

arts / INDUSTRY

A Residency Program for Visual Artists



JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER

THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Arts/Industry is undoubtedly the most unusual ongoing collaboration between art and industry in the United States. Conceived and administered by the John Michael Kohler Arts Center of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the program makes industrial technologies and facilities available to artists through long-term residencies, short-term workshops, tours, and other programming so that they may further their artistic explorations. Major funding is provided by Kohler Co. and the National Endowment for the Arts.

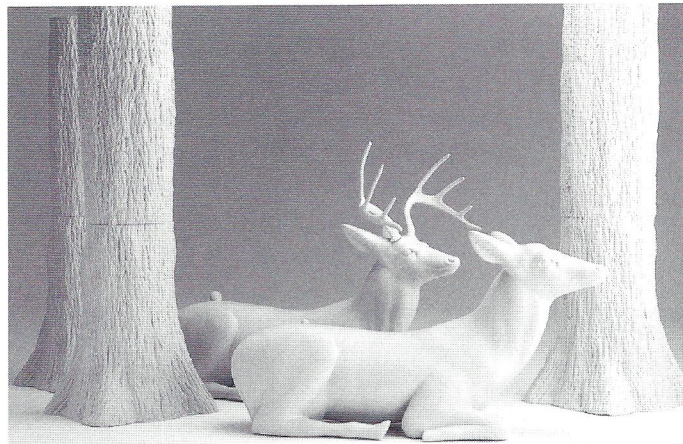
The primary component of Arts/Industry is a residency program at Kohler Co., the nation's leading manufacturer of plumbingware. Artists have the opportunity to spend two to six months creating works of art utilizing the industrial materials and equipment. Participants are exposed to a body of technical knowledge that enables them to explore forms and concepts not possible in their own studios as well as new ways of thinking and working.

The Arts/Industry residency program operates year-round to support approximately sixteen artists annually, usually four in residence at a time. Participants may work in the Kohler Co. Pottery, Iron and Brass Foundries, and Enamel Shop to develop a wide variety of work in clay, enameled cast iron, and brass including but not limited to murals and reliefs, temporary or permanent site-specific installations, and functional and sculptural forms.

Artists-in-residence are provided with studio space in the factory which is accessible to them 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, they receive free materials, use of equipment, technical assistance, photographic services, housing, round-trip transportation within the continental United States from their homes to the site, and weekly honoraria.

Hundreds of emerging and established visual artists have benefited from the Arts/Industry program at Kohler Co. since its inception in 1974.

Right:
Cervidae (front and back views) by Mia Fetterman (2002; glazed vitreous china; 54 x 84 x 40"). JMKAC permanent collection.
Cover:
Tom Spleth working on a tile mural at the Kohler Co. Pottery



FACILITIES AND MATERIALS

The primary studio space for work in clay is located in the casting shop of Kohler Co.'s Pottery, the largest pottery in the world under one roof. Artists use a strong, off-white vitreous china clay which is once-fired in oxidation to 2400° F. (cone 10). A kiln fired to 2100° F. (cone 5) is also available. The clay is superb for slip casting and carving but is less effective for throwing and hand building. It is in slip form and is piped under pressure to the artists' studio space. Artists use plaster to make their own molds for slip casting their work. Discarded production molds and ware also can be utilized. Cast pieces can be assembled in various ways before or after firing. Even the plaster is sometimes used to create sculpture.

