

Ceramic artist Wayne Higby presents ♦Raku Extravaganza♦ at MostArts Festival
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Wayne Higby demonstrating
Raku firing at 2017 MostArts
Festival

ALFRED, NY Ceramic artist Wayne Higby's work has appeared in art museums around the world, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, in Washington, DC, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. At Alfred University's 2018 MostArts Festival, Higby will share his expertise in his "Raku Extravaganza," which features the additional artistry of Alfred University's first-year ceramic art graduate students. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, July 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Alfred University campus.

"Raku" is a term originally derived from the history of the Japanese tea bowl. "American Raku" was invented in the mid-20th century and features a post firing manipulation of surface effects. Glowing, hot ceramic objects are removed from the kiln and immediately placed in flammable materials. As a final result, the surface of the ceramic objects is often visually surprising.

Higby, director of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum and a professor of ceramic art in Alfred University's School of Art and Design, is a world-renowned master of American Raku and is responsible for many innovative contributions to its history.

Visitors who join him for "Raku Extravaganza" may select a ceramic object, then set free their own inner artistry to glaze the piece and then watch it transform through the Raku firing process. After a short period of time, they may take their creation home as a memento of their visit to the 2018 MostArts Festival.

"Raku Extravaganza" will be held on the Alfred University campus at the Hair Pin Turn above Miller Theater weather permitting. Signs on the campus will provide directions to the event. While ceramic artists and ceramic artists-to-be enjoy Higby's coaching, delicious lunches will be available for purchase from Milliner's Southern BBQ Truck.

"Raku Extravaganza" takes place on the last day of the 2018 MostArts Festival, which began Sunday, July 8. Afternoon and evening concerts will be held throughout the week, in addition to a tour of Alfred area art galleries hosted by the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum on Wednesday, July 11. A Gala closing concert will be held also on

Saturday, July 14, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Miller Theater. Classical pianist Angelin Chang will perform Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2* conducted by Lisa Lantz, founder of the MostArts Festival and its artistic director.

The Gala closing concert will also feature the MostArts Festival Orchestra under the baton of Yuval Zaliouk, performing Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*. The 2018 MostArts Festival concludes with the highly anticipated presentation of awards to the winners of the Young Pianist Competition.

For more information of MostArts including tickets and a schedule of events, visit mostarts.alfred.edu.