**For Immediate Release**

June 19, 2018

**Contact:**

Lisa Beth Vettoso

Executive Director, The Art School at Old Church

[lisa@tasoc.org](mailto:Lisa@tasoc.org)

(201)767-7160

Alexis Branagan

Marketing Manager, The Art School at Old Church

[alexis@tasoc.org](mailto:alexis@tasoc.org)

**Potters from Across the Country and Around the World Coming to Demarest, NJ to Present at**

**The Art School at Old Church's 44th Annual Pottery Show & Sale**

**November 30–December 3, 2018**

**Demarest, NJ –** The Art School at Old Church (TASOC) is excited to announce the artists for the 44th Annual Pottery Show & Sale, which will take place on November 30 and December 1 and 2, 2018. The Annual Pottery Show & Sale (also known as the Old Church Pottery Show & Sale) is a nationally-renowned event among the clay community, and a destination for close to 1,000 pottery enthusiasts annually.

The event began in 1975 as a fundraiser for The Art School at Old Church. Long-time friends Karen Karnes and TASOC founder Mikhail Zakin wanted to connect their vibrant community of potters with the local area by offering the opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind works of art, with proceeds supporting the newly-found non-profit cultural center.

The 2018 Pottery Show & Sale is curated by Chris Gustin and Bruce Dehnert, along with Aysha Peltz. The current team of curators continues Karnes’ and Zakin’s tradition of collaborating on the selection of artists, and, through this relationship, forging an aesthetic language that will inspire generations of potters to come. This year's potters are an eclectic group of 29 artists, hailing from across the United States and from Nova Scotia in Canada. Eleven of the artists are first-time presenters at Annual Pottery Show & Sale.

The Annual Pottery Show & Sale has become a model for other shows of its kind. With close to 30 influential artists from as many cities, the show features more than 3,000 handmade pieces–from functional mugs, dishware, servers, and casseroles to sculptural works. Admission to the show is a suggested donation of $20 on November 30, and $10 on December 1 and 2, 2018. All proceeds benefit The Art School at Old Church, a non-profit arts center.

Visit **www.oldchurchpotteryshow.org** for more information on participating artists, curators, and show history. Call 201-767-7160 for directions and further information. All proceeds benefit the school, a 501c3 non-profit organization. Follow The Art School at Old Church on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @theartschoolnj, and follow the Annual Old Church Pottery Show & Sale on Instagram and Facebook @oldchurchpotteryshow.

**About the Curators**

**Bruce Dehnert** earned an MFA in ceramics at Alfred University. Prior to that, he studied English as an undergraduate. He currently works as both a writer and potter. Bruce has been published in journals including *Studio Potter*, *Ceramics Monthly*, and *Ceramics: Art and Perception*. He recently collaborated on *Simon Leach's Pottery Handbook*, praised as "an amazingly detailed, step-by-step text for all major processes in ceramics." He is currently Director of the ceramics program at Peter's Valley Craft Center.

**Chris Gustin** also received an MFA from Alfred University. During his second year at Alfred, Chris met Karen Karnes. Her approach was inspirational to him as he began to make plans for life after school. Shortly after, Chris moved to Guilford, Connecticut and opened his first professional studio. In 1986, Gustin collaborated with Margaret Griggs, George Mason, and Lynn Duryea to form Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts in an abandoned brick factory in Newcastle, ME. Later, he was invited to join the faculty at The Program in Artisanry at Boston University. This program became part of UMass Dartmouth, now one of the top ceramics programs in the nation. In 1999, Chris retired to a full-time studio practice in South Dartmouth where he lives with his wife, artist Nancy Train-Smith.

**Aysha Peltz** received her BFA and MFAfrom the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. She is an active educator and has held a faculty appointment at Bennington College since 2006. She has also taught at many other institutions, including Alfred University, Harvard University, and the Kansas City Art Institute and has lectured at the Shelburne Craft School in Vermont, The Huntingdon Museum of Art in West Virginia and at the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute in Jingdezhen, China. Aysha has exhibited consistently for over 20 years in a variety of venues across the country including the Clay Studio in Philadelphia; Pottery Northwest in Seattle, Washington; Worcester Center for Crafts in Worcester, Massachusetts; Penland Gallery in Penland North Carolina; and at The Art School at Old Church' Annual Pottery Show & Sale. Her work is in notable collections including the American Museum of Ceramic Art, The Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, and the Huntington Museum of Art, where she received the Walter Gropius Master Award. Aysha has also been awarded an Emerging Artist Award at the National Council for the Education of the Ceramic Arts. Aysha owns Town Hill Pottery and the New England Hardboard Company with her husband and fellow potter, Todd Wahlstrom.

**Artists**

Richard Aerni, Rochester, NY

Joan Bruneau, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada

Michael Connelly, Phoenixville, PA

Naomi Dalglish and Michael Hunt, Bakersville, NC

Bruce Dehnert, Layton, NJ

Paul Donnelly, Kansas City, MO

Stuart Gair, Somerville, MA

Chris Gustin, Dartmouth, MA

Mike Helke, Stillwater, MN

Tom Jaszczak, Penland, NC

Nick Joerling, Penand, NC

Robbie Lobell, Coupeville, WA

Jenny Mendes, Chesterland, OH

Candice Methe, Red Lodge, MT

Matthew Metz, Alfred Station, NY

Lindsay Oesterritter, Manassas, VA

Sang Joon Park, Highland Mills, NY

Aysha Peltz, Whitingham, VT

Mark Pharis, Roberts, WI

Liz Quackenbush, State College, PA

Justin Rothshank, Goshen, IN

Akira Satake, Asheville, NC

Hitomi and Toshiro Shibata, Seagrove, NC

Rob Sieminski, Phillips, ME

Kevin Snipes, Pittsburgh, PA

Sue Tirrell, Livingston, MT

Jack Troy, Huntingdon, PA

Adero Willard, Chicopee, MA

Gwendolyn Yoppolo, Kutztown, PA

**44th Annual Pottery Show & Sale at The Art School at Old Church, Demarest, NJ**

**Dates/ Time:**

Friday, November 30, 6:00PM-9:00PM (Opening night)

Saturday, December 1, 10:00AM-5:00PM

Sunday, December 2, 11:00AM-4:00PM

**Suggested Donation:** November 30, $20; December 1 and 2, $10

**Address**: 561 Piermont Road, Demarest, NJ 07627

**Parking**: On-site and street parking available

**ABOUT THE ART SCHOOL AT OLD CHURCH**

Founded in 1974, The Art School at Old Church is a non-profit cultural center providing community access to enriching experiences in the arts. The school offers art classes and workshops as well as free gallery exhibitions, cultural events, and outreach programs for special populations. It houses two art galleries: the Mikhail Zakin Gallery and the Café Gallery. The Annual Pottery Show & Sale is an opportunity to view and purchase one-of-a-kind works of art from nationally recognized potters. Proceeds from The Annual Pottery Show & Sale and from Our Thrift Shop, located in Westwood, NJ, benefit The Art School at Old Church. The Art School’s programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from foundations, corporations, businesses, and individuals.