

PASADENA  
ARTS  
COUNCIL

# FOLIO

The publication of the Pasadena Arts Council

## Six Degrees of Connection— 2006 GOLD CROWN HONOREES

One would be hard-pressed to find a community in which there is a richer and more diverse arts environment than Pasadena. To celebrate those whose work has enhanced our cultural life—whose leadership has inspired a deeper commitment by others, whose artistry has delighted us and whose dedication to young people nurtures our future—the Pasadena Arts Council is proud to announce the Gold Crown Honorees for 2006. These five individuals and one organization represent the best of what we do and who we are, and their contributions are what make this a city where the arts inform us and sustain us. Please join us on Sunday, June 4th, as we honor their achievements.



**Bill Bogaard**  
Mayor, City of Pasadena



**Billy Mitchell**  
Musician  
Founder, Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy



**Kevin Nguyen**  
Artist  
Founder, Xiem Clay Center



**Pasadena Junior Theatre**  
Bringing Professional Theatre Arts to Young Emerging Artists



**Hilary Thomas**  
Dancer and Choreographer  
Artistic Director, Lineage Dance



**Lyla White**  
Executive Director,  
Pasadena Playhouse

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**GOLD CROWN AWARDS**

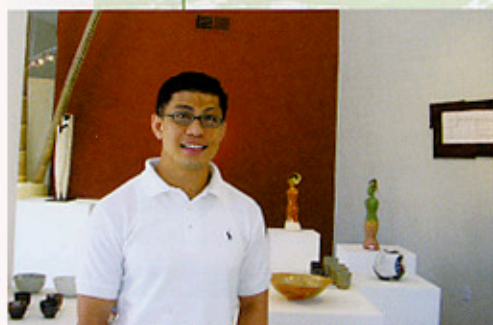
Sunday, June 4th, 2006

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

\$100 per person

Please call the Pasadena Arts Council at **626-793-8171** for further details.

Garden photos by Tom Willard



### Kevin X. Nguyen

Kevin Nguyen is an artist, industrial designer and potter whose product design skills were hard-won. On arriving in the U.S. from Vietnam at age 14, by way of a harrowing sea voyage and six months in a refugee camp off the Philippines, Kevin mastered English and Spanish and ultimately graduated with a degree in Industrial Design from Art Center College of Design. He did not, however, begin a career as a ceramic artist until 1999. "Following a trip through Scandinavia in 2002, where I visited with many ceramic artists, I was intrigued and inspired by their energy, creativity, and devotion as artists," he recalls. What Kevin calls his "Ceramic Journey" has already transported him beyond the limits of the personal into community consciousness. The modern potter's studio and educational facility which he opened, in partnership with Brian Fees, in October 2003, is dedicated to creating and fostering a community of ceramic artists. Through Xiem Clay Center, Kevin effectively furthers public awareness and appreciation of the ceramic arts with an active program of studio memberships, classes and exhibitions.