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FIRED UP BEAUTY: POTTERY EXHIBIT AT THE ICE HOUSE

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV—Pottery created with a wide variety of glaze and firing techniques takes center stage in the “It’s All About the Surface!” exhibit in the main Ice House Gallery in Berkeley Springs, WV. Produced by the Morgan Arts Council, the show opens on Friday, July 21 with a meet-the-artists reception starting at 7:30 p.m. Potter Crawford Horne curates the show, which runs through September 10.

Also showing in the Ice House in the Carr-Kelly Gallery and Hall of Dreams from July 21 to September 10 are “Images,” photography by Derek Kan featuring nature, people and places far and near; and “A Thankful Life,” colorful impressionistic and abstract watercolor and acrylic landscapes by Wayne Peterson.

“It’s All About the Surface!” features the works of potters from Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The artwork includes wood-fired, pit-fired, salt-glazed, soda-glazed and raku pottery. These firing techniques are considered “atmospheric,” meaning that an open flame is part of the process, unlike firing in an electric kiln. The kiln types used for this pottery include anagama, noborigama, Bourry-box, gas, pit and raku, each producing pottery with different surface qualities.

“Pottery is best viewed up close, where the surfaces resulting from the firing process can be truly appreciated,” says Horne. “The most interesting surfaces are those fired in a ‘reduction’ atmosphere, meaning a kiln where the presence of a flame uses up the oxygen creating varied, unique surfaces.”

Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, West Virginia Commission on the Arts and hotel/motel tax revenues from Morgan County and Town of Bath.

The Ice House is located at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs. For more information call MAC at 304-258-2300 or check online at macicehouse.org.