

BROOKINGS, S.D. – South Dakota Art Museum will host the work of Brad Bachmeier, a ceramic artist, and Chris Vance, a painter, for an exhibition titled “Coexistence” from Dec. 2 through April 5, 2009.

Bachmeier and Vance became acquainted after meeting at several high-profile national art fairs, and found common ground in facing the challenges of being a professional artist, businessman, breadwinner and father.

“What makes “Coexistence” a dynamic exhibit is the pressure, stress and exhilaration that both artists feel from the need to be constantly creating new, fresh and different work,” said John Rychtarik, curator of exhibits as SDAM.

“They understand the concerns of creating dynamic pieces and compositions occurring not only in each individual piece but within an entire body of work,” explained Rychtarik.

Bachmeier has several series that express his thoughts about the relationship of mankind and the medium of clay, historically and currently.

Using firing and glazing techniques based on ancient methods, Bachmeier achieves specific results with his work. The surface effects vary from dark, smoky veined glazes, to a range of rust, orange and earthen colors.

Not all of his works mimic those of archaic times, however. Bachmeier also uses his skill with pottery and sculpture to express his concerns about the effect consumerism and technological advances on society.

Vance, like Bachmeier, draws imagery from elements like collage, graffiti and the UPC bar code with his abstract painting to explain his life in various ways.

“My work is the expression of daily events that form ideas and transform the compositions,” explained Vance in his artist statement.

Vance sees his art as a kind of diary with which to view his personal feelings, meanings and relationships.

The exhibition “Coexistence” reflects the shared values and responsibilities that these two artists describe through their work.

A combined reception will be held for Bachmeier and Vance on Jan. 23, 2009 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., with the artists speaking at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the SDAM at 866-805-7590 or 605-688-5423.

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Photo: Brad Bachmeier's ceramic art expresses his feelings about the connection between humankind's historical connection with clay and its enduring presence in the modern world through the use of ancient firing methods and artistic expression.



Photo: Chris Vance's abstract paintings, soon to be on display at the South Dakota Art Museum, are inspired by his daily life, his kid's art and graffiti

