



PRESS RELEASE

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**Vote for Your Favorite  
Visitors are Invited to Racine Art Museum  
to Choose Their Favorite Teapot**

Racine, WI January 30, 2017

Many of the exhibitions at Racine Art Museum in 2017 continue the 75th anniversary celebration of RAM's Wustum Museum. Wustum originated with a gift of property and a trust from the estate of Jennie E. Wustum. Her donation created a cultural center in Racine and established a tradition of women philanthropists. Open through July 9, 2017, **Variations on a Theme: Teapots from RAM's Collection**, celebrates the museum's holdings that were launched by a pivotal gift of teapots from one such donor.

In 1999, collector Donna Moog offered RAM a gift of over 250 teapots, representing a large body of work by diverse artists in a range of styles. Since this gift, RAM has added over 100 teapots from other donors, establishing one of the largest public collections of contemporary artist-made teapots in the United States.

Over the years, numerous examples have been displayed, created, or both at Wustum and RAM. The teapot, an object rich with history and meaning, has been utilized—as form and subject—by contemporary artists interested in exploring tradition, design, use, and all manner of content.

While the teapot as a functional object can be traced back about 800 years to China, the form is familiar in Western Europe and the United States. As the teapot became connected to status and luxury via trade centuries ago, Western manufacture began in earnest. Most of the earliest teapots were metal, yet within the context of contemporary craft, most are associated with ceramics. RAM's holdings include teapots made in a variety of materials, yet those made of clay are the most numerous.

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Visitors are invited to Racine Art Museum vote for their favorite teapot in the exhibition. At the close of the show, the top winners will stay on display for a longer period of time.

This exhibition is made possible by: Platinum Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, SC Johnson, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Diamond Sponsor: Osborne and Sceikic Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors - Herzfeld Foundation, Johnson Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Racine Community Foundation, W. T. Walker Group, Inc.; Silver Sponsors - Andis Foundation, Real Racine, Runzheimer International Ltd., United Way Racine County, Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors - Burlington Graphic Systems, Inc., CNH Industrial, EC Styberg Foundation, Educators Credit Union, In Sink Erator, The Norbell Foundation, Orkney Springs Retreat, Rasmussen Diamonds, Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild, Wisconsin Public Radio

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.