

## **Alfred Ceramic Art Museum at Alfred University, 2015**

Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, 1999

International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred

International Museum of Ceramic Art, late 1990's

Alfred Ceramic Art Museum

Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, 1991

### Collection

Acquisition: Margaret Carney, 1992

Processed: Elizabeth Gulacsy, 1992

The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Scholes Library

## Mission Statement

The mission of the International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, a non-profit educational institution, shall be to collect, preserve and conserve, research, interpret, and exhibit ceramic objects for educational and aesthetic purposes, which encourage and promote the advancement, understanding, enjoyment, and diffusion of knowledge of the history of ceramic art.

The collections shall include important examples of contemporary American ceramic art, ceramic objects which illustrate, technically and aesthetically, the broader history of world ceramic art, and the ceramics created by Alfred-trained ceramic artists, which shall function as a national repository and research center for the investigation and study of the history of American studio ceramics from 1900 to the present.

The audience shall consist of three primary targeted constituencies including the general public wishing self-education and an extended awareness of the ceramic arts; the university community, especially the student population in the School of Art and Design, who will utilize the Museum collections to explore the technical, stylistic, iconographic and aesthetic history of ceramics; and the specialist, both scholar and artist, who will want to explore the ceramic collection and related archival materials pertaining to the collections.

From *Annual Report: 1990-91*

## History

In 1900, Charles Fergus Binns was appointed as founding director of the New York State School of Clay-Working and Ceramics, now known as the New York State College of Ceramics. Thus, the study of ceramic art and science was established as the educational focus at Alfred and has remained so for a century.

In the early 1900s, Binns established the first "museum" devoted to ceramics at Alfred. This "museum" augmented his teaching of pottery making, ceramic science including glaze and clay recipes, and ceramic history. Its establishment on the top floor of the original ceramics building on campus provided a location where student and faculty work could be displayed for study, enjoyment and discussion. Although not a museum in the professional sense of the word, as early as 1903, Binns wrote about the idea in the popular journal *The Craftsman*, "Although at present there is no important ceramic museum at Alfred, the private collection of the Director is at the disposal of the students, and in the University Museum there are numerous examples of historic American pottery. A distinctive collection of the pottery of the world is contemplated at the State School, and the idea will be carried out as soon as the necessary funds are available." (Charles F. Binns, "Education in Clay," *The Craftsman*, June, 1903, p.

165) Collections were amassed almost independent of scholarly direction. Nearly ninety years later, in 1991, Dr. Margaret Carney was appointed ceramics historian, and a Museum was formally established at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Dr. Carney became the founding director and chief curator. Today the Museum celebrates American ceramics, but within the broader context of worldwide ceramic creativity and history, a history representing thousands of years.

### Series Description

A collection of proposals for the housing of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum at Alfred University. Also Exhibit catalogues and invitations starting in 1992.

## Box 1a

Newsletter: *Ceramophile* V.1, # 1, 1991 –

[Vol.VII, No.2; Vol.VIII, No.1 never published]

Annual Report 1990 -

[There were no annual reports for 94-95; 95-96]

## Box 1b

Proposal for Museum and Library Complex. May 1986

Museum Site Analysis 1993

Undated Proposal for Museum (to be named after Ted Randall)

Advisory Committee Minutes 1991 – 1998

Miscellaneous.

Reviews.

Clippings.

## Box 2

Dorothy Wilson Perkins Ceramic Lecture Series.

The Binns Medalist Dinner. April 8, 2000. Invitation, post-it note, puzzle.

### Catalogs:

*Charles Fergus Binns stonewares: A chair must invite the sitter.* 1992.

*Asian Ceramics in Alfred Collections.* 1993.

*What you give away you keep forever: The Vivika and Otto Heino retrospective.* 1995. 1996

*Alfred teaches ceramics, 1900-1996.* 1996.

*Charles Fergus Binns: Father of American studio ceramics.* 1998.

