

Bergren Forum leads to 'A Potter's Paradise'

9/01/15

Alfred University's (AU) longstanding lunchtime series, the Bergren Forum, continues Thursday, Sept. 10, at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The program is free and open to the public.

In her talk, "A Potter's Paradise: Ceramics and Craft Ideology in Modern Japan," Meghan M. Jones, assistant professor of art history, will explore the historical, cultural, and ideological factors making ceramics a universally recognized and prized form of creative expression in Japan. Business moguls, museum curators, the imperial family and, of course, master potters are all part of this dynamic history stretching from the late nineteenth century to today.

Jones's primary research focus is on the history of ceramics, modern craft, and art in transnational perspective. She received her Ph.D. in history of art and architecture from Boston University, Boston, MA. She earned a master's degree in industrial, interior, and craft design from Musashino Art University, Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan and a bachelor's degree in Japanese studies and fine arts from Earlham College, Richmond, IA.

The Bergren Forum is sponsored by the Division of Human Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost's Office. Guests are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.

The series known as the Bergren Forum was begun by Rick Bergren, who taught at the University in the 1970s, when he was inspired by learning of the gatherings that AU students in the 19th century were known to conduct in Alumni Hall to discuss community issues. After Bergren's death in 1974, the University decided to continue the tradition in his name. Various faculty members have taken on the coordinator duties since that time. William S. Dibrell, professor of philosophy, is the current director.