The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred

Ceramophile

New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University
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Margaret Carney

Future site of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, State Route 244, Alfred, New York.

Message from the Director

by Margaret Carney

Collections in off-site storage facility, Summer, 1994.

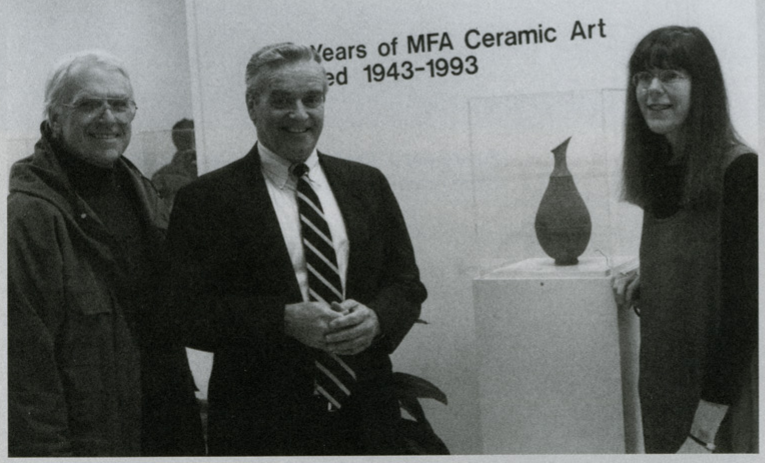
About Our Cover Photo

Yes, it's true. The press releases are out. The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University will build an international Museum of Ceramic Art with the help of a $1 million allocation from the State's 1994-95 budget. Plans for the new museum facility call for the 25,000-square-foot building to be constructed on SUNY-owned land along Route 244, adjacent to the Ceramic Corridor Innovation Center. The allocated funds are for planning and site preparation only, including allowing for the site to be cleared, and the design phase of the project to be completed.

According to Dr. James W. McCauley, Dean of the College of Ceramics, "The $1 million is for the first phase of this project — it doesn't give us one brick for the Museum." He continues, "We of course hope the Legislature will grant us the required $5 million more. If we got funding in the next session, we could probably start construction by the end of 1995, and have the project completed toward the end of the 1997-98 year, but that is a rough estimate."

According to AU President Edward G. Coll, Jr., when completed, the Museum will provide "a powerful stimulus" to the Southern Tier's economy, with visitors estimated to be approximately 50,000 a year.

While the Museum can trace its origins back to the year 1900 with the founding of the New York State School of Clayworking and Ceramics and the arrival of the founding Director of the School, Charles Fergus Binns, the Museum's formal existence is only as recent as the Spring of 1991. During the recent few years, with the rehab of Harder Hall, the Museum has had its collections crated and stored off site and has had temporary exhibits at the Ceramics Corridor Innovation Center. With much of the collection still in storage (see illustration), and the temporary Innovation Center exhibits closing the end of August, we plan to be back on the fifth floor of Harder Hall some time this Fall. Please phone ahead before you plan a trip to visit the Museum — and continue to watch our progress on the new facility. Your continuing support is crucial.



Opening reception for Alfred showing of Fifty Years of M.F.A. Ceramic Art at Alfred, 1943-93, *January 20th, 1994. Shown with Ted Randall* Decanter, *circa 1950, are, left to right: Ceramist Professor Val Cushing, Alfred University President Edward G. Coll, Jr., Museum Director Dr. Margaret Carney.*

Recent Acquisitions

Recent gifts and purchases have enhanced the Museum's permanent collection as a valuable resource for students, faculty, researchers and tourists. The exhibit *Ceramics Just Uncrated!* (April 7 - August 23, 1994) highlighted some of the recent acquisitions, with other new work arriving almost daily.

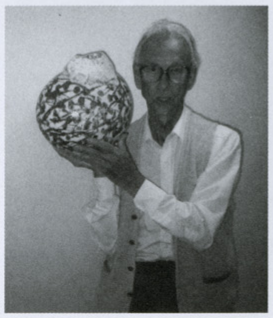
Shown with David MacDonald platter are (left to right): Kathleen Collins, Dean of the School of Art and Design, James W. McCauley, Dean of the New York State College of Ceramics, ceramic artist David MacDonald, and Museum Director Margaret Carney.

