

AU ceramic history lecture aims to put ceramic art in perspective as key to future

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Louise Mazanti

Louise Mazanti, Ph.D. will be the featured speaker for the 13th Annual Dorothy Wilson Perkins Ceramic History Lecture sponsored by the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 4:30 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The program is open to the public free of charge. Mazanti will present "Ceramics with a Soul-Towards a Highest Standard for Ceramics" putting a focus on the importance of ceramics throughout humanity not just in beautiful art pieces, but as the key to unlocking the future of society. Mazanti is a former professor of craft, design theory, and history at Konstfack University in Stockholm, Sweden who now focuses her time as a free-lance teacher, curator, and writer. Currently she has undertaken a training program on Transpersonal Psychology at the Psychosynthesis and Education Trust, University of East London, which bridges issues of consciousness, spirituality and human evolution, thus offering a more holistic view on art and artistic processes. She is the author of a comprehensive series of articles and catalogue contributions within the crafts. She is a former member of the THINK TANK - A European Initiative for the Applied Arts and exhibition reviews editor of the "Journal of Modern Craft" at Berg Publishers, Oxford. Mazanti has held numerous honorary positions at Danish and foreign institutions and has lectured in a variety of countries. The lecture honors Dorothy Wilson Perkins who was born in 1917. She enrolled in Alfred University taking courses in the College of Ceramics, where she completed her bachelor of fine arts degree with honors in 1939. Offered a scholarship to the Ohio State University (OSU), Perkins took courses with Arthur E. Baggs, who had been a former student of Charles Fergus Binns at AU. She received her master of arts degree from OSU in 1940. Perkins then moved to Providence, RI and spent 15 years teaching at Rhode Island School of Design, where she made the majority of her creative pottery. At the same time, she also wrote numerous articles for "Ceramic Age" and "Ceramics Monthly," produced pottery for exhibition here and abroad, and taught two consecutive summers for Charles Harder at AU. In 1956 Perkins earned a doctorate from OSU. Her ceramic art can be found in numerous collections, including those at OSU and Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at AU. Perkins died Aug. 17, 1996. Her memory lives on through those who knew her, her ceramic pieces, and through the Dorothy Wilson Perkins Ceramic History Lecture which is conducted each fall.