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VAL CUSHING

March 30 – April 25, 2010
sub octo gallery

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 1, 2010, 5–9 pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sub Octo Gallery is pleased to present *Val Cushing* from March 30 – April 25, 2010. The exhibition will take place at **Sub Octo Gallery, 2202 Alter Street** (1/2 block south of Washington Avenue & 22nd Street), Philadelphia, PA 19146. An **Opening Reception** will be held on **Thursday, April 1, 2010 from 5–9 pm**. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Sub Octo Gallery in South Philadelphia is honored to present this solo exhibition of esteemed potter Val Cushing. The exhibition will feature a large selection of Val's ceramic works, both sculptural and functional. **Considered a "living legend of clay,"** Val Murat Cushing is one of the preeminent ceramic artists working today. A functional potter and a firm adherent of the wheel-thrown, utilitarian vessel, he has deliberately chosen to work within the limitations imposed by such conventional formats as bowls, pitchers, casseroles, and storage jars. Respecting function and the traditional materials and processes of ceramic art, he has created a body of work

that is artistically fresh and adventurous– an invigorating infusion of the visual and the tactile.

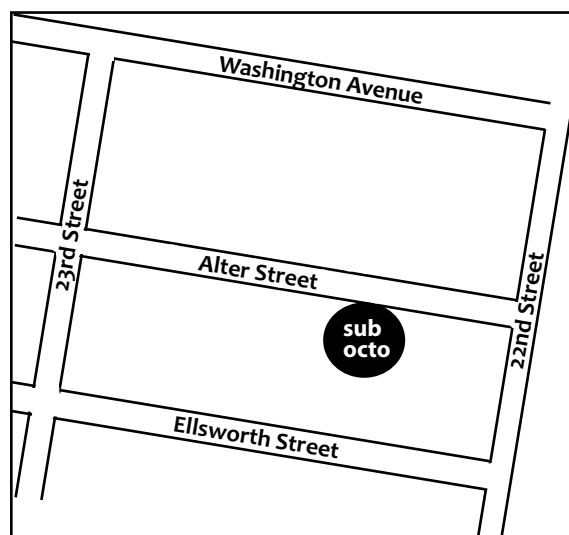
Nature provides the greatest inspiration for the artist, as exemplified in the sensuous, organic forms, varied textures and glazes of his “pots.” **Commonly regarded as a “wizard of glazes,”** he has authored several books on the subject. Music also plays a large role in the creative process, according to Cushing: “The way I see my work is strongly connected to what I love and like about jazz music. I get on the wheel and start throwing, with the limitation that these are functional pots, and they all have the same opening at the top so your hand can get in and take out what's inside, and they all are made from the same weight of clay, but they are all different. And the difference is what I see in jazz, where you have a melody and a structure, but improvisation takes it in some personal direction– that's the way I evaluate my own work.”

Val Cushing was born in Rochester, New York, and received his BFA and MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. He taught pottery at Alfred from 1957 to 1997, when he was designated *Professor Emeritus*. **He is a Founding Member and Past President of NCECA**, as well as a Fellow of the American Craft Council. Val has given over 250 lectures, workshops and demonstrations around the world. He has received numerous awards and honors, as an artist and teacher, including a National Endowment of the Arts grant, a Fulbright, and Artist-in-Residence grants at the Archie Bray Foundation and the University of Wolverhampton, England. His pottery has been featured in over 200 exhibitions and

is represented in the collections of numerous museums and galleries in the US including the Smithsonian, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Cooper–Hewitt, and Everson.

Val Cushing is one of 95 exhibitions that are part of **INDEPENDENCE: The 44th Annual National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA)** conference taking place in Philadelphia from March 31 – April 3, 2010. The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA is serving as the onsite liaison and organizing body of the exhibitions program. For a complete list of programmed exhibitions, visit: <http://www.theclaystudio.org/events/nceca/exhibitions.php>.

Sub Octo's **gallery hours** are 12–6 pm. Extended hours during the NCECA Conference are 10 am – 9 pm. For further information please contact **River Algiers**, Director, at (215) 893–8812 or river@octostudio.com.



Val Cushing at Sub Octo Gallery Philadelphia

March 30–April 25, 2010

Samples of the Artist's Work [High Resolution Images Available Upon Request]



[1] Covered Jar, Acorn Series, 2008, stoneware, photo: Rick Gringhuis; [2] Covered Jar, Column Series, 2000, stoneware, photo: Rick Gringhuis; [3] Covered Jar, Acorn Series, 2008, stoneware, photo: Rick Gringhuis