

## Professor receives Mitchell Foundation Grant

1/06/11



Walter McConnell, professor of ceramic art at Alfred University, is the recipient of a \$25,000 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for 2010-11. Chair of the Division of Ceramic Art in the School of Art & Design, McConnell received one of 25 grants awarded annually by the Foundation, which was established in 1993 to support painters and sculptors of "exceptional quality" to further their artistic careers. Formal announcement of the awardees for the current year was made Wednesday by the Foundation. Artists are eligible for the awards by nomination only. Candidates were reviewed anonymously by a jury panel convened in November in the Foundation's New York City headquarters. Nominators and jurors include prominent visual artists, curators and arts educators. McConnell, a sculptor well known for his installations of moist clay housed in plastic enclosures, is widely exhibited, recently at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, MASS MoCA and the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art. He will use the Mitchell grant to support upcoming exhibitions at the Denver Art Museum in June 2011 and the Fuller Museum, Brocton, MA, in 2012. McConnell has previously received individual artist grants from the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation in 2007, the New York Foundation for the Arts in 2001 and 2005, and the Constance Saltonstall Foundation in 2003. He received residency awards from The European Ceramic Work Center, The John Michael Kohler Arts/Industry Program and the Bemis Foundation. A 1986 graduate of Alfred University with a Master of Fine Arts degree, McConnell has been a member of the faculty since 1996 and chair of the Division of Ceramic Art in the School of Art & Design since 2009. He received his BFA degree from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, in 1979. The Master of Fine Arts program in ceramic art at Alfred University is consistently ranked number one in the country by U.S. News and World Report. For more about the School of Art & Design at Alfred University: <http://art.alfred.edu> For more about McConnell: <http://art.alfred.edu/fac...> more about the Joan Mitchell Foundation: <http://www.joanmitchellfo...>