

2009 Art on the River Jury

Delores Fortuna, MFA, has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Ceramics at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago since 1998. She holds a BFA and MFA from the University of Chicago. She divides her time between Chicago and a home studio in rural Galena, IL, where she loves to watch wild turkeys while she throws. Fortuna is part of a group of area ceramicists called Twenty Dirty Hands. She has been working in ceramics for 30 years and has won invitations to show her bowls, vases, large sculptural pieces, teapots and her newest work, "boat trays," on a national scale, including many galleries. Two of her pieces were accepted into an international ceramics show in Mino, Japan. Her work uses basic wheel thrown shapes as a starting points and uses glazes of her own formulation to create functional pieces. Some recent exhibitions include the Dubuque Museum of Art; Lill Street Gallery, Chicago; AKAR Gallery, Iowa City; Kunsthuis Ingrith Desmet, Amsterdam; and Galerie Wijland, Belgium. She has participated in porcelain symposiums in Finland in 1999 and in Italy in 2000 and 2002.

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Douglas Schlesier, MFA, is a Professor of Art at Clarke College in Dubuque where he has been part of the art faculty since 1969. He is director of the Clarke College Quigley Gallery and his teaching duties include sculpture, drawing, ceramics, airbrush painting, and new genre. He has escorted students on art study trips to South America and Mexico and has received numerous grants for art and related travel to Europe, Australia, China, Japan, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt, Greece, and Turkey, and most recently to Guatemala, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. He is active in the Dubuque community, being on the board of Directors of the Dubuque County Historical Society, National Rivers Hall of Fame and member of the Exhibition Committee of the Dubuque Museum of Art. Doug has exhibited art locally, regionally and internationally while also working on many commissions which have included drawings, mannequins, murals and sculptures. Much of his recent artwork and imagery has been driven by his love for foreign travel, his interest in the Mississippi River and a yearning to share his enthusiasm for other times, places and cultures. He earned a BFA at State University of New York in Buffalo and a MFA in sculpture at Washington State University in Pullman.