

Press Contact:  
Alice Warnecke  
(707) 579-1500 x19  
[awarnecke@sonomacountymuseum.org](mailto:awarnecke@sonomacountymuseum.org)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Jun Kaneko: Ceramics**

March 26 – June 5, 2011

Member's Preview: March 25, 5 – 7 PM

The Sonoma County Museum is proud to present **Jun Kaneko: Ceramics**, scheduled to open March 26 and run through June 5. This exhibition is an extensive representation of Kaneko's work in ceramic sculpture, drawings and paintings over the past two decades, including sculpture over eight feet in height, large paintings, and a series of small ceramic pieces.

Kaneko is a world renowned artist and highly respected craftsman. He participated in the 1960's Bay Area Contemporary Ceramics Movement and was a student of Peter Voulkos, founder of the UC Berkeley Ceramics Department. Born in Nagoya, Japan in 1942, he came to the United States in 1963 to study at Chouinard Institute of Art, where his focus was drawn to sculptural ceramics through his introduction to the ceramics collector Fred Marer and his extensive collection of artworks by contemporary California artists. The following decade, Kaneko taught at some of the nation's leading art schools, including Scripps College, Cranbrook Academy of Art, and Rhode Island School of Design. In 1981, he co-founded the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, Nebraska, a three month residency program devoted to supporting the creativity of artists in all media.

Recently, he has broadened his creative output to include set and costume design (Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, 2007 and *Fidelio*, 2008). He is currently part of the San Francisco Opera's creative design team.

Kaneko lives and works in a converted four-story warehouse in Omaha, Nebraska. His prolific roster of diverse work appears annually in numerous international solo and group exhibitions, and is included in more than forty museum collections. To date he has realized over twenty-five public art commissions around the world, and has been honored with national, state and organization fellowships, and an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Art in London.

The showing here in Sonoma County is part of a ten-city national tour over a two and a half year period, containing ceramic artworks, paintings, and works on paper from the collection of the Kaneko Studio. The exhibition was curated by Jun Kaneko and is toured by Smith Kramer Fine Art Services, an exhibition tour development company in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Credit line:**

**Courtesy of Jun Kaneko. Tour Development by Smith Kramer Fine Art Services, Kansas City, Missouri**

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sonoma county  
**MUSEUM**

**About Sonoma County Museum:**

Founded in 1985, the Sonoma County Museum is the region's only art and history museum with a collection of over 20,000 objects. Through the preservation of collections and the presentation of exhibitions and programs, the Museum attracts more than 28,000 people annually.

**Hours:**

Tuesday – Sunday, 11am -5pm, Closed Major Holidays

**Admission:**

\$5 general, \$2 for students & seniors, Free to museum members and children under 12

**Location:**

425 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Website:**

[www.sonomacountymuseum.org](http://www.sonomacountymuseum.org)

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