

108 CONTEMPORARY

*Art. Craft. Design.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA  
*Oklahoma Center for the Humanities*

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## *Steeped: The Art of Tea*

*Tulsa, Oklahoma-March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017-* Located in the Brady Arts District, the fine craft, 501c3 gallery, 108|Contemporary, announces the opening of the upcoming exhibition, *Steeped: The Art of Tea*. This exhibition is in collaboration with Oklahoma Center of Humanities at The University of Tulsa and will run from April 7<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Curated by Anh-Thuy Nguyen, artist and Assistant Professor of Photography at Rogers State University, and Janet Hasegawa, artist and Doctor of Psychology, this exhibition examines the function of tea from the past, present, and future. Issuing a call for artists in late 2016, this exhibition was open to artists submitting 2- and 3-dimensional contemporary fine craft pieces. The exhibition will be present 32 works of art ranging from ceramic teapots to large installations created from used teabags.

“108|Contemporary was extremely impressed by the level of craftsmanship and interest in *Steeped*,” said Kathy McRuiz, Executive Director at 108|Contemporary. “In addition to the beautiful exhibition, we are excited to offer programs in partnership with the Oklahoma Center of Humanities at the University of Tulsa.

Each year, The Oklahoma Center for the Humanities draws from a single theme to create community activities and conversation. This year the organization chose the exploration of food. To accompany the exhibition, there will be a lecture series that will discuss the collection of tea related items such as cups and tea pots, as well as the medicinal properties that tea is known to have. The Collectors Passion: Of Tea and Teacups, will be held on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 PM at 108|Contemporary. The other lecture, Tea: Myth and Medicine will take place on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3 PM at 108|Contemporary as well.

“Having the partnership with The Oklahoma Center for the Humanities allows-visitors to the gallery, food enthusiasts, and naturalists the opportunity to educate themselves on the many layers of tea and its function in society and various cultures,” said McRuiz.

108 Contemporary is a non-profit organization specializing in the organization of Oklahoma fine craft artists. Our mission is connecting both artists and the public to education, exhibitions, recognition, and communication in the arts.

If you are interested in learning more about the exhibition, please visit the 108|Contemporary website at [www.108contemporary.org](http://www.108contemporary.org) or like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/108-Contemporary-399641460102810/timeline/?ref=stream>.

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Each year, The Oklahoma Center for the Humanities at The University of Tulsa draws on a single theme in order to generate a shared community conversation about the role the arts and humanities play in our personal, social, and civic lives. In 2016-17, the Center is exploring *food*. The manifold ways we grow, prepare, regulate, and share what we eat gives shape to identities both cultural and political, ethnic and national. Our kitchens are social sites where tradition mixes with innovation amid a now global flow of ingredients, tastes, and techniques. The language of food, furthermore, shapes the very ways we write and speak about ourselves: taste and hunger, consumption and starvation—such words borrow the rituals of the table to describe our pleasure, desire, and pain. Food, in short, is an essential element of the human condition and the Center will explore its human dimensions through a diverse array of programs including concerts, performances, film screenings, exhibitions, discussions, lectures, cooking demonstrations, and shared meals. To learn more about the Oklahoma Center for the Humanities, visit <https://humanities.utulsa.edu/>

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