

"Four Times" opens Jan. 14 at Alfred University's ceramics museum

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Four Times, a solo exhibition of work by Marc Leuthold, will open Jan. 14, 2003, at the Schein-Joseph Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred. The exhibition features carved, circular, radiating ceramic forms. Included with these will be thrown forms (those made on a potter's wheel) and a glass form. The exhibition title is derived from an excerpt from Booker T. Washington's autobiography, Up From Slavery. The excerpt will accompany the objects in the show as enlarged text on a wall hanging. The text describes Booker T. Washington's famous "sweeping examination," by which Washington gained entrance to Hampton Institute. Washington claimed he was permitted to enroll after cleaning a "recitation-room" for the "lady principal." After Washington cleaned everything "four times," the lady principal could not find a "particle of dust" anywhere. As a result, she quietly remarked, "I guess you will do to enter this institution." "Oftentimes we do not want to do things four times," Leuthold said, in explaining the title of his exhibition. "I recall refinishing floors in my home. I managed to refinish most of them three times, but only in the kitchen and dining room did I apply varnish four times. Yet usually this extra effort is worth the trouble. Booker T. Washington's sweeping examination transformed his life. By gaining admission to Hampton Institute he secured the education he needed to become one of the greatest Americans. "The extra effort was well worth it for Washington and for the thousands of people he educated at Tuskegee Institute. I am inspired by this kind of perseverance. In our busy lives, those of us who take the time to do things four times are sometimes considered compulsive and obsessive. Yet as potters and sculptors, making things four times is a natural part of our studio lives. What potter does not work in series, quietly studying and perfecting a form? The results can be powerful and the intrinsic rewards, fulfilling." An reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. Feb. 7, 2003, in the Museum, following a slide lecture delivered by the artist at 4 p.m. in Binns-Merrill Room 105-106. The reception will include a gallery talk by the artist. The exhibition remains on view through March 2003. For more information, contact the Museum offices at 607-871-2421 or ceramicsmuseum@alfred.edu. The Museum, located on the top floor of Binns-Merrill Hall on the Alfred University campus, is open to the public, free of charge, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.