

# CLAY

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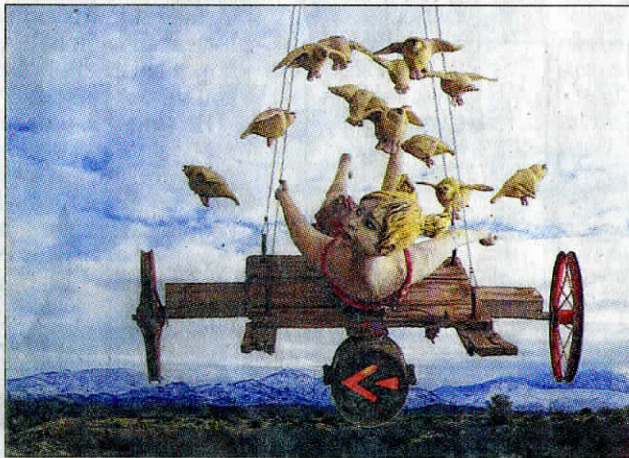


## THURSDAY

**Good Morning:** Comics and puzzles. **2E-3E** **Dear Abby:** Pot: Legal or lethal? **2E**  
**Horoscope:** What the stars say. **2E** **TV:** What to watch in prime time. **3E**

### Art City

**Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design:** Sharon McCoy's "Help with Flying," a work made of clay and found objects, will be part of the juried student show.



COURTESY MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN



PHOTO COURTESY TIMOTHY COBB FINE ART

**Timothy Cobb Fine Art:** Stephanie Rozene's conceptual dinnerware.

### Sound Check

Inside Local Music

## Band's ideas lead to medley of sounds

### Animals in Human Attire handle change

By PIET LEVY  
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Local rock band Animals in Human Attire never specified exactly what animals the band's name refers to — but if we had to choose, we'd definitely say squirrels.

The band has a tendency to swiftly zig and zag, seemingly on impulse, through a series of tempo changes and musical curveballs on its forthcoming album "Ourmegadawn" (available beginning April 11 at shows, [mamrecords.com](http://mamrecords.com) and [aiha.bandcamp.com](http://aiha.bandcamp.com)).  
Plus, as you can probably

## ALL THE WAY WITH

# CLAY

Work of potters, sculptors to be shown at multiple sites as massive conference hits town





## Work of potters, sculptors to be shown at multiple sites as massive conference hits town

Few artists are as tied to their materials as potters, who work physically with mud, the stuff of the Earth, the stuff of which we're made. Ceramics is a forthright art form in its essence.



**Mary Louise Schumacher**

*These exhibits represent perhaps the largest citywide collaboration among arts venues and a rare incursion of curatorial know-how into our city.*

This week, one of the largest gatherings of artists anywhere on the planet takes place in Milwaukee, with as many as 5,000 ceramics artists and enthusiasts here for a national conference.

This year, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts will tackle one of the thorniest questions of art — how does meaning become embodied in a material object?

The response to the group's 48th annual conference, called "Material World" this year, comes in the form of talks, panel discussions, regional tours and demonstrations through Saturday and centered at the Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave. The cost of the conference is \$300 and \$230 for students (with day passes going for less).

But it also comes in the form of more than 80 exhibitions staged mostly in and around Milwaukee but also across the state, including in

Madison, Sheboygan, Racine, Mineral Point, Paoli, Platteville and Verona. Most are free and open to the public.

Often as aligned with contemporary art as craft traditions, these mostly small exhibits explore some aspect of the year's theme and gather artists who are aligned stylistically or concep-

tually in some way.

They are the result of a national call for artists and are organized for the local galleries by specialists in the field. There are also

