Ceramics artists will visit Milwaukee for 'Material World'

By Mary Louise Schumacher of the Journal Sentinel
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You can define art as meaning that's become embodied in a material object, sent into the world to interrupt our sense of the things, to surprise us.

This week, ceramics artists from around the country will descend on Milwaukee to explore the many ways that materials become meaningful, going beyond traditional ideas of decorative arts, craft and design.

As a result, dozens of venues, from small galleries to museums have staged exhibits. The 48th conference of the National Council on the Education of the Ceramic Arts, "Material World" runs Wednesday to Saturday at the Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave.

The cost of the conference is $300 and $230 for students (with day passes being less), but many of the associated exhibits around town are free. On-site registration begins at noon Tuesday.

Some of the exhibits on view by Wednesday include:

■ "Magic Mud: Masterworks in Clay" at the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., Racine.

■ "The Mingei Tradition in the Midwest: Warren MacKenzie and Beyond" at Lynden Sculpture Garden, 2145 W. Brown Deer Road, River Hills.

■ "Off Center: Mavericks, Misfits and Heretics" at the DeLind Gallery of Fine Art, 450 E. Mason St.

■ "Jessica Jackson Hutchins & Wayne Ngan" at the Green Gallery, 1500 N. Farwell Ave.

■ "The Figure in Clay" at the Tory Folliard Gallery. 233 N. Milwaukee St.

See the Thursday Cue section for an in-depth guide to these shows.

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