Artists: Kelly Connole and Bruce Nygren*, Henry Conn Fine Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Below 2002*, Contemporary Craft Gallery, Portland, OR

2001 *No Fences*, Kellie Rae Theiss Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (solo)
*Selected Clay Artists*, Saint Paul Academy, St. Paul, MN
*Six McKnight Artists*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*People, Creatures and Sins*, Contemporary Craft Gallery, Portland, OR
*Birds, Beasts and Little Fishes*, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, NM
*Collecting Art*, Kellie Rae Theiss Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
*Hands, Hearts and Faces; Collaborative Works by Joe Batt and Kelly Connole*, Evergreen College, Olympia, WA
*Invited Artists*, Edina Art Center, Edina, MN

2000 *Hands, Hearts and Faces; Collaborative Works by Joe Batt and Kelly Connole,* University of Montana, Missoula, MT (two-person)
*Animals in Art Invitational*, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI

*The Clay Menagerie,* Kellie Rae Theiss Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (solo)
*Big Bang*, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN
*Journeys in Clay*, Pembroke Gallery, Wabasha, MN

1999 *Fish Tales*, Pump House Gallery, La Crosse, WI
*Traveling Unfamiliar Waters*, Kellie Rae Theiss Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (solo)

*Claymakers*, Edina Art Center, Edina, MN
*Clay Music*, University Center Rochester, Rochester, MN
*Three Jerome Artists*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Faculty Exhibition*, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*A Collective Exhibition*, Kellie Rae Theiss Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

1997 *Featured Artist,* The Studio, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
*Smashing Clay,* Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
*Faculty Exhibition*, California State Summer School for the Arts, Valencia, CA
*Clay National,* Grants Pass Art Center, Grants Pass, OR

1996 *Art Department Faculty Exhibition*, West Valley College, Saratoga, CA
*Northern California Clay Competition*, Walnut Creek Regional Art Center, CA
*New Generation Graduate Exhibition*, Shaw Guido Gallery, Pontiac, MI
*The Young and the Restless*, Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
*MFA Exhibition*, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

1995 *8 Brunettes, a Blonde, and a Red Head*, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA
T*eapots Galore*, Caesar Chavez Center, San Francisco, CA

1994 *2nd Graduate Student Exhibition*, Habitat/Shaw Gallery, Farmington Hills, MI
*Teapot Party at Modesto's*, Modesto Lanzone, San Francisco, CA

**Awards and Grants**

2026 Curricular Grant, *Next Steps with Local Clay*s, Carleton College
Student Research Partner Award, to work with Ella Shatz, Carleton College
2025 Creative Individuals Grant, MN State Arts Board
2024 Student Research Partner Award, to work with Mariko Bolton, EthIC, Carleton College
Student Research Partner Award, to work with Eva Leikikh, Humanities Center, Carleton College
Champion, Red Wing Pottery Throwdown, Red Wing Arts, Red Wing, MN
2022 EthIC Grant, *The Ethics of Materials: Sustainable Practices in Ceramics*, Carleton College
2022 CarT Grant, *3D Printing for Use in Ceramics,* Carleton College
2021 Public Works Grant, *Ceramics Pedagogy and Diversity*, Carleton College
2021 Leadership Award, MN/Iowa Campus Contact
2019 McKnight Fellowship for Ceramic Artists, Northern Clay Center
2018 Public Works Grant, *Researching Indigenous Pottery Traditions in MN*, Carleton College
2017 Broadening the Bridge Grant, *Firing Across the Cannon (River)*, St Olaf and Carleton College
2014 McKnight Fellowship for Ceramic Artists, Northern Clay Center
Future Learning Technologies Grant, Carleton College

2013 President's Civic Engagement Steward Award, Minnesota Campus Compact, in recognition of *Carleton's Empty Bowls Project*
2010 VIZ Grant, *Teaching the Past to Honor the Future: Ceramic History Project*, Carleton College
Kiln God Residency, two weeks with funding, Watershed Center for Ceramics
2008 3rd Place Juror's Award, *2nd Biennial Concordia Continental*
Artist Residency, four months with full funding, SeaCast Foundry
2007 Minnesota State Arts Board Artists Initiative Grant
Class of '49 Fellowship, Carleton College
Hewitt Presidential Fellowship, Carleton College

2006 Juror's Award, *Materials: Hard and Soft*
Honorable Mention, *19th International Exhibition on Animals in Art*
1999 McKnight Residency Fellowship, three months with full funding, Northern Clay Center
1998 Jerome Foundation Project Grant, Northern Clay Center
1996 San Francisco State Distinguished Graduate Award
1995 Best of Show, Teapots Galore
3rd Place Award, Teapots Galore
1994 Montana Arts Council Commission, Finalist
San Francisco State Stillwell Graduate Fellowship
1993 San Francisco Foundation Murphy Graduate Scholarship
1992 Juror's Award, University of Montana Student Art Exhibit
1991 Best Ceramics Award, Juror: Rudy Autio, 5th Annual Ceramics Show