Most recently, Charles Fergus Binns's eldest grandson, Charles F. Bonnet, donated a 1928 Binns stoneware vase to the Museum. This welcome addition to the permanent collection shows support of the ongoing Binns project being researched by Museum Director Margaret Carney, which will culminate in a catalogue raisonnè about Binns and a travelling exhibition. The project is being generously supported by the Arthur L. and Lea R. Powell Foundation, and research grants from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art and Renwick Gallery. The Binns vase is now part of the Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics.

Another significant gift was made by Mrs. Dorothy Tinklepaugh in the form of 29 St. Pat's favors (see article and photo on page 6), collected by her husband, the late James Tinklepaugh, a 1943 alumnus of the College of Ceramics who taught in its School of Ceramic Engineering and Sciences.

Purchased in memory of Nancy Laura Bien, was a large stoneware platter created in 1990 by Vivika and Otto Heino (illustrated). M.F.A. graduate student work now in the M.F.A. Gloryhole Collection of the Museum, include pieces by Casey O'Connor, Steve Rolf, Vince Palacios, Michael Hagedorn, Jason Greene, Joni Moriyama, Denise Pelletier, and Kelly Palmer.

A large carved stoneware platter was purchased by the Museum for the Corsaw Collection from an exhibit titled *Mostly Plates* showing the work of David MacDonald which was held during the Springtime in the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery at the College of Ceramics (illustrated). A Jim Crumrine (1925-1993) sculpture was donated to the Museum by the artist's widow Maria Opie, and several important Chinese ceramic fragments were donated to the Museum by Chinese artist/ceramic historian Yang Dashen (illustrated).



Roger Corsaw with Paul Soldner 1950's bottle form recently donated to the Corsaw Collection by the artist.

Ceramic artist Vivika Heino shown with stoneware platter by Vivika and Otto Heino, recently purchased in memory of Nancy Laura Bien.

Individual works were generously donated by ceramist Don Reitz — a large stoneware platter, circa 1992; Minnie Negoro — a beautiful bowl from her 1950 M.F.A. exhibit at Alfred; four functional pieces by Leonard Rubenstein along with historic Peruvian and Japanese ceramics; and a stunning teapot created by ceramic artist Gordon Andrus. Helen Drutt English donated an Ellen Shankin soup tureen to the permanent collection, while a Bruce Gholson porcelain platter titled *Death Adder Platter* was purchased for the Museum's Corsaw Collection, along with a 1991 teapot by Mark Burns. Last, but not least, a Chinese Yixing ware teapot was generously donated by Robert Tichane. Museum benefactor, teacher and ceramist Roger D. Corsaw is shown (illustrated) with a ceramic bottle recently donated to the Museum by Paul Soldner, dating circa 1950's.

Pictured admiring Chinese ceramic shards are (left to right) Yang Dashen, Li Jiansheng, and Margaret Carney.

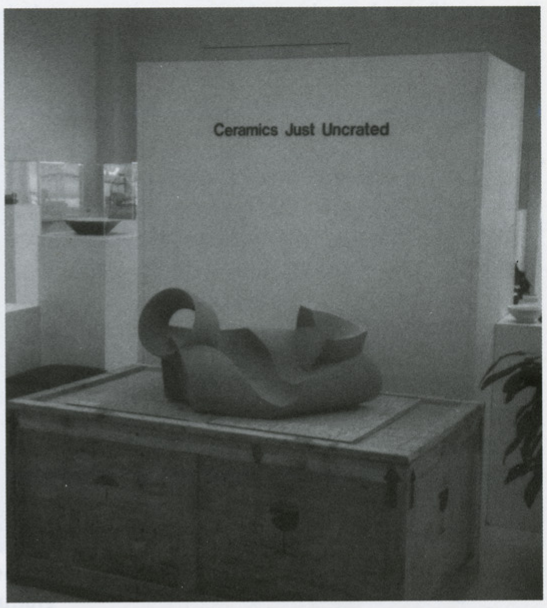
Current Exhibitions

The dates for the special exhibition *Ceramics Just Uncrated!* have been extended through August 23rd at the Museum's temporary exhibition space located at the Ceramics Corridor Innovation Center in Alfred, New York. The exhibit features recent acquisitions to the Museum's permanent collection, including a selection of recently gifted, purchased, and bequeathed ceramics.

