



MC 19

## Theodore A. Randall

Head, Division of Art & Design

### Collection:

#### Box 1

Acquisition: Susan R. Strong

Processed: Susan R. Strong

#### Restrictions:

Material is to be made available to responsible researchers at the library's discretion

- Any reference to interview should include the name of Susan Wechsler as interviewer, for article in American Ceramics Magazine
- No publication of any material contained in interview transcript, tapes or draft of article without the written consent of Susan Wechsler
- Material may not be duplicated or donated to anyone, archive or institution without the written consent of Susan Wechsler
- Governed by "Oral History Agreement" prepared by Susan Wechsler

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Updated: Laura Habecker, 2020

The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Scholes Library

## Theodore A. Randall

(1914-1985)

Born: October 18, 1914, Indianapolis, IN

Died: November 9, 1985

Married: Catherine (Katy) Steckel, August 26, 1938

Children: Theodore A. Randall, III and Thomas Edward Randall

Parents: James E. Randall and Helen Darling

### Education:

1932 BFA, Yale

1949 MFA, New York State College of Ceramics at AU.

### Work:

1938-42 Sculptor, New York, NY

1942-45 U.S. Army

1949-55 Randall Pottery

1951-75 Professor, NYSCC at AU

1958-73 Head, Division of Art & Design, NYSCC at AU

1975 Emeritus

### Honors/Societies:

American Crafts Council, Fellow

Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degree, Alfred University

International Ceramic Symposium Award

National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Fellow

1965-66 Vice President

1966-67 President

Honorary Member, Academie Internationale de la  
Ceramique

American Ceramic Society, Fellow

National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Fellow

1967-69? Board of Directors

New York State Craftsmen

CADC (SUNY Council of Art Department Chairman),  
Executive Committee

Selected  
Publications

"ACC Honors 13." *American Craft* 45. April/May (1985): 92-3.  
Honored as new American Craft Council (ACC) Fellows at a recent awards dinner were ceramists John Mason and Ted Randall, fiber artists Kay Sekimachi and Marianne Strengell, metalsmith Richard Thomas, and glassmaker Maurice Heaton. Harold Brennan and Sydney Butchkes were named Honorary Fellows. The recipients of the ACC's gold medal were Lucy Lewis for achievement in pottery, Alexander and Susan Girard for their efforts to increase world wide appreciation of folk art, and the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, for excellence in the field of art education. Larry Winn was given special recognition for his posters on the glass work of Dale Chihuly.

"Obituary." *Ceramics Monthly* 34. January (1986): 55

"Ted Randall." *Ceramics Monthly* 29.3 (1981): 37-41. An interview with Randall on the occasion of his one-man show at the Elements Gallery, New York (7 april-2 may 1981), in which he emphasizes the importance of establishing a link between imagination and reality through art. Through his monumental sculptural vessels, Randall states that he is attempting to embody the concepts of function, utility, causality and necessity, concepts which, he maintains, are once again becoming relevant to contemporary society. U.S.A.

Carney, Margaret, et al. *The Alfred Asia Connection: The Asia Alfred Reflection*. New York: Taipei Gallery, 1998. Catalog of an exhibition held at the Taipei Gallery, New York, N.Y., in 1998. Artists include: Mao-Chung Lee, Ka-Kwong Hui, Yien-koo Wang King, Fong Chow, Charles Fergus Binns, Val Cushing, Wayne Higby, and Theodore Randall.

Cushing, Val. "Ted Randall: An Appreciation." *The Studio Potter* 16.1 (1987): 92. A discussion of the work of US ceramist Ted Randall.

Donhauser, Paul S. *History of American Ceramics*. Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1978.

- Driscoll, Harold. "Art Potter of the Month: Theodore Randall, Stoneware Potter." *Ceramic Age* 57:1 (1951): 52-54.
- Hepburn, Tony. "Obituary." *Craft International* 5. January/March (1986): 37.
- Higby, Wayne "Obituary." *American Craft* 46. February/March (1986): 95. Ted Randall, who died on November 9, has left an enduring legacy as an artist and teacher. He was chairman of the Division of Art and Design at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University from 1958 to 1973 and during his tenure transformed it into a center for ceramic art. He invented the Randall Potter's Wheel, which anticipated modern pottery equipment, and founded the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. Randall's personal and professional integrity informed his artistic pursuits.
- National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. *Ted Randall (1914-1985): A Retrospective*, April 8 - September 6, 1987. New York: Joe and Emily Lowe Art Gallery, School of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University, 1987.
- Parry, William. "Fosdick Nelson Gallery Exhibit." *Craft Horizons* 36: June 1976: 69.
- Petterson, Richard B. *Ceramic Art in America: A Portfolio*. Columbus, OH: Professional Publications, 1969.
- Randall, T. "Being and Meaning." *Ceramics Monthly* 32.9 (1984): 28-30. The American ceramic artist Ted Randall explains his application of the aesthetic purpose of art to ceramics. Despite the strong element of functionality in the pot, it is still primarily the artist's personal expression - 'with no reference to any reality beyond itself'. In his own work, the author now strives for 'the pot that recalls all pottery' rather than for continual innovation. Reprinted in *Studio Potter* December 1987.
- . "Notes on a Small Pottery." *Ceramic Bulletin* 32:3 (1953) 81-84.
- . "Notions About the Usefulness of Pottery." *Pottery Quarterly* 7:25 (1961): 17-22.
- . "A Personal Perspective of the Last Five Decades." 44-49
- . "A Potter's Markets." *Ceramics Monthly* 1:1 (1953): 9, 11.
- . "The Potter's Production Problems." *Ceramics Monthly* 1:2 (1953): 20-21.

