

News Release

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Paul Soldner Ceramics: A Master Teacher at Work *Retrospective exhibition by celebrated Colorado ceramicist*

DENVER – This retrospective exhibition celebrates the career and work of noted ceramic artist Paul Soldner. The show features approximately 30 works loaned by David Armstrong, founder of the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, CA. A fully illustrated book featuring an interview with Soldner by former University of Denver School of Art and Art History ceramics professor Maynard Tischler will accompany the exhibition.

Soon after WWII, Soldner enrolled in the newly-formed ceramics department at the Los Angeles County Art Institute (now Otis Art Institute), where he became Peter Voukos' first-ever student. His exploratory instincts soon became apparent as he moved away from functional ceramics towards more sculptural objects, to the point of constructing a gigantic 8 ft tall object that was too big for any kiln and which required a ladder to complete.

Soldner is often called the father of American *raku* –a technique he developed that relies on the experimental use of non-traditional materials following the traditional Japanese quick-firing *raku* process. His works have been exhibited throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. Today, Soldner—whose career is often overshadowed by that of his early teacher Peter Voukos—is recognized by former students such as Betty Woodman as being perhaps America's most influential teacher of ceramics. Soldner taught at Scripps College in Claremont, CA for 37 years, was a founder of the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, CO, and has remained a ground-breaking artist throughout his career which, remarkably, still continues.

Now 87 years old, he divides his time between Snowmass in the summer and Los Angeles in the winter, and continues to make work and to lead workshops and classes. To his students he passes on the attributes of curiosity and courage: the curiosity to imagine new ways, and the courage to actually make the work. His former students fill the faculties of dozens of art schools throughout the US; their own practice continues Soldner's celebrated legacy as teacher, artist, and committed iconoclast.

What:	Paul Soldner
When:	Thursday, January 8–Sunday, February 22, 2009 Opening reception Thursday, January 8, 5–8 p.m.
Where:	Victoria H. Myhren Gallery, University of Denver 2121 E. Asbury Ave., Denver, CO
Cost:	Always free.
Hours:	12-4 p.m. daily.
Artist Events:	tba

The University of Denver (www.du.edu), the oldest private university in the Rocky Mountain region, enrolls approximately 11,117 students in its undergraduate and graduate programs. The Carnegie Foundation classifies the University of Denver as a Research University with high research activity.