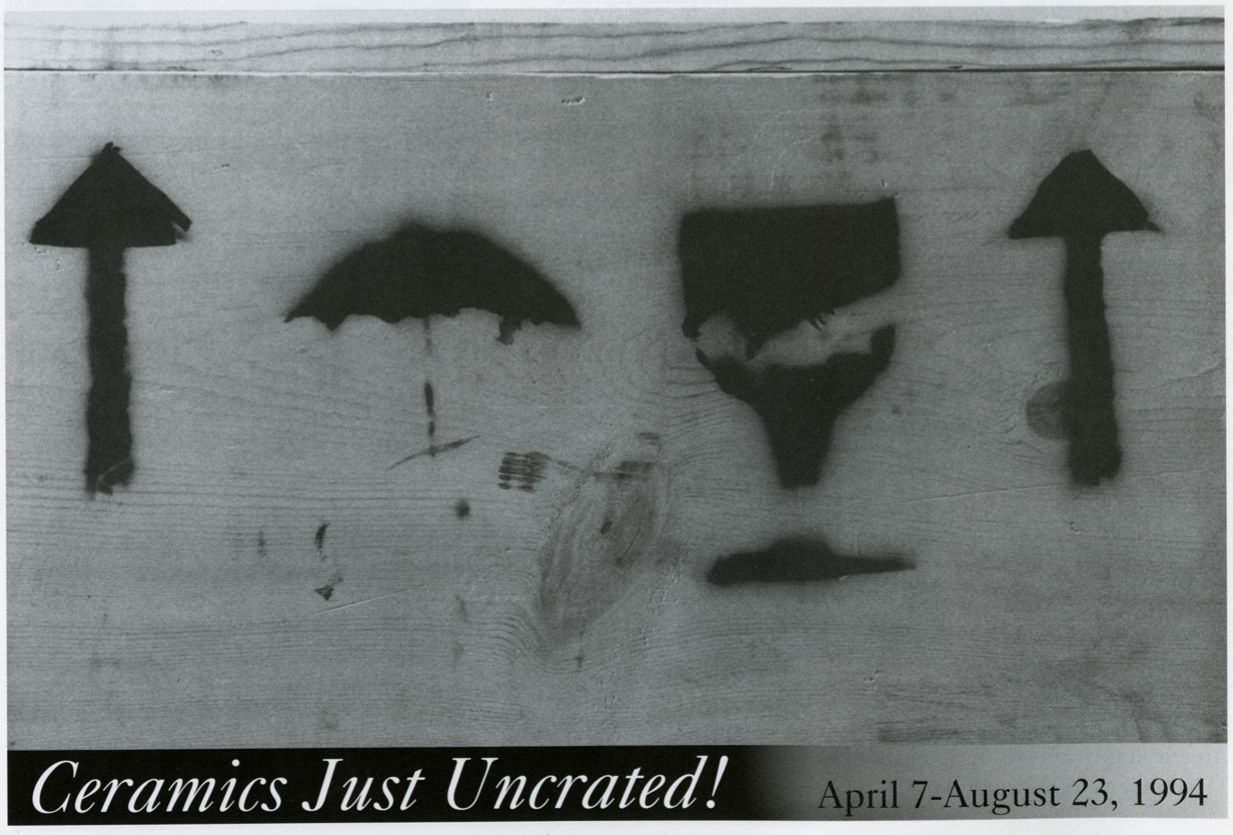
On view in addition to 1993 M.F.A. Gloryhole graduate student work by James Klein, Linda Huey, Will Marshall, Gabriella Verbovsky and Mary Louise Carter, are major gifts by two Alfred faculty, Professors Andrea Gill and Anne Currier.

Also shown are a selection of St. Pat's ceramic favors donated by Mrs. Dorothy Tinklepaugh; two goblets by John Neely; a Rudy Autio bottle donated by Ken Ferguson; purchased work by Rob Barnard, James Lawton, Karen Karnes, Larry Bush, Michael Simon, and Lee Rexrode.