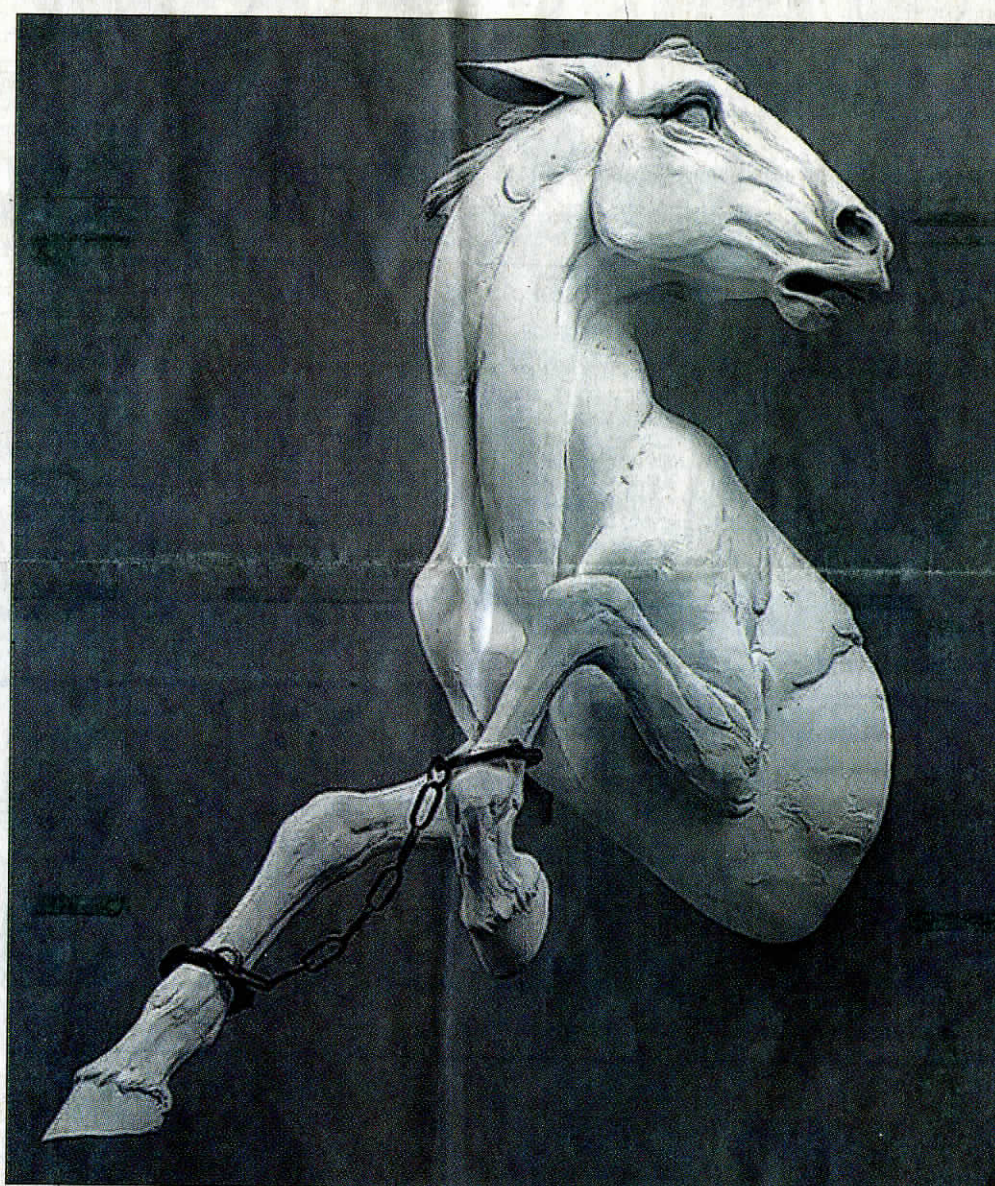
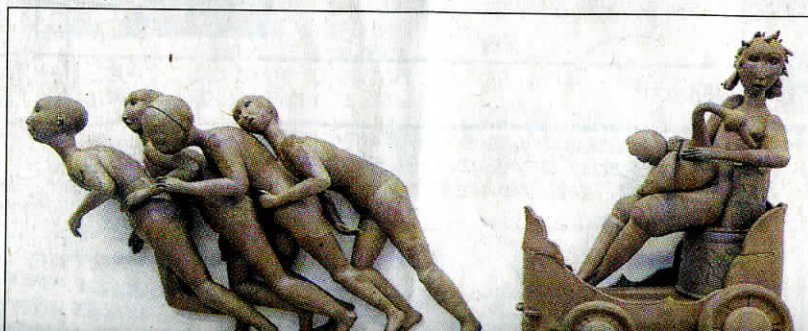


PHOTO BY NOEL ALLUM

**Racine Art Museum:** A Work from "Magic Mud" including "Run" by Beth Cavener Stichtér, made of stoneware, metal and paint.



