

PETERS PRESENTS 'MONTANA CLAY' AT RYNIKER-MORRISON GALLERY

Contact: Jane Waggoner Deschner, Gallery Director
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Re: **David Peters, "Montana Clay,"** an exhibition of recent ceramic work
Exhibition: January 11–29, 2010
Closing reception: Friday, January 29, 5–7pm; artist's slideshow @ 5:15pm
Ryniker-Morrison Gallery, Tech Hall
Rocky Mountain College
1511 Poly Drive
Billings, Montana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS -- Rocky Mountain College is proud to present the exhibition, "Montana Clay," ceramic pieces made from indigenous clay by David Peters, at the Ryniker-Morrison Gallery in Tech Hall. The exhibition dates are January 11–29, 2010, with a closing reception honoring the artist on Friday, January 29, 5:00–7:00pm. Peters will give a slideshow about his process and products beginning at 5:15 in a classroom adjacent to the gallery.

In making his deceptively simple ceramic pieces, Peters uses the indigenous clays, rocks and plants he finds, gathers and processes in western Montana. Investing himself in every step of the creative process from earth to fire to table, he shepherds the formed raw material through wood firing to finished vessel. In the studio, he is designer, craftsman and artist. Outside it in the environment, he is explorer, geologist, miner, truck driver, lumberjack and occasionally, dumpster diver. He states that this complexity of engagement offers him "a much more profound connection and appreciation for the place and community in which I live."

The most recent development in his forms originated from his investigation of the prospecting, mining and refining processes of the earliest settlers of Montana, the pioneer gold miners. He states, "As a type of prospector/miner myself, I have chosen to appropriate the vessels they used in their trade into my vocabulary as a potter. A gold pan becomes a serving bowl; a scale pan, a fruit bowl; and an assaying crucible, a creamer. The severity and obsolescence of early industrial vessels becomes intimate by utilizing the hand to form them and a firing method (wood) that creates surfaces which evoke a passage of time and a weathering by natural forces."

Born and raised in Amarillo, Texas, Peters spent much of his childhood camping and exploring the rugged nature of the Southwest. There he became interested in Native

American art, particularly how the people expressed themselves in the creation of functional objects. Watching his mother sew quilts and helping his father build cabinets, Peters realized a deep satisfaction from the integration of both beauty and purpose. Soon after he began to study ceramics, he discovered a love for Asian art. These interests lead him to study at Utah State University where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Art, and to China where he studied ceramics in Jingdezhen for a semester. While a two-year resident at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana, his research led him to challenge himself to create his pottery exclusively from local materials. He is currently a graduate student pursuing his Masters of Fine Arts degree in the School of Art at MSU–Bozeman.

The public is invited to the exhibition, closing reception and slideshow. The Ryniker-Morrison Gallery is on the first floor in Tech Hall, the building between the library and the football field. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am–4:00pm, and by appointment (contact Jane Deschner, 248-7494).

One jpg is attached. For more information, contact Jane Waggoner Deschner, jwd@bresnan.net or 406-248-7494.

Crucible, 2009, indigenous clay, 12 1/2 x 13 x 14 1/4 inches

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1/15/10