Other donated works on display are by ceramic artists such as: Charles Fergus Binns, Charles Harder, Maija Grotell, Herb Cohen, J. David Broudo, Ken Ferguson, Zita Higgins Parker, Linn Phelan, Tom Spleth, Dave Shaner, William Lau, and Victor Babu.

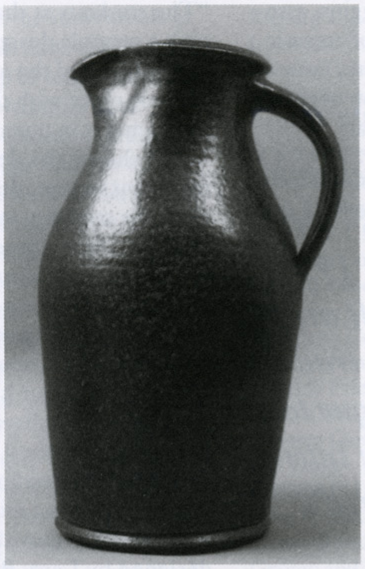


View of special exhibit on display through August 23, 1994



Upcoming Exhibitions

While the exact special exhibit dates will be announced by postcard and press releases when the rehab of Harder Hall allows us to return to our fifth floor exhibition space this fall, the plans for the contents of the exhibit are firm. The exhibit titled *Casual Collection, 1960-1980* will feature recently gifted ceramics (and a few loans) collected by Robert Turner during the 1960's and 1970's. These are works by students and friends of Bob's, almost all dating from when he was teaching at Alfred. All are gifts or purchases.



Bill Brouillard, pitcher

Warren MacKenzie teapot

In keeping with the show's title, casual comments made by Bob Turner about the pieces to be included are worth noting. When asked what the rationale was in donating the pieces to the Museum and the reason for having such a special exhibit, Bob commented, "I like to look at them and I figure other people would too." Other comments include his observation that "most of these are a far cry from what you may know," and that these are "what people did before you knew them" or "where they were."

A partial listing of the artists to be shown include: Ted Randall, Don Reitz, Ed Eberle, Betty Woodman,

Fall, 1994:
Casual Collection 1960-1980

The Robert Turner Gloryhole Collection

Betty Woodman, bowl from the early 1970's

Don Reitz, salt-glazed jar

Bill Brouillard, Karen Karnes, Ruth Gowdy McKinley, Warren MacKenzie, Dan Rhodes, Scott Chamberlin, Bill Lau, Andrea Gill, John Gill, John Glick, Mary Law, Harrison McIntosh,

Ed Eberle, covered jar

Dave Shaner, Norm Schulman, Val Cushing, Herb Cohen, Ken Ferguson, Fred Baur, Patty Warashina, and Naomi Greenspan.

This exhibit was conceptualized partially due to the fact that much of the Museum's own "Gloryhole Collection" is currently boxed up, off-site and unavailable for viewing by students and other visitors to the Museum. An opening reception date will be announced in the near future.

Focus on the Collection: *Souvenirs of St. Patrick's*

Souvenirs of St. Patrick's Day — long an Alfred University tradition — are now part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, thanks to a gift from a long-time New York State College of Ceramics employee.

Mrs. Dorothy Tinklepaugh, who works in the College's business office, donated the collection of St. Pat's mementos to the Museum. Her husband, the late Dr. James Tinklepaugh, a 1943 alumnus of the College of Ceramics who taught in its School of Ceramic Engineering and Sciences, collected the pieces during the years he was first a student, then a faculty member at the College. The twenty-nine ceramic and glass "favors" were produced between 1955 and 1980, and all are part of a ceramic tradition that was unique to Alfred and a very interesting facet of Alfred's ceramic history. The Museum already had a selection of these St. Pat's souvenirs, most of which were slip-cast or mold-made, all demonstrating how ceramic artists and engineers worked together to produce the favors as mementos of what was a community celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration started on the AU campus about 1933, recalls Norma Higgins, former University archivist, who has a good reason to remember much of the St. Pat's Day history. A 1951 alumna herself, her husband Wallace Higgins, associate professor emeritus of ceramic design and a 1952 graduate, was involved in the production of the favors for a number of years.