**Elaine Erickson Gallery:** Gerit Grimm's "Looting Leda and Swan" is on view.

curveballs on its forthcoming album "Ourmegadawn" (available beginning April 11 at shows, [mamrecords.com](http://mamrecords.com) and [aiha.bandcamp.com](http://aiha.bandcamp.com)).

Plus, as you can probably guess from the band's exclusive performances at [jsonline.com/soundcheck](http://jsonline.com/soundcheck), the guys in the band are kind of nuts. (Wah wah.)

**Who's who:** Charlie Celenza, 22 (drums, percussion); Myles Coyne, 24 (bass); Alex Klosterman, 24 (guitar); Jack Tell, 24 (vocals, banjo, guitar); Nathan Toth, 23 (keyboards). A sixth member, Justin Miller, 24, was unavailable to perform in the Tap Milwaukee studio taping (he plays pots and pans). Tell spoke for the band.

**Day jobs:** Celenza cuts down trees and works at Domino's. Coyne runs 414 Flyers. Klosterman goes to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and works in the campus bookstore. Tell works at Fuel Cafe. Toth is a delivery driver and works at Closet Classics. Miller teaches dance classes, works at Skydive Milwaukee and works the chair lift at Devil's Head Resort.

**Early influences:** My mom (Liz Norton) actually sings and performs. She's done a couple of things with Skylight Music Theatre. She was always trying to get me and my brothers up on stage, but they never really wanted to. They all got instruments for Christmas, and my brothers never touched them, so I'd pick it up because I felt bad. I own 16 instruments now, if you count the recorder.

**First concert:** Warped Tour in 2006. Alkaline Trio was playing. I liked the overall atmosphere of this bigger festival. The energy was really high on every single stage. That stuck in my head that that's how every show should be.

**When formed:** In 2010. I started writing songs in 2008 right before I went to college at Madison Media Institute, and I went to open mics in 2009. Me and my friend Mike were hanging out in a basement one day, and a good friend who played drums



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**SAGAL**

# Radio host explored federalism on Harley

that it was smooth sailing for 2,000 miles.

Sagal, a playwright as well as a radio host, will tell stories from his time on the road meeting folks, researching the Constitution and finding examples of it at work.

The U.S. Constitution, for instance, allows states to make their own helmet laws.

"It's federalism made real," said Sagal, who wore a helmet, advocates wearing a helmet and doesn't understand how anyone can go without a helmet or face shield considering all the things that fly in your face while you're on a motorcycle. He knows because he wasn't allowed to wear a face shield during filming.

As he suspected, many people don't actually know the Constitution. They know parts of it. They interpret sections that appeal or pertain to them.

But as a whole, that preamble we all learned in civics class or from "Schoolhouse Rock" is a passing thought.

Sagal compares the Constitution to Peter Pan's Tinkerbell.

"It's only alive as long as everybody claps."

Still, he was pleasantly

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**ART CITY**

# Artists, galleries in sync

many locally generated shows, planned and curated by the local venues themselves.

These concurrent exhibits represent what is perhaps the largest citywide collaboration among arts venues, from major museums to small galleries, to date and a rare incursion of curatorial know-how into our city.

There are many exhibits at the Wisconsin Center that are free and open to the public, and the conference often attracts a contingent of ceramics tourists, who come mostly to look and buy.

Most venues are holding receptions, with the majority scheduled on Thursday evening, what promises to be a sprawling, Gallery Night-like, ceramics-centric art crawl.

Of the exhibits taking place around town, here are several that I'd recommend.

