

# faculty news and awards

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

FALL 2007

## DEPARTMENT OF ART WELCOMES SANAM EMAMI



The Department of Art is please to welcome **Sanam Emami** to Colorado State University as Assistant Professor, teaching all levels of pottery and serves as area coordinator.

Emami received her B.A. in history from James Madison University and her M.F.A. in Ceramics from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. From 2003 to 2007, she was a Visiting Assistant Professor in Ceramics at the School of Art & Design at Alfred University. From 1998 to 2000, she was a resident artist at the Archie Bray Foundation in Montana.

Artist lectures include Islamic Ceramic Traditions Symposium, at the Office for the Arts at Harvard in Massachusetts, the Kansas City Art Institute, Bennington College, ASU Art Museum-Ceramic Research Center, and NCECA in Louisville, KY. In 2003, Emami received a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant for Craft.

Recent exhibitions include: *Inspired Utility: Exceptional Ceramic Vessels* at the Main Line Art Center, *Issues of Substance* at the General Electric Company, *Flower Power* at the Clay Studio in Philadelphia, and the *American Pottery Festival* at Northern Clay Center. Other group shows include exhibitions at Greenwich House Pottery, Sante Fe Clay Studio and Lacoste Gallery.

Emami says: “My pottery focuses on the potential of function, ornament and pattern to interact and blur the line between historical conventions and contemporary life. The primary sources of inspiration in my pots are derived from patterns in Iranian and Islamic art and architecture. These patterns are based on elaborate geometric interpretations of nature that when broken down and taken apart are often comprised of simple shapes such as the square, the circle and the triangle. Elements of floral motifs and architectural drawings appear alongside the Islamic patterns, and imbue the work with an imagined sense of time and place. The layers of colors and imagery are drawn from different cultures and time periods. The attempt to harmonize seemingly disparate elements results in pots that feel familiar and eccentric.



I am interested in the opportunity for individual inquiry and innovation within these general and accessible frameworks. The juxtaposition of ideas and images, east and west, old and new are revealed through the functional pot and reflect my own history of moving through cultures and continents.”

[See More Works by Sanam Emami](#)

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