

In Memoriam: Nicholas Kripal

By Hester Stinnett, Interim Dean, Tyler School of Art

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I write to you with the news that Nicholas Kripal, Ceramics Program head, Tyler Graduate Program Director and chair of the Crafts Department for many years, died on September 30, 2016, from pancreatic cancer. Tyler has lost a great artist, an inspiring teacher, generous colleague, and dynamic leader in and out of the classroom, who cofounded the Crane Arts Building, created and lead a unique summer student residency abroad in Scotland, and was tireless in service to the Tyler and Temple community. His most recent work was just installed at the Philadelphia Convention Center this week. I will always remember his sense of humor and his gardening skills—Nick grew the best heirloom tomatoes!

Professor Kripal received an M.F.A from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and a M.S. Ed. and a B.F.A. from the University of Nebraska, Kearney. He is a recipient of three Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowships, and a 1999 Pew Fellowship in the Arts, and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, and was Artist-in-Residence, La Napoule Art Foundation, La Napoule, France, sponsored by the Pew Foundation for the Arts.

Kripal's artwork referenced architectural decoration and contemporary disposable culture in conceptually hybrid ceramic sculptures and deeply researched site-specific works. His installations have been seen at sites internationally, including The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, NYC (2002), Site Projects: Kristus Kircke, Cologne, Germany (2002), Site Projects: Sala Uno, Rome, Italy (2001), Contemplations on the Spiritual Site Projects: Glasgow, Scotland (2001), and, in collaboration with sculptor Jeffrey Mongrain, at Corpus Christ Church, Baltimore, MD (2005), and St. Patrick's Church, Indianapolis, IN (2004). He has had solo shows in New Haven, CT (2008), Museo Casa Principala, Vera Cruz, Mexico (2004), and University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia (2003).

As Dean Emeritus Rochelle Toner said, "We have lost a loving, generous and loyal friend, dedicated teacher, and ARTIST."

A scholarship has been created in his honor. True to Nick's generosity, he asked that the scholarship be available to students from all majors at Tyler. Donations may be made online to:

giving.temple.edu/nickkripal

Or via post to:

The Nicholas Kripal Scholarship, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, 2001 N. 13th St., Philadelphia 19122



Photograph by Jeff Hurwitz