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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College Art Gallery to Present “Culture Clash”

A mid-career retrospective of the highly energized ceramic works of Keiko Fukazawa

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present a mid-career retrospective of the highly energized ceramic works of Keiko Fukazawa. “Culture Clash” spans a period of approximately 30 years and seeks to represent a broad view of this fascinating artist who moves from culture to culture, assimilating ideas and techniques.

“Culture Clash” runs from Feb. 29-March 31 in the ECC Art Gallery. A reception is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. March 3, with a gallery walk-through with Fukazawa at 1 p.m. March 8.

Keiko Fukazawa was born and raised in Japan where she studied art at the Musashino Art University in Tokyo. Here she was stifled by the viewpoint at the time that women were not to be taken seriously as contemporary artists. Fukazawa’s mother, who was a non-traditional person herself, had wanted to be a painter. As this was unaccepted by her generation, she became an excellent and creative cook, while supporting the viewpoint of her unconventional daughter.

Following her work at the university, Fukazawa apprenticed at a studio in the renowned ceramics town of Shigaraki, but also found the system there very rigid. At this point she heard about the bold clay revolution taking place in California, led by sculptor Peter Voulkos. In 1984 she moved to Los Angeles where she enrolled at Otis Art Institute and studied under Ralph Berra, a well-known artist with a powerful penchant for surface design. After graduating from Otis, Fukazawa began to teach and is now the head of the ceramics program at Pasadena City College.

Among the works Fukazawa explores in “Culture Clash” are a substantial group of graffiti-adorned pieces; Chinese Scholars’ Rocks; and recent objects made in China.

The El Camino College Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and from noon to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 310- 660-3010. Admission to the El Camino College Art Gallery and gallery events is free. On-campus parking is \$3.

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