The twenty-nine ceramic and glass "favors" were produced between 1955 and 1980, and all are part of a ceramic tradition that was unique to Alfred and a very interesting facet of Alfred's ceramic history.

"Sometimes they had a design competition" to decide what the favor-of-the-year would be, said Higgins. "The students at that time actually took a ceramic design course (one which blended the art of designing a ceramic piece with the methods of producing it in quantity), and they would choose the design." It varied from year to year, depending upon what the students wanted to do, said Higgins. "Sometimes it was a bank, sometimes a vase, sometimes an ash-tray, once or twice a glass piece."

Since the donation of these twenty-nine St. Pat's ceramics by Dot Tinklepaugh, now known as the Jim Tinklepaugh Collection of St. Pat's Favors, other Alfred graduates have expressed interest in donating souvenirs, too. Most recently donated was a small shamrock and elf pin, designed by Larry Bickford (AU '43), and donated by Jane Brownlow (AU '43).

Shown admiring some St. Pat's souvenirs are (left to right): Dr. James W. McCauley, Dean of the College of Ceramics, Dr. Margaret Carney, Museum Director, Mrs. Dorothy Tinklepaugh, donor, and Kathleen Collins, Dean of the School of Art and Design.

Friends of the Museum

Listed below are the individuals or organizations who have taken out a new membership or renewed their membership contribution, or contributed to an acquisition, memorial, or capital compaign fund, or contributed ceramic work to the permanent collection, from the period beginning November 1993 and ending in June 1994. It is not too late for you to join and help us provide a broader funding base for the Museum. Remember that we are state-assisted, not state-funded and we need your help today. Your membership contribution helps to fund our changing exhibition program, care of the permanent collection, and special educational events. Membership information is located on the back of this issue.

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Charles F. Bonnet
Roger D. Corsaw
Mr. and Mrs. Sanford L. Davidow
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Don Reitz
Leonard S. Rubenstein
Paul Soldner
Mrs. Dorothy Tinklepaugh
Sue and Robert Turner
Yang Dashen
Richard Zakin

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The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred
New York State College of Ceramics
at Alfred University
Harder Hall, Fifth Floor
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*If Student Membership, please include a photocopy of your student I.D. card.

All contributions to the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred are tax deductible to the extent allowed under the law. All contributions will be used for collections, conservation, exhibitions, or educational programs unless otherwise specified.

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Mail to:
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Membership Office
Harder Hall, Fifth Floor
New York State College of Ceramics
at Alfred University
Alfred, New York 14802
607 871-2421

Information

Directions: From Route 17 (Southern Tier Expressway), Exit 33 in Almond, follow signs for Alfred University to Route 21 south and to Route 244 into Alfred. Turn left at the traffic light onto Pine Street. Harder Hall is the large brick building on the right and the main entrance is on the uphill (east) side. The fifth (top) floor of Harder Hall houses part of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred.

Handicapped Entrance: Use ramp on southwest side of building in parking area; turn right and take elevator to 3rd floor. From elevator go straight to the old Scholes Library and take elevator to 5th floor.

Admission: FREE

Telephone: 607 871-2421

Public Hours: Please phone ahead to check on new opening dates in Harder Hall, fifth floor. Hours– Fall/Winter 1994-95 (after rehab is completed), Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday 1pm-4pm or by appointment.

Tours: Group tours should be scheduled 2 weeks in advance. Call during regular business hours for an appointment.

Cameras: Photography is permitted only with handheld cameras and electronic flash in permanent collection exhibit areas only. No photos may be taken of travelling exhibitions. No photographs taken in the Museum may be reproduced, distributed, or sold without permission from the Museum.

Smoking: No Smoking is allowed in the fifth floor Harder Hall exhibit area.

Checkroom: All umbrellas, parcels and bags must be left in the racks available in the Museum foyer.

Membership: Benefits to members include subscription to the Museum newsletter, *Ceramophile*; invitations to celebrate special exhibitions and educational programs; discount on Museum exhibition catalogues; invitations to participate in Museum sponsored trips; and the *Annual Report* publication.

The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred

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at Alfred University

Kathleen Collins, Dean
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