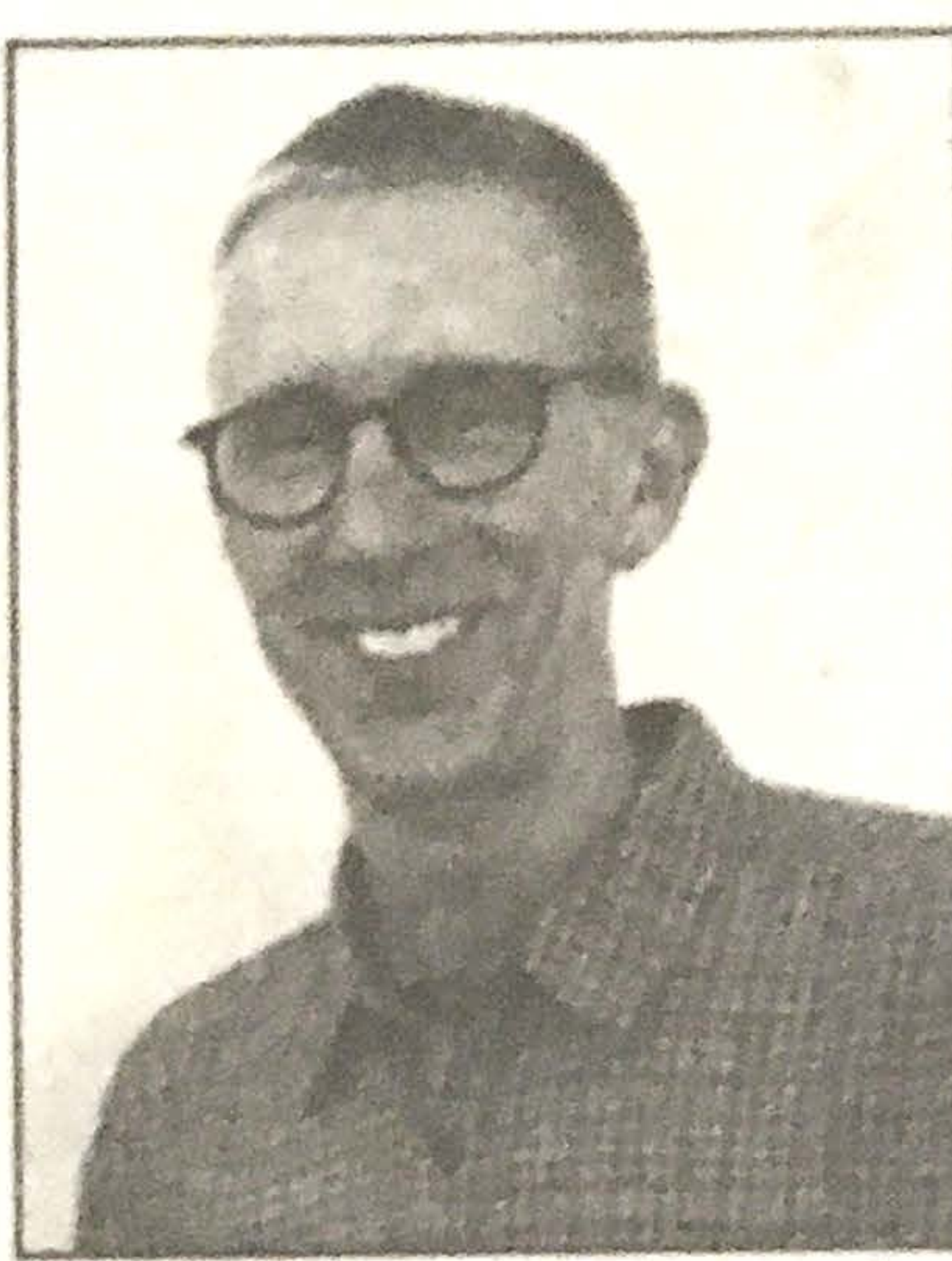


Ron Michael of Lindsborg, Kan., makes sculptures, vessels, disks and works on paper that are inspired by the landscape, soil and geology of Kansas. Although most works are developed from his imagination, they reference organisms, objects and remnants that mingle in this subtle and alluring ecosystem. When creating pieces, Michael tries to infuse them with a natural history-like quality and sublime sense of mystery. He embraces a weathered aesthetic, directness, imperfection, texture, asymmetry and a touch of humor.

Michael is a proponent of the slow art movement and frugal art-making practices. He employs simple methods, and he advocates art made at the human scale. Hand tools are the norm; and, when practical, locally sourced materials are used. His ceramic pieces include a high percentage of Kansas clay — usually dug in Jewell or McPherson counties — and he forms them using hand-bult or wheel-thrown techniques. For many sculptural forms, he uses regional stone and upcycled or locally-sourced wood.

In addition to making three-dimensional



**Ron Michael**  
**Lindsborg, KS**  
**2019 ROAR Show**  
**Judge**

forms, Michael creates works on paper. This provides an opportunity to translate and transform his ideas using pencils, pens, erasers and paper.

Michael is the director of the Birger-Sandzen Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg. Before being named director in 2014, he served as a curator for 14 years and a registrar for three. He has exhibited in many regional and national exhibitions; taught art courses at the collegiate level; juried numerous art competitions; and been involved with several regional arts organizations. In the spring of 2000, Michael received an MFA in ceramics from the University of Kansas.

Prior to working at the Sandzen Gallery and attending school at KU, Michael served as a reference librarian for the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, Calif., and taught high school art in Seneca. In 1995, he received a master's degree in library science and information management from Emporia State University. He also has two undergraduate degrees from Fort Hays State University.