2016 National Ceramic Education of Ceramic Art (NCECA) in Kansas City, Missouri.

“50 Years of Women Trailblazers” by Moderator: Beth Ann Gerstein, Executive Director, American Museum of Ceramic Art, Panelists: Joan Takayama Ogawa, Artist & Educator at Otis College of Art and Design; Janet Koplos, critic, editor, author and curator; Janis Mars Wunderlich, artist and educator. This panel will celebrate over 50 years of critical contributions by women trailblazers in their roles as artists, educators, mentors, writers, gallery directors and museum professionals. They transformed materials, pushed the boundaries of techniques, and revolutionized contemporary ceramics through their work in the studio and in the ceramics community.

Friday, March 18, 2016, 8:30 AM, I participated on a Panel, “50 Years of Women Trailblazers.”
My 20 minute presentation traced the clay contributions of Los Angeles women writers/curators: the late Susan Peterson, Elaine Levin, and Jo Lauria.
In visiting over 100 vendors from around the world, I will be purchasing innovative equipment and materials for the Otis Clay Studio using Boardman Family Foundation and Friends of Clay donations.

In particular:

1. New glaze golds and steel from Spain will allow us to eliminate a firing, saving on costs and lower loss rates.
2. New Mudtool tempered palette knives used in clay will also help oil painters.
3. New Xiem knives do not break, reducing accidents.
4. New Mudtool hollow extruders will create strong hollow tubes in clay which will expand our sculpture and functional capabilities.

OTIS 3-D printing and clay program is better than any program in the US. The student work is superior because we use 3-D printing as a tool to make forms never seen before in clay. We need to toot the OTIS PR machine and land significant funding to expand in this area.

As a result of conversations during NCECA, I will join a college heads of clay webinar on April 6th at 3PM PST. We will discuss future technology and sustainability.

Many thanks to the Otis Faculty Development Committee for funding this important opportunity.

More to come for years and years,

Joan Takayama-Ogawa

Professor and Ceramic Coordinator, Product Design, Creative Action, and Liberal Arts and Sciences.