*Premeditated function: The Corsaw Collection of American ceramics.*

*Lost molds and found dinnerware: Rediscovering Eva Zeisel's Hallcraft.*

*The Alfred Asia connection: The Asia Alfred reflection.* 1999

*The Binns Medal Winners..* 2000.

*Glidden Pottery.* 2001.

*Glass Art Reflects the Future: Art and technical glass from the collection of the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center. 2002*

*Ripples: Marguerite Wildenhain and Her Pond Farm Students. 2002.*

### Box 3

- 1990 *Study collection.* (invitations)
- 1991 *Still new after ninety years.* Chicago International New Art Forms September 20 -21, 1991. (invitation)
- 1992 *Charles Fergus Binns stonewares: A chair must invite the sitter.* January 15 - June 14, 1992. ([catalog](#), invitation)
- Charles Fergus Binns: The father of American studio ceramics.* Videotape from original 1920's film footage (College Archives) narrated by Val Cushing. 10 minutes. (see Box 4)
- 1993 *Asian Ceramics in Alfred Collections.* January 28 - June 11, 1993. ([catalog](#), invitations)
- Fifty years of MFA ceramic art at Alfred 1943-1993.* Chicago International New Art Forms October 7 10, 1993. (invitations)
- 1994 *Fifty years of MFA ceramic art at Alfred 1943-1993.* January 20 - March 28, 1994. (invitations)
- Ceramics just uncrated.* April 7 – August 23, 1994. (invitation)
- About face (figuratively speaking).* September 29 – December 9, 1994. (invitation)
- 1995 *Casual collection, 1960-1980, the Robert Turner Gloryhole Collection.* February 7 - June 11, 1995. (invitation)
- The Charles Redfern Collection.* February 7 – June 11, 1995
- White whitewares.* July 6 - September 1995. (invitations)
- What you give away you keep forever: The Vivika and Otto Heino retrospective.* October 19 - December 10, 1995. ([catalog](#), invitations)
- 1996 *Alfred teaches ceramics, 1900-1996.* March 14 - June 6, 1996. ([catalog](#), invitation)
- Handle with care.* October 17, 1996 – February 14, 1997. (invitation)
- 1997 *Wall-to-wall Wesp.* March 13 – June 13, 1997. (invitations)
- Conspicuous applications of advanced ceramics.* June 24 – September 25, 1997. (printed online [catalog](#), invitations)

- Defying gravity: The fragmented facades of architectural terra cotta.*  
October 9 – January 22, 1998. (invitations)
- 1998 *Ted Randall: Works from five decades at Alfred.* January 29 – March 11, 1998.
- The students of Binns.* March 18 - September 18, 1998. (invitations)
- The stonewares of Charles Fergus Binns: Father of American studio ceramics.* April 18 - July 23, 1998. (catalog, invitation; special invitation)
- Four postcards.
- Tour brochure
- 1999 *Premeditated function: The Corsaw Collection of American ceramics.*  
September 24, 1998 - February 4, 1999. (catalog, invitations)
- Lost molds and found dinnerware: Rediscovering Eva Zeisel's Hallcraft.*  
February 11 - September 9, 1999. (catalog, invitations)
- The Alfred Asia: The Asia Alfred reflection.* September 18 – December 16, 1999. (catalog, invitation)
- 2000 *Jack Earl ceramics.* January 13 – March 30, 2000. (invitations)
- The Binns Medal Winners.. Exhibit* April 8 - October 19, 2000. (catalog, invitations, post-it notes, video: *Perspectives on a century: a conversation with Binns Medalists* (Box 4))
- David Shaner: The gifts he has made.* November 9, 2000 – January 18, 2001. (invitations)
- 2001 *Singular abstractions: Absolutely recent ceramics by Leopold Foulem.*  
January 25 – April 5, 2001. (invitation)
- Glidden Pottery.* April 12 – September 27, 2001. (catalog; web page, invitations)
- Acquisitions from A to Z.* October 4, 2001 – February 28, 2002. (e-mail invitation)
- 2002 *Glass Art Reflects the Future: Art and technical glass from the collection of the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center.* March 14 – April 21, 2002.  
(invitations, catalog, summary report prepared by M. A. Rasmussen, curator).
- The MFA Gloryhole: Selections from the Last Ten Years.* April 25 – July 14, 2002.  
(invitations)
- A Ceramic Continuum: Fifty Years of the Archie Bray Influence.* July 28 – September 22, 2002. (invitation)