Sawyer, Kenneth B. "US Ceramics at the 3rd International Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics in Prague." *Craft Horizons* 22: May 1962, 58.

Wechsler, S. "Ted Randall: An Interview." *American Ceramics* 3.2 (1984): 48-57. Randall (b.1914) describes his career, from his studies at Yale School of Fine Arts (which he describes as 'reactionary'), and the influence of his parents who both studied art at Alfred University, where Randall himself returned after the second world war for graduate studies in industrial ceramic design. from then on he became interested in the utilitarian qualities of pots and how these related to his interest in abstract, purely beautiful qualities.

### Collections

Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York

Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Margaret H. Harlow Collection, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota

Museum of Contemporary Crafts, Portland, Oregon

Roberson Museum, Binghamton, New York

Schein-Joseph Museum of International Ceramic Art, NYSCC, Alfred, New York

Scripps College Collection, Claremont, California

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, District of Columbia

Wichita Art Association, Wichita, Kansas

### Awards

1953 Ceramic Sculpture, 8<sup>th</sup> National Decorative Arts-Ceramic Exhibition, Wichita, Kansas

*Merle Alling Second Prize*, Rochester Finger Lakes 1953 Exhibition, Rochester, New York

1981 *International Ceramics Symposium Award*, Institute of Ceramic History, Berkeley, California

### Exhibitions

1953 *Rochester Finger Lakes 1953 Exhibition*, Rochester Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, New York

1955 *American Craftsmen 1955*, University of Illinois

- 1966 *Ceramic Arts 1966*, International Minerals Show, Skokie, Illinois
- 1966 Southern Illinois State University, Carbondale, Illinois
- 1969 Fosdick Nelson Gallery, NYSCC at AU, Alfred, NY
- 1969? *Twenty-Five Years of American Art in Clay – Invitational*  
Scripps College
- 1976 *Ted Randall: Recent Works and a Retrospective. Selection of Sculpture and Pottery.* Fosdick Nelson Gallery, NYSCC at AU, Alfred, NY
- 1979? Cooper Gallery
- 1981 *Large Scale Clay Vessels*, Elements Gallery, New York City
- 1984 *Ted Randall: Ceramics*, The Private Collection, Cincinnati, OH
- ?? Form and Function Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- Ted Randall.* Marcia Rodell Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- Ted Randall.* Louis Newman Galleries, Beverly Hills, CA
- 1987 *Ted Randall, 1916-1985: A Retrospective.* Joe and Emily Lowe Art Gallery, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- Ted Randall.* Jane Hartsook Gallery, New York City
- 1989 *Ted Randall* Henry Bauer Gallery, Alfred, NY
- Talks
- 1958 or 59 *Ceramics Today: Symbolic and/or Useful.* Metropolitan Museum of Art.[text available]
- 1959 *Alice in Wonderland.* Ceramic Education Council, ACS Convention. [text available]
- 1966 Honors Convocation, Alfred University
- 1981 *Fifty Years as a Potter.* YM/YWHA, New York City
- 1985 Slide Lecture, Lill Street Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

## Series Descriptions

Interview with transcript, speeches, resume obituaries and memorial service speeches. Photographs and Show cards.

## Collection

### Box 1

3 audio tapes of an interview with Ted Randall, conducted by Susan Wechsler in Ted's home in Alfred on June 28, 1983. The tapes are duplicates of the originals, which are owned by Mrs. Theodore Randall.

Full transcript of the interview of Ted Randall by Susan Wechsler, June 28, 1983 with text prepared for publication in *American Ceramics* and edited by Ted Randall.

History of the School of Art and Design. Collaboration with Mel Bernstein and correspondence with Paul Smith, Museum of Contemporary Crafts. Includes speeches by Randall and two reprints.

Resume. Obituaries. Memorial service speeches by William Parry and Mel Bernstein.

Birth announcement and "Antecedents" compiled by Mel Bernstein.

Correspondence re memorial gifts.

Photographs. Show cards.

Catalog of *Ted Randall (1914-1985): A Retrospective*. Sponsored by NCECA, 1987.

W. D. Parry's review of *Ted Randall: Recent Works and a Retrospective. Selection of Sculpture and Pottery*. Fosdick Nelson Gallery, NYSCC at AU, Alfred, NY

Complete catalog of Ted Randall's work (pots and sculpture) in his home and studio, carried out in January 1986 by Wayne Higby, Val Cushing and Elsie Cushing.