

## **Professor/alumnus contributes to 'Western Artists in China'**

2/14/08

Walter McConnell, associate professor of art & design and a member of the AU class of '86, is one of the exhibiting artists in "Eastern Standard: Western Artists in China" at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA). The exhibition will be on display through the summer. McConnell's moist clay sculpture, "Itinerant Edens: Chinoiserie (2003)," reflects the country's rich cultural history as well as a familiar fantasy image of the East. Inspired in part by his tours of classic scholars' gardens, the landscape, obscured by a veil of condensation, is directly translated from an 18th century French wallpaper pattern. A promotion for the exhibit reads: "This landmark exhibition focuses on artists' responses to the profound transformation taking place in China today. This diverse group of international artists uses a variety of media, video, sculpture, photography and installation to address issues raised by the rising superpower's unprecedented growth." McConnell earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in ceramics and painting from the University of Connecticut and a master of fine arts degree in ceramics from Alfred University. MASS MoCA is one of the largest centers for contemporary visual and performing arts in the country and is located in North Adams, MA, on a restored 19th-century factory campus. MASS MoCA's galleries are open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. every day except Tuesdays. Gallery admission is \$12.50 for adults, \$9 for students, \$5 for children 6-16, and free for children 5 and under. Members admitted free year-round. For additional information, call 413.662.2111, or visit [www.massmoca.org](http://www.massmoca.org).