- Ground breaking ceremony invitation.
- Ripples: Marguerite Wildenhain and Her Pond Farm Students.* October 3 – December 15, 2002. (invitations, catalog)
- 2003 *Four Times: Marc Leuthold.* January 14 – March 30, 2003. (invitations)
- From the Collection: Selected New Gifts.* May 2 – July 27 (invitations)
- Irvin Tepper: When Cups Speak.* August 9 – December 19. (invitations)
- 2004 *Installation 188: Common Ground World Project by Neil Tetkowski.* January 28 – April 2 (posters, invitations)
- Pondered Resource: On loan from the personal collections of Anne Currier, Andrea and John Gill, Wayne Higby, Walter McConnell, and Linda Sikora. Pondered Resource: On loan from the personal collections of Anne Currier, Andrea and John Gill, Wayne Higby, Walter McConnell, and Linda Sikora.* May 26 – November 12. (invitations)
- William Parry: (don't forget to) Wonde.* December 1, 2004 – April 1 2005. (invitations)
- 2005 *Conjunction: Selections from the Corwaw, Fox, and Krevolin Collections.* June 1 – September 30. (invitation)
- Eva Kwong: Love Between the Atoms.* October 12 – December 16 (invitations)
- 2006 *Robert Winokur: Houses, Wedges and Figures.* January 25 – March 31 (invitations)
- Receptive Volumes:* June 1 – September 29 (invitations)
- Satoru Hoshino: Beginning Form – Spiral.* October 18 – December 8. (invitation, catalog)
- 2007 *Norm Schulman: A Life in Clay.* January 24 – March 30 (invitations)
- KleinReid: Porcelain by James Klein and David Reid.* June 6 – September 28. (invitations)
- The Interpreted Figure.* October 17 – December 7 (invitations)
- 2008 *Jeffrey Mongrain.* January 24-March 21, 2008 (invitations)
- Chris Miller.* June 4-September 26, 2008 (invitations, catalog)
- [Robert Turner Teaching Fellow]
- George Ohr Rising.* October 15-December 5, 2008 (invitations)
- 2009 *From the Permanent Collection.* January 23-April 17, 2009 (invitations)
- 2010 *Artstream Nomadic Gallery Studio Potter 2010 Tour.* April 7-8, 2010 (invitations)

- 2011 *Twenty*. May 11-September 30, 2011 (invitations)  
*Echo Chamber: Anders Ruhwald and Marie T. Hermann*. October 20-December 2, 2011 (invitations)
- 2012 *Eye Candy*. January 26-March 30, 2012 (invitations)
- 2012 *Pause*. October 4-December 7, 2012 (invitations)
- 2013 *New Morphologies: Studio Ceramics and Digital Processes*, Del Harrow and Stacy Jo Scott, guest curators, February 7-April 5, 2013 (invitations)
- 2013 *Animalia*. April 25-August 2, 2013 (invitations)
- 2014 *Pour*. February 6-March 28, 2014 (invitations)
- 2014 *Val M. Cushing*. April 24-August 8, 2014 (invitations)

#### Box 4 (Videos)

*Charles Fergus Binns: The father of American studio ceramics*. Videotape from original 1920's film footage (College Archives) narrated by Val Cushing. 10 minutes.

*Perspectives on a century: a