**DeLind Gallery of Fine Art**  
450 E. Mason St.

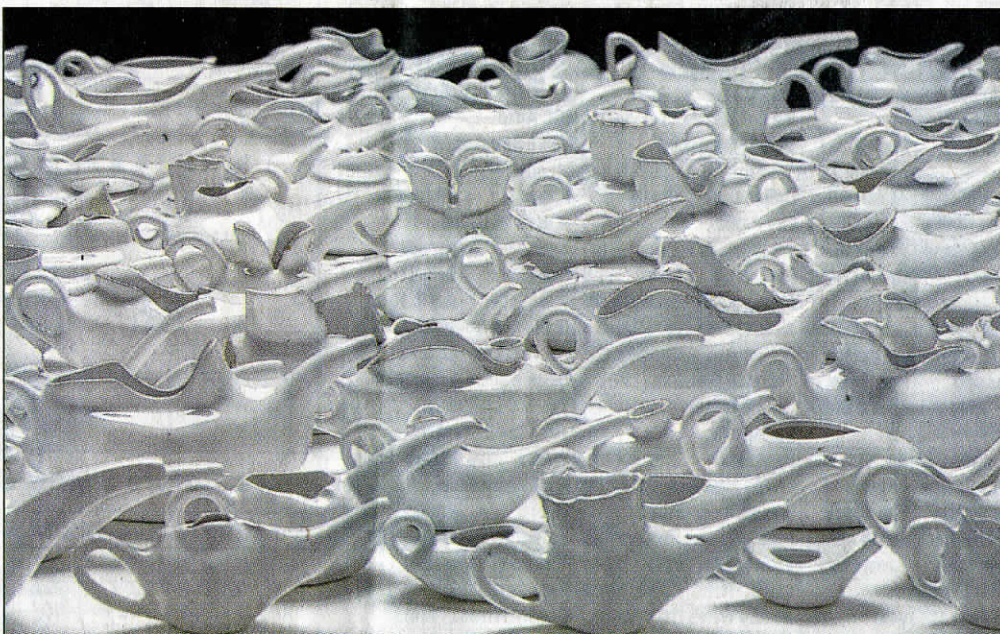
Artists whose work has existed outside of the trends and fashions of the ceramics world will have work on view as part of "Off Center: Mavericks, Misfits and Heretics." The work of these six artists gives priority to content, including politics and social issues. The artists include **Barry Bartlett, Eric Hollender, Patrick Loughran, Annabeth Rosen, Lisa Wolkow** and **Arnie Zimmerman**. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Elaine Erickson Gallery**  
207 E. Buffalo St., first floor



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL TROPEA

**Racine Art Museum:** Works from "Magic Mud." These are from Toshiko Takaezu's Star Series.



COURTESY THE JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER

**John Michael Kohler Arts Center:** Denise Pelletier, "On Coming to Be and Passing Away" (detail), slip-cast vitreous china with glaze.



**Milwaukee Art Museum**  
700 N. Art Museum Drive

"Flow" is a themed and invitational exhibition curated by NCECA's exhibitions director, **Linda Ganstrom**, and former assistant curator of 20th-

the Milwaukee context. "Prenda and Sopera" highlights the use of pottery in African and African diaspora religious traditions. This, along with the Marshall Building, promises to be among the more essential stops. A reception will be held Thursday from 7 to 11 p.m.

**Racine Art Museum**  
441 Main St., Racine

With an extensive collection in ceramics and one of the leading institutions in craft traditions in the region, the Racine museum presents "Magic Mud," featuring works from the collection and important loans from the across the country. A reception will be held Friday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with Russian-born artist **Sergei Isupov**, who is known for pushing the narrative possibilities of clay. The reception is free for museum members and conference attendees wearing badges. Admission is \$10. A book signing will take place at 7 p.m.

**Timothy Cobb Fine Arts**  
207 E. Buffalo St., 1st floor

Artist **Stephanie Rozene** is interested in conceptual, historical and theoretical approaches to ornament, particularly the patterns and politics of European and American dinnerware. She creates her own visual language, inspired by the plates of presidents and French kings, that addresses issues of consumerism and excess. Also on view will be terra cotta helmets based on animal forms and inspired by Etruscan decorative art objects by **Carrie Chimenti**. A reception with the artists present will be held Thursday 5 to 9 p.m.

**Timo Gallery**  
270 E. Buffalo St., 1st floor

Phoenix-based **Michael Prepsky** has been teaching ceramics to high school students and others for more than 40 years. When he retired in 2007, friends built a studio for him, where he could concentrate exclusively on his own work, both sculptural and functional. This solo show features the work he's made during those years. Receptions will be held Thursday and Friday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m.

**Tory Foliard Gallery**  
233 N. Milwaukee St.

"The Figure in Clay" is a show co-curated by the gallery and artist **Chris Berti**, which features figurative sculpture by artists recognized nationally and internationally. Also on view is "Concerning Nature," a show of Berti's quieter works made from a variety of recycled materials. Artists on view include **Chris Antemann, Tom Bartel, Mark O'Brien, Justin Jones, Jack**



surprised by the reach of our Constitution in his travels.

"It is sustained by everyday people from all walks of life from ditch diggers to public radio people to the president," Sagal said.

