

Masterworks from Miller Collection on view at Alfred Ceramic Art Museum

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Hans Coper, Monumental Spade, c. 1967, stoneware, 19 1/2 x 12 x 6 inches

Masterworks of Ceramic Art

Materiality: The Miller Ceramic Art Collection

On view through December 29, 2019



ALFRED, NY – An exhibition of works from the Miller Ceramic Art Collection opens next week at the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum. A public opening reception for the exhibition, “Materiality: Masterworks from the Miller Ceramic Art Collection,” will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26. Remarks concerning the exhibition will be provided by the museum director at 6 p.m. The exhibition will remain on view through Dec. 29, 2019.

The Miller Ceramic Art Collection features masterpieces that highlight the artistic ideals of numerous luminaries of mid-20th century through early 21st century American ceramic art. In addition, the collection includes important examples of European and Japanese ceramic art works of the same time period. The collection is a reflection of the interests of Marlin Miller '54, H '89, H '19; the late Marcianne Maple Miller '55, Marlin's his first wife, a potter; and his current wife Ginger Gouger Miller, a painter and stitchery artist.

The collection is uniquely well informed by Marlin Miller's depth of understanding of materials, which began in the field of ceramic engineering and led for a period time to a leadership role in one of the largest brick companies in North America. His interest in brick and its role in architecture informs a keen eye for surface texture, dimension and materiality.

At the time the Millers began their collection, Marlin Miller also began to facilitate his interest in contemporary

architecture. The book on the Miller collection of ceramic art that accompanies the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum exhibition includes observations from Michael McKinnell, the architect Miller inspired, and pictures of the buildings that resulted from their collaboration, including the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum and the Miller Performing Arts Complex on the Alfred University campus.

The 17th annual Perkins Lecture accompanies “Materiality: Masterworks from the Miller Collection of Ceramic Art.” This year’s Perkins Lecture will be delivered by Sequoia Miller, chief curator at the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Toronto, Canada. The lecture, titled “Wet Clay, Pottery, and the Museum as a Forum,” is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 27, at 4:30 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, on the Alfred University campus. It is free and open to the public.