**Bibliography**
**Reviews/Articles**

"Form (In) Formation", review of exhibition, The Utah Review, March 2025
Interview, *Dandycraft: Exploring Queer History, Domesticity and Craft*, blog post, 2017
"Sexual Politics," *Mpls St Paul Magazine*, March 4, 2015
"Animal Spirits Enliven 'Six McKnight Artists' at Northern Clay Center,"
Minneapolis Star Tribune, July 16, 2015
"Minnesota Artists Not so Wobegon," Minneapolis Star Tribune, December 13, 2012
"Taken into Context," review, *Ceramics Monthly*, April 2012
"Dark Childhood—Push Play: The 2012 NCECA Invitational," *Ceramics Monthly*, April 2012
A Peace of My Mind, interviewee, John Noltner, 2011
"Minnesota Women Ceramic Artists Exhibition, "review, *Ceramics Monthly*, March 2010
"Honing the Cutting Edge," feature, *Voice Magazine*, Spring 2010
"Monica Reede and Kelly Connole," review, *Art in America*, February 2009
500 Animals in Clay, cover photo, Lark Publishers, 2006
"Fired Up," review, Minneapolis Star Tribune, May 16, 2003
"Northern Exposures," photo of work, *Arts and Antiques Magazine*, May 2003
"Folio Passport," photo of work, *Twin Cities Fine Arts Folio*, Fall 2002
"Go Figure", review, Minneapolis Star Tribune, November 9, 2001
"People, Creatures and Sins," review, *ArtWeek Magazine,* May 2001

International Ceramics Poster, photo, *Kerameiki Techni (Greek) Magazine*, April 2001
Page 34, Making Ceramic Sculpture, photos of work, Lark Publishers, 2000
"Kelly Connole," review, *Art Papers Magazine*, Sept/Oct 2000
"Clay Critters," review, *Free Time* in Minneapolis Star Tribune, April, 14, 2000
"Kelly Connole: The Clay Menagerie," St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 14, 2000
"Minnesota Annual - Jerome Artist Exhibition," *Ceramics Monthly*, Summer 1999
"Jerome Artists," review, *Contact Ceramics*, Spring 1999
"Stories told in Clay at Minneapolis Galleries," review, Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 1, 1999

"Losing My Religion," review of exhibition, Missoula Independent, January 9, 1992
"Art Targets Helms," review of exhibition, Montana Kaimin, March 5, 1991

**Written Work/Curatorial Projects**

To Be Human, curation and catalog essay, Northern Clay Center, curation and catalog essay, Northern Clay Center, 2026
From the Ground: Sustainability and Local Clays, curation and catalog essay, Northern Clay Center, 2024
Tempered Beasts, curation and catalog essay, Northern Clay Center, 2017
Sexual Politics: Gender, Sexuality, and Queerness in Contemporary Ceramics, curation and catalog essay, Northern Clay Center, 2015
Self –Contained, curation and catalog essays, Northern Clay Center, 2012
Exquisite Pots: Six Degrees of Collaboration, essay, NCECA Journal, 2010
Exquisite Pots: Six Degrees of Collaboration, catalog essay, Northern Clay Center, 2008
World Ceramics: Transforming Women's Traditions, curation and catalog essay, Carleton College, 2008

**Teaching Experience**

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|---|---|---|
| 2018- present | Carleton College, Northfield, MN | |
| | | *Professor of Art* |
| 2017-2022 | Carleton College, Northfield, MN | |
| | | *Co-director of Public Works: Arts and Humanities Connecting Communities* |
| 2010- 2018 | Carleton College, Northfield, MN | |
| | | *Associate Professor of Art* |
| 2004- 2010 | Carleton College, Northfield, MN | |
| | | *Assistant Professor of Art (tenure-track)* |
| 2001-2004 | Hamline University, St. Paul, MN | |
| | | *Full-time, visiting assistant professor* |
| 2000-2001 | Minneapolis Community and Technical College | |
| | | *Full-time Instructor* |
| 1998–2001 | Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN | |
| | | *Private contractor* |
| 1998 (winter) | University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN | |
| | | *Adjunct faculty* |
| 1996 – 1997 | West Valley College, Saratoga, CA | |
| | | *Full-time, sabbatical replacement* |