"All those people I was laughing at, those are the people. It's their actions and uninformed profound beliefs that keep it going."

The documentary took Sagal to Appleton and a tea party rally that didn't make the final cut. The Oak Park, Ill., resident has visited Milwaukee several times, once joining singer Neko Case for oatmeal after a performance at the Riverside Theater.

He saw "A Christmas Carol" at the Pabst Theater and though he sports a Lakefront Marathon T-shirt — he's a marathon runner — he hasn't yet run the Milwaukee challenge.

Saturday will be Sagal's first tour of the Harley-Davidson Museum where he'll answer questions about the Constitution, the documentary, his time on a Harley (he rides a Triumph at home) and his popular radio show.

"Untold Stories with Peter Sagal: 2000 Miles and 225 Years Finding the U.S. Constitution on a Motorcycle" opens at 5:30 p.m. with a VIP reception followed by a presentation and a question-and-answer session beginning at 8:15 p.m.

■ Tickets are \$75 for the VIP session (\$67 for members) and include a copy of Sagal's "The Book of Vice."

■ Program admission is \$35 for museum members; \$40 for nonmembers.

■ Tickets are available at [hdmuseum.com](http://hdmuseum.com).

Several notable ceramics artists from across the country will be on view in "Coast to Coast," including **Bruce Breckenridge, Gerit Grimm, Rich Hirsh, Minkyu Lee, Beth Lo, Beverly Mayeri, Tom Meuninck, Ryan Myers, Richard Notkin, Richard Shaw** and **Christina West**. I was especially drawn to German-born Grimm's storybook-like figures and Lo's work, which explores ideas about family, childhood, cultural marginality and the artist's Asian-American background. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m.

### Green Gallery

1500 N. Farwell Ave.

**Jessica Jackson Hutchins'** sculptures "traffic in abjection," or so reported the Portland Mercury some years ago.

**Wayne Ngan** is an internationally known studio potter who also creates sculpture and paintings. New work by these artists will be on view, with a reception Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m.

### Greymatter Gallery

207 E. Buffalo St., 2nd floor

This brainy little gallery will present the work of **Shannon Sullivan**, who explores source material such as fingerprint patterns, ocean currents and cellular forms in objects and installations that combine clay and other materials, such as metal, glass, polymer, wire and acrylic. Sullivan was injured in a car accident in 1999. She broke several ribs, had a collapsed lung, broke her pelvis and had multiple lacerations on her face and neck. Her recovery turned her attention to the workings of the body. She imagined even the smallest parts of her, down to individual cells, as being affected. Much of her work is about cultivating an awareness of these unseen and mysterious internal landscapes. There will be a reception Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m.

### Inova

2155 N. Prospect Ave.

One of Milwaukee's more important sites for challenging art and research, Inova will present the first solo shows for two emerging artists, **Benjamin DeMott** and **Lisa Selby**. DeMott will explore the physical and intuitive side of working with clay in an installation, a sort of conceptual, fictional workshop. It



COURTESY GREYMATTER GALLERY

**Greymatter Gallery:** Shannon Sullivan's work will be on view. This piece is titled: "Nature Excels at this Game."

is described as a "spirited reflection on the labor integral to creativity." Selby is a London-based artist who explores the performative nature of working with clay in installations that combine found objects, sound, video, clay and performance. An opening reception will be held Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. with a performance featuring **Sarah Buccheri** and **Kim Miller** at 7:30 p.m.

### J. Nikolai Art

207 E. Buffalo St., 3rd floor

A family-owned business, the Paoli Clay Company in Belleville, Wis., just south of Verona, is celebrated in "Generations of the Paoli Clay Family." From elementary schools to the studios of fine artists, the family-run company provides materials throughout the state and beyond. A long list of artists associated with the company will have work on view. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m.

### Jewish Museum

1360 N. Prospect Ave.

**Dane Youngren** creates ordinary but intricate architectural forms with connections to the Western expansion, structures such as train trestles and mine shafts, in the fragile medium of clay. His work explores themes of obsolescence and deterioration. Another installation, "Food: A Sustainable Table," will explore works related to the food industry. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

### John Michael Kohler Arts Center

608 New York Ave., Sheboygan

A seminal 40-year retrospective of the internationally recognized artists residency program at the Kohler Co., designed to spark collaborations between fine artists and industrial artisans, will feature nearly 350 works of art. More than 400 artists have worked on the production floor, using the pottery, foundry and enamel shop at the Kohler Co. to make works they likely wouldn't have otherwise in their own studios. A reception will be held Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m.

