

Schmidt & Miller awarded South Korean ceramics prize for 'Recycled Series'

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Thomas Schmidt, AU Class of 2009, writes that following receipt of his master of fine arts degree he went to teach ceramic design at the College of Ceramics & partner school, The Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing. While there, he and friend and AU colleague Jeffrey Miller &09 (bachelor of fine arts with ceramic art concentration) “ started a design collaborative called Recycled China (www.recycledchina.com). This collaborative was aimed at sourcing a range of discarded materials and industrial waste from factories within China to produce up-cycled sculptural objects, design works, and architectural tile.

“In March (2015) we received news that one of our works, “Recycled China Series, #1” had received a bronze prize.... at the Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale (GICB), 2015 which opened on April 24, at The Icheon World Ceramic Center in Gyeonggi, South Korea,” said Thomas.

“This competition is considered one of the most competitive and prestigious ceramics competitions in the world,” he added. “Our work, comprised of a 1.5 x 2-meter panel of recycled aluminum and factory discarded porcelain shards, was selected amongst over 2,500 entries from 74 countries. The piece will become part of the Korean Ceramic Foundations permanent collection with a prize of \$5,500.”

Thomas is an assistant professor of interdisciplinary 3D studio at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Jeff is living and working in Beijing “where Tom and I create our tiles which were exhibited in the GICB.” In addition, Jeff is “creating my own art in my studio and teaching the art program for an IB high school in the city.”