**Lectures/Panels/Demonstrations**

2025 *From Press Mold to Figure with Kelly Connole*, demonstrator, Blue Valley Clay, St Peter, MN
Visiting Artist, Red Wing Arts, Red Wing, MN
2022 Visiting Artist, University of MN, Minneapolis, MN
2020 Visiting Artist, St Olaf College, Northfield, MN
Visiting Artist, demonstrator, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
Panelist, Six McKnight Artists, Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN
2019 Panel Moderator, Place Matters: Heartland Stories, NCECA Conference, Minneapolis, MN
2018 Visiting Artist, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL
2017 Lecturer, MN Art Educators Conference, Minneapolis, MN
2016 Visiting artist, lecturer, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis, MN
Lecturer, Minnesota Art Pottery Association, Minneapolis, MN
2014 Expo Artist Talk, Lillstreet Gallery at NCECA Conference, Milwaukee, WI
2013 Visiting Artist, demonstrator/lecturer, Paramount Arts Center, St Cloud, MN
2012 Visiting Artist, demonstrator/lecturer, Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter, MN
2010 *Exquisite Pots: Six Degrees of Collaboration*, Panel Moderator, NCECA Conference, Philadelphia, PA
*Italian Majolica,* lecturer, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
Visiting Artist, demonstrator/lecturer, Macalester College, St Paul, MN
*The Anatomy of a Sculpture*, demonstrator, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Artists Invite Artists*, Watershed Center for the Ceramics Arts, Newcastle, ME
2009 *Plumb Bobs and Other Curiosities,* Carleton College, Northfield, MN
*30,000 years of Ceramic History*, lecturer, Pence Gallery, Davis, CA
*California Conference for the Advancement of Ceramic Art*, demonstrator, John Natsoulas Gallery, Davis, CA
*New Work: SeaCast Foundry*, lecturer, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
*Stainless Steel Rabbits and Other Curiosities,* Faculty Scholarship Forum, lecturer, Carleton College, Northfield, MN
Visiting Artist, Beast and Botanicals Exhibition, Clark College, Vancouver, WA
*Exhibitions, Curating and Curriculum,* panelist, Carleton College, Northfield, MN
2008 Resident Artist, SeaCast Foundry, Marysville, WA
*Exquisite Pots: Six Degrees of Collaboration*, panel moderator, Minneapolis, MN
2007 Connections Discussion Leader, NCECA Conference, Louisville, KY
*Ceramic Centers,* panelist, International Ceramics Festival, Aberystywth, Wales, UK
2006 Visiting Artist, demonstrator/lecturer, St Olaf College, Northfield, MN
Visiting Artist, demonstrator, South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia, WA
*Discussions on Public Art*, Gould Library Athenaeum, Carleton College, MN
2005 *Minnesota Teachers Workshop*, demonstrator, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
*Ceramics and Higher Education*, panelist, Northern Clay Center, MN
*A Brief History of Ceramics,* lecturer, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
*Kelly Connole: New Work*, lecturer, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
2003 *Minnesota Community College Fine Arts Festival,* demonstrator, Bemidji, MN
2002 *Swedish Institute, Tile Heritage Foundation Symposium*, demonstrator, Minneapolis, MN
2001 *Living a Creative Life: Kelly Connole*, Minneapolis Women's Club, Minneapolis, MN
C*ollaboration: Kelly Connole and Joe Batt,* Contemporary Crafts Gallery, Portland, OR
Visiting Artist, Portland College of Arts and Crafts, Portland, OR

**Community-Engaged Work**

Community engagement is profoundly important to me as a scholar, artist, teacher, and person. This work takes many forms, only some of which I highlight here. Since 2005, I've led the Carleton Empty Bowls Project, a community-based project in which students work collaboratively to create bowls, learn about the history of ceramics and food scarcity issues in their communities, and raise money for our local food shelf. Together, we have raised over $192,000.

Since 2016, I have hosted the annual Cannon River Clay Tour in my garden to help build community among the potters and sculptors of Northfield and the surrounding area. I've spearheaded a program to bring emerging artists into the tour to celebrate new voices and diverse perspectives. My 2025 MN State Arts Board grants allowed me to invest further in mentoring two recent Carleton alums who are interested in pursuing a career in ceramics. For 2026, I will host another three mentees who will work closely with me over the summer and will exhibit their work on the tour.
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From 2017-2022, I co-directed ***Public Works: Arts & Humanities Connecting Communities***, an initiative centered on public-oriented work in the arts and humanities undertaken through collaborative partnerships with diverse organizations and communities beyond the Carleton campus.

From 2017-2022, I served on the Board of Directors for Prairie Creek, Inc., a non-profit that houses a small community-based elementary school, Prairie Creek Community School, in Northfield. The student centered, progressive school prioritizes hands-on learning and a social curriculum. I regularly volunteer at the school both on the Arts Committee and directly in the classroom with hands-on projects about ecology and art.

**Professional Membership**

National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)
Northern Clay Center, Arts Advisory Board member

**Education**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MFA | 1996 | San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA |
| BFA | 1991 | University of Montana, Missoula, MT *(cum laude)* |