



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***A Seed Planted: A Tribute to Robert Arneson,*  
January 8-February 5, 2010, at the Davis Art Center's Tsao Gallery  
Group show will contain Arneson-inspired work as well as Arneson pieces from special collections**

In January 2010, the Davis Art Center will kick off its 50th Anniversary by celebrating one of California's most irreverent Pop artists - Robert Arneson - through an exhibit showcasing the impact Robert Arneson has had on artists in our community and beyond. Arneson pieces from the collections of The Nelson Gallery and the Davis Art Center will be on display, as well as works by Arneson students Donna Billick, Robert Brady, David Gilhooly, George Grant, Kurt Fishback and Tony Natsoulas, among others. A reception for invited guests will be held on January 8, 2010, from 5:30-7pm at the Davis Art Center, 1919 F Street, followed by an ArtAbout reception open to the public from 7-9 pm.

Robert Arneson was a professor of ceramics in the art department at UC Davis for four decades. His unique satirical style and abandonment of functional ceramics contributed to his title as the "Father of the Funk Movement." Funk artists, who gained attention in the '60s, used everyday objects to make confrontational statements. Several Davis Art Center faculty members and patrons studied under Arneson at UC Davis.

The Davis Art Center will also hold an Arneson-themed clay workshop entitled "Make a Brick or Bust!" coinciding with the tribute show. The class - which takes place on January 9, 2010 - highlights Arneson's unique self-portraits that boldly pushed the boundaries of self representation. Two familiar forms used by the ceramicist were the common brick and bust. Each student can choose a wet mold of a brick or small bust that can be added to, scratched, and personalized to create a unique self-portrait. Workshop instructor George Grant was a studio assistant to Robert Arneson.

UC Davis' Nelson Gallery will also display work by Arneson in its show "Selected Recent Acquisitions, 2007-2009," running January 7-March 7, 2010. The exhibit will contain Arneson drawings as well as his portrait of the late Roy de Forest given by the estate, among other works donated to the UC Davis Fine Arts Collection. The opening reception is January 7, 5:30-7:30 pm.

**What:** *A Seed Planted: A Tribute to Robert Arneson.*

**When:** Exhibit runs January 8-February 5, 2010; ArtAbout reception, Friday, January 8, 7-9 p.m.; Make a Brick or Bust! Arneson clay workshop, Friday, January 9, 1-4 pm.

**Where:** Tsao Gallery, Davis Art Center, 1919 F Street, Davis, CA 95616.

**Gallery Hours:** 10 am- 2 pm, Tuesday-Friday; 1-5 pm, Saturday, January 9 & Saturday, January 30.

**Information:** (530) 756-4100, [www.davisartcenter.org](http://www.davisartcenter.org)