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## NEWS

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PR 68- March 2, 2010

### GCC “TOUCHED BY FIRE” CERAMIC ART EXHIBIT OPENS MARCH 11

Deptford Twp. – “Touched by Fire: Wood Fire Potters from New Jersey,” a unique exhibit of 12 local ceramic artists, will open at Gloucester County College on Thursday, March 11, in the Dr. Ross Beitzel Art Gallery. A meet and greet artist reception will be held in the Art Gallery on Tuesday, March 30, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The College’s art show, curated by GCC instructor and Deptford artist Linda Shusterman, will spotlight 12 nationally and regionally recognized ceramic artists who use wood as a firing method. The wood-ash and flame-flashing process results in a variety of effects which can be stunning, refined or crude.

“Wood firing reconnects potters to what is primary in life: air, fire and water. The firing technique creates unpredictability on the surface of the clay and glaze. Potters welcome this unknown,” said Shusterman.

Artists who will have their work on display include: Susan Bogen, Chrissy Callas, Peter Callas, Bruce Dehnert, David Gamber, Katherine Hackl, Charles Lid, Terry Plasket, Paul Serena, Linda Shusterman, Skeffington Thomas and Alan Willoughby.

GCC will be one of 11 venues participating in the South Jersey Shore Clay Tour (SJSCT) held in conjunction with the 2010 National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts Conference. A total of 14 self-guided clay exhibitions will be held throughout a six-county area in conjunction with the NCECA conference in Philadelphia March 31 to April 3. Thousands of ceramic artists, educators and students are expected to view the works of New Jersey and Philadelphia wood-fire potters.

“Firing with wood is a purifying ritual,” said artist Alan Willoughby. “It is the trial by fire of ancient myths, a process engaging full thought and sense, a collaborative effort between man and fire... feeding wood to the fire, the flame licks a pattern across a

brushed glaze and ash falls upon the shoulder of a pot with glaze turning copper green as heat irreversibly transforms clay and minerals.”

GCC’s art reception is free and there is parking a short walk from the College Center. The art exhibit may be viewed six days a week until April 5. The Art Gallery’s hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The College’s 250-acre campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.

Information on the art show can be obtained by calling (856) 415-2122 or (856) 227-1640.