### Katie Gingrass Gallery

207 E. Buffalo St., 1st floor

A tightly juried show of alumni from the Rochester Institute of Technology will be broad in scope. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m.

### Lynden Sculpture Garden

2145 W. Brown Deer Road, River Hills

The Mingei tradition celebrates a kind of everyday creativity, the belief that humble but useful objects made by ordinary people can exalt daily living. "The Mingei Tradition in the Midwest: Warren MacKenzie and Beyond" explores this tradition in the Midwest, through one of its leading practitioners and the work of subsequent generations. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.

century design at the Milwaukee Art Museum **Mel Buchanan**. This show will explore the idea of "flow" in a broad, physical, historical and symbolic sense, which seems suited to the constantly changing views of light and lake inside the museum's long gallery, where the show will be on view. A reception will be held Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.

### Milwaukee Clay

228 S. 1st St.

This one-night-only pop-up art gallery will feature the work of ceramics artists such as **Valaria Tatera, Heather Eiden, Darlene Wesenberg Rzezosarski, Kathryn Miller, Steven Anderson** and **Linda Wery Vitamvas**. Friday from 4 to 8:30 p.m.

### Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

273 E. Erie St.

MIAD will be host to a juried exhibition of student work, featuring the work of 57 artists from schools across the nation. A reception will be held Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m.

### Portrait Society Gallery

207 E. Buffalo St., 5th floor

The artists in the "f(c)" exhibition have all been artists in residence at the internationally known Sunday Morning@ekwc in the Netherlands, formerly called the European Ceramic Workcentre. The "f" in the title refers to function in the mathematical sense, a finite number with an unknown number of output possibilities. The "c" references the material conditions of clay. Ariel Brice, a lecturer in ceramics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has curated the show, which features the work of **Thomas Müller, Krijn Christiaansen, Cathelijne Montens, Stephanie Davidson** and **Georg Rafailidis**. A reception will be held Thursday from 7 to 11 p.m.

### Pritzlaff Building

333 N. Plankinton Ave.

A dozen shows curated by ceramics specialists will fill this old warehouse, just across the river from many Third Ward exhibition sites. "Great Lakes," for instance, explores the geology and mined minerals of the Great Lakes and

**Fekete, Debra Fritts, Arthur Gonzalez, Michael Gross, Beth Lo, Ron Meyers, Laura O'Donnell, Heidi Preuss Grew, Kevin Snipes, Richard Swanson** and **Sunkoo Yuh**. Antemann, known for re-imagining 18th-century decorative arts, will give a talk on Friday at 3 p.m. A reception will be held Friday from 5 to 9 p.m.

### Vanguard Sculpture Services

3374 W. Hopkins St.

While a little out of the way, the two shows at this full-service bronze foundry are among the more anticipated. "A Complicated History" features the work of 10 artists who attempt to reflect on and explain something about the past, whether personal, historic, cultural or social, in their work. The artists include **Ben Ahlvers, Mark Burns, Pattie Chalmers, Jill Foote-Hutton, Kathy King, Linda Lopez, Mathew McConnell, Peter Morgan, Matt Nolen** and **Mariko Paterson**. "Rift" is an installation about metamorphosis by **Brad Evan Taylor**. There will be a reception with the artists on Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m.

### Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum

2220 N. Terrace Ave.

The "Species & Specimens" exhibit will showcase the work of 11 artists from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's ceramics program, both faculty and alumni. The roster includes **John Ty Bender, Angela Biederman, Dana Childs, Christopher Davis-Benavides, Karin Davis, Karen Gunderman, Namim Kim, Deborah Rael-Buckley, Barbara Reinhart, Charles Timm-Ballard** and **Linda Wery Vitamvas**. A reception will be held Thursday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

*Mary Louise Schumacher is the Journal Sentinel's art critic. Follow her coverage on:*

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## SOUND

## Album coming

**Song on the album you're most proud of:** "Sun Machines." I started drawing a lot of pictures and writing lyrics based off these pictures to try and bring this story together in my head. It's about civilization, not



**Animals in Human Attire** have an April 11 album release show set at Linne-man's River-