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Press Release

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***Conceive, Construct, Embellish* Set to Open May 3**

Exhibition Features Clever and Unique Clay Creations of 7 California Ceramic Artists

Expect the unexpected! The Town of Danville and the Village Theatre Art Gallery invite the community to view the clay, porcelain, and mixed media ceramic sculptures of 7 California Artists in the latest exhibition, *Conceive, Construct, Embellish*. Viewers should be prepared to have their definition of ceramics challenged. This is not an exhibition of traditional and conventional ceramics; the works on display will pique the viewer's curiosity and are sure to awe and inspire.

Conceive, Construct, Embellish is an exhibit that deconstructs the traditional definition of earthen arts and prompts the imagination of the viewer to encourage the inquisition of how and why and what do these works mean? Ceramic arts enjoy a long history dating back to more than 2000 years ago. For centuries clay has been used to create utilitarian objects, but fortunately for all, the earthen arts have morphed. While the medium continues to enjoy a reputation as a functional art form, it has evolved into art for the sake of art as three-dimensional works of beauty that are playful, striking, or tell a story.

On view will be delightful creations by the following artists: Gregory Byard, Tom Franco, Malia Landis, Mark Messenger, Shannon Sullivan, Cuong Ta and Wesley T. Wright. Each artist contributes their own distinct style to the exhibition.

Examples of earthenware in its many iterations in all of its glory will be seen in all of the works on view at the gallery. From the 7 foot tall clay pipes, that have been repurposed into storytelling totems by artist Tom Franco, to the small and delicate porcelain pieces that resemble stones and shells by Shannon Sullivan, which invite the viewer to interact with the art by manipulating the porcelain pieces to create new patterns by new viewers.

This exhibit hopes to offer viewers a glimpse into the world of ceramics and challenge preconceived notions of what the clay arts are. The aim is to develop an added appreciation not only for each specific art piece on display but, hopefully, for art in general.

An Opening Reception for the artists will be held Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Complimentary refreshments will be served and as always, this family-friendly event is free and open to the public.

The Village Theatre and Art Gallery is located at 233 Front Street in Danville. The Gallery is open to visitors Wednesday through Friday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Monday and Tuesday by appointment only. The Gallery is always open one hour before performances in the Theatre. The Art Gallery is closed on Sundays. The exhibition will run through June 16.

For more information, contact Visual Arts Coordinator Marija Nelson Bleier at (925) 314-3460 or mbleier@danville.ca.gov

