

## **Merced College Art Gallery, 3600 M Street, Merced, CA 95340**

### **For Immediate Release**

August 31, 2005

**EXHIBITION:** A Passion for the Figure, Sculpture and Drawing by  
**Catherine Merrill**

**LOCATION:** Merced College Art Gallery  
3600 M Street, Merced, CA 95348

**DATE:** September 19 - October 13, 2005

**RECEPTION:** Wednesday, September 21, 6:00-7:30pm

**WORKSHOP:** October 15, 9am - 4pm

**LOCATION:** Potters Studio, 905 R Street, Fresno CA 93721

**CONTACT:** Susanne French, Art Gallery Coordinator  
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San Francisco ceramic artist Catherine Merrill will exhibit new figurative work in a solo show entitled "A Passion for the Figure." The exhibit will be held at Merced College Art Gallery. The exhibit runs from September 19-October 13th. A reception to meet the artist at the gallery will be held on Wednesday, September 21 from 6 to 7:30 PM. The exhibit features drawings on paper, narrative vessels and a series of life size torsos.

Merrill's work is narrative, telling stories using a visual language of pictures, symbols, form, line and color. She draws upon different mythological traditions to convey inner truths. The prevalence of dancing figures results from many years as a modern dancer. Merrill sees the body as the artistic instrument to express emotions and ideas. In her torsos she uses the body as a canvas, with surface imagery drawn from the natural world evoking rich layers of meaning. The work in this exhibit was inspired by cross cultural collaborations with a group of prominent artists in Cuba. Believing that, in troubled times of global conflict, the role of the artist and of art must be an essential force for healing and change, the exhibit references the common humanity shared by the diverse peoples of the world.

A companion one day workshop "A Passion for the Figure," will be sponsored by the San Joaquin Clay and Glass Association, October 15, at Potters Studio in Fresno from 9am to 4pm. This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to explore techniques shown in the exhibition. Working from a live model participants will create free standing figures and draw and paint on paper, tiles and clay slabs, creating rich and varied surfaces using colored clay and polychrome terra sigillata. Merrill will also show slides of an overview of her work and the "Proyecto Arte del Fuego," an international cultural exchange project whose mission is to promote peace and friendship through the universal language of art.

Catherine Merrill's artwork has been exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. She received her BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and has presented numerous workshops and lectures at colleges and art centers in the United States, Canada and Cuba. Merrill has published articles in the Studio Potter, Ceramics Art & Perception, Neue Keramik and the NCECA Journal. She was awarded the Jose Maria Heredia Medal of Honor for her contribution to Cuban culture, several grants and residencies and was an invited presenter at the 2003 NCECA conference.