



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, September 5, 2014

## ONE DEATH IS A TRAGEDY

2 x 2 Solos: Ehren Tool  
Curated by Michele Carlson

September 30 - October 31, 2014  
Artist Reception: First Friday, October 3, 6-8pm  
Artist Talk: Saturday, October 25, 2pm

**Oakland, CA:** Pro Arts is pleased to present *One Death is a Tragedy*, a 2 x 2 Solos exhibition by Ehren Tool, curated by Michele Carlson. The exhibition will be on view September 30 - October 31 at Pro Arts' gallery in downtown Oakland.

For 2 x 2 Solos, Ehren Tool is bringing his potter's wheel to downtown Oakland. In a series of live clay throwing events, the Berkeley-based artist will employ his cup-making as an entry point for engaging community members, prompting discussion, and developing a relationship with the place and social time he is in.



Image: Ehren Tool, *One of Thousands*, 2014. Courtesy of the Artist

**About the Artist:** Ehren Tool was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and grew up in South Central Los Angeles. He joined the Marine Corps in 1989, where he served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm (Gulf War I). Tool was a Marine Embassy Guard in Rome and Paris and was later honorably discharged as a Sergeant. Tool attended Pasadena City College and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California (2000), and his Master of Fine Arts from University of California, Berkeley (2005). Tool has made and given away over 15,000 cups since 2001. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the Indiana War Memorial Building (Indianapolis, IN), Craft and Folk Art Museum (Los Angeles, CA), Berkeley Art Center, and Museum of Contemporary Craft (Portland, OR).

**About the Curator:** Michele Carlson is an artist, writer and educator in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her visual works have been exhibited nationally and her writings have been published *KQED*, *Art in America*, *Art Practical*, and *Afterimage*, as well as various exhibition catalogues. Carlson is the managing editor for *Hyphen*, a national publication focusing on Asian American culture and politics and is also a member of the Curatorial Committee at Southern Exposure in San Francisco. She is currently an Adjunct Professor in the MFA Fine Arts and Visual and Critical Studies departments at California College of the Arts. She also teaches courses in Asian American studies, studio arts, art history and visual studies at University of California, Davis and several other San Francisco Bay Area colleges.

**About the Program:** 2 x 2 Solos serves as a significant platform for the production of, and engagement with, art in Oakland. Supported, in part, by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and East Bay Community Foundation, the program establishes important professional opportunities, networks and critical visibility for emerging artists, while supporting artists who assume risk and pose challenges through their work. Participation in the program is based on nomination by the top art professionals in the region. From over 100 nominations, four artists are selected based on reviews by a curatorial panel and studio visits with independent curators. **2 x 2 Solos 2014 Artists: Ben Bigelow, Rhonda Holberton, Ehren Tool, Cate White**

**About Pro Arts:** Pro Arts is an Oakland-based regional organization that encourages change in and through the arts to invigorate our communities. We provide creative platforms for artists, youth and public audiences to engage in the visual arts, connect with artists, and support arts education. Annually we produce over 20 exhibitions, exhibit over 600 artists, conduct over 700 arts classes for youth, and reach an audience over 72,000.

For information contact: Amy Spencer, Program Coordinator: amy@proartsgallery.org / 510-763-4361



The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm  
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