

AU's Schein-Joseph Museum presents an anniversary exhibition - Twenty

6/29/11

The Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University is hosting a new exhibition titled "Twenty," now through Sept. 30, 2011. The exhibit is a celebration of the museum's 20th anniversary. The museum, located on the top floor of Binns-Merrill Hall, is open Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; the museum is closed some holidays. "The basic premise for the exhibition was Leslie's (Bellavance, the dean of the School of Art & Design) choosing pieces from the collection that the museum acquired between 1991 through 2011 - two from each year that we have officially been a museum," says Susan Kowalczyk, museum director. "She looked at more than 2,000 pieces. It was a great opportunity for a new dean to familiarize herself with the museum collection and in the process develop an exhibition from her aesthetic." The exhibit features a spherical vase by Charles Binns, stacking vases by Eva Zeisel, a sculpture by Satoru Hoshino, and a storage jar from the Yangshao Neolithic Culture, among other treasures. Born in England in 1857, Binns began apprenticing at the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works, where his father was co-managing director. Binns became a noted scholar of ceramics and traveled to the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago with his factory. His stoneware, glazed vase (1933) on display in "Twenty" is a gift of Isobel Dobson Karl. Born in Budapest in 1906, Eva Stricker (Zeisel) apprenticed herself in pottery and moved to Schramberg, Germany. She traveled to Russia in 1932, where she was named artistic director for the porcelain and glass industries for the country. In 1936, she was imprisoned and tortured for accusations of plotting against Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. She was deported to Austria, where she met her future husband, Hans Zeisel. The couple moved to New York City, where she taught at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn until 1952. The Schein-Joseph Museum purchased Zeisel's Fantasy Pattern, jug, plate, cup, saucer, gravy boat, covered dish, and salt and pepper shakers from the Roger D. Corsaw Collection; her stacking vases are a gift of James Klein and David Reid. Award-winning artist Satoru Hoshino has works in museums in Australia, Belgium, England, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United States. His work was also featured in the Frank Lloyd Gallery in January 2008. On display in "Twenty" is Beginning Form - Spiral (2006), glazed stoneware, a gift of the artist, Visiting Artist Collection. The Yangshao culture utilized pottery for cooking vessels, bowls, cups, and jars. The pottery also includes patterns and lines and dates back almost 5,000 years. On display is a storage jar with two handles, (2,700-2,350 BCE), earthenware, slip, a gift of Chaoling and Fong Chow. "Exploring the collection has been a great pleasure and a unique opportunity that I cherish," says Bellavance. "I understand that my travels through the collection of the Schein-Joseph Museum serve as an analogy for any and all museum visitors whose experience in viewing works of art reflects their own potential for learning, understanding and pleasure in the object." A closing reception open to the public is planned for Thursday, Sept. 22 from 4:30-6 p.m. Please call for exhibition information and announcements at 607.871.2421, or visit the museum Web site at www.ceramicsmuseum.alfred....