



MEDIA CONTACT:
Mary Headrick (mheadrick@crafthouston.org)
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
713.529.4848 x.107

BIPOC AWARD RECIPIENTS SHOWCASED IN EXHIBITION HONORING REMARKABLE TEXAS CERAMICISTS

At Houston Center for Contemporary Craft January 15 – March 5, 2022

Limitless: The 2021 Recipients of ClayHouston's Award for Texas BIPOC Ceramic Artists

January 15 – March 5, 2022

Asher Gallery

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

Hours & Admission

Current hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Visitors must wear masks and practice social distancing. Visit www.crafthouston.org for the latest information.

(HOUSTON, TX) December 3, 2021 – This winter, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) presents *Limitless: The 2021 Recipients of ClayHouston's Award for Texas BIPOC Ceramic Artists*, an exhibition of work by Jihye Han, Tammie Rubin, and Earnest Snell. As members of the Texas clay community, these artists represent the versatility of clay, exemplifying the limitless potential of processes, forms, and styles, through narratives related to identity, acculturation, and belonging. The works on view demonstrate how clay as a material eloquently captures the ever-changing nature of identity, while embodying the gritty narratives of the human condition.

As a member-based organization dedicated to cultivating, promoting, and advancing the ceramic arts in Houston and beyond, ClayHouston created this inaugural awards program to bring attention and funding to outstanding Texas-based ceramicists who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC). ClayHouston President Jessica Phillips commented, "Since 2020, the ClayHouston board has spent time reflecting upon the field of ceramics, both locally in Houston, as well as more broadly in the US. Our goal is to support artists who are affected by systemic racism as well as the economic uncertainty that COVID has created. By creating the Award for Texas BIPOC Ceramic Artists, we hope to cultivate greater equity, inclusivity, and access in ceramic arts."

The awards were juried by nationally renowned artists Natalia Arbelaez (Miami, FL), Adam Chau (Cold Spring, NY), Jennifer Ling Datchuk (San Antonio, TX), and Roberto Lugo (Philadelphia, PA). In response to a positive influx of applications, they requested to include a third award, Honorable Mention, in addition to Emerging and Mid Career and Beyond awards. The exceptional level of talent demonstrated by Han, Rubin, and Snell foregrounds the importance of elevating BIPOC perspectives and their triumphs. Through the artists' personal insights into the complexities of identity, they reveal nuances about how individuals relate to one another.

Limitless: The 2021 Recipients of the ClayHouston Award for Texas BIPOC Ceramic Artists is curated by HCCC Curatorial Fellow Sydney Elaine Pickens.

About the Featured Artists

Jihye Han, Emerging Award Recipient

Jihye Han, working in Houston, Texas, received her BFA in sculpture and ceramics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and her MFA in ceramics from the University of North Texas. She has exhibited at 500X Gallery (Dallas, TX), CICA Museum (Gimpo, South Korea), Clay Center of New Orleans, and other venues. She is the recipient of many awards and fellowships, including a 2021 Graduate Student Fellowship for the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) and a 2022 residency with Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.

Tammie Rubin, Mid Career & Beyond Recipient

Born in Chicago, IL, Tammie Rubin is currently Associate Professor of Ceramics and Sculpture at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. Rubin received her BFA in ceramics and art history from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and an MFA in ceramics at the University of Washington in Seattle. She has exhibited nationwide at Women & Their Work (Austin, TX), The South Dallas Cultural Center (Dallas, TX), Rockford Art Museum, and other venues. Rubin founded Black Mountain Project, along with fellow Austin-based artists Adrian Aguilera and Betelhem Makonnen. Currently, she is a member of the non-profit cooperative gallery, ICOSA Collective, and serves as Vice Chair of the City of Austin's Cultural Arts Division Art in Public Places Panel.

Earnest Snell, Honorable Mention Recipient

Earnest Snell is a self-taught artist located in Houston, TX. He is currently represented by Foelber Gallery and Pottery Studio and has been working with ceramics for 15 years. In early 2021, he had a solo exhibition at Foelber Gallery, entitled, *Earnest Snell at 70. A Retrospective in Clay*.

About ClayHouston

ClayHouston exists to cultivate, promote, and advance the ceramic arts in the Houston Metropolitan area and beyond. Founded in 2004 as a volunteer-run 501(c)3 non-profit, the organization works to provide their members with opportunities through education, professional development, exhibitions, workshops, and programs, while partnering with local arts organizations to further their reach. Additionally, they create recreational programs as an opportunity for members to socialize, build community, and learn from one another in a casual atmosphere. Learn more about ClayHouston at www.clayhouston.org.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC continues to serve as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community and the region by showcasing emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introducing visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through hands-on and virtual programming, and supporting the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Before visiting, the public should visit www.crafthouston.org to view visitor guidelines, including the requirement to wear face masks and practice social distancing throughout the building. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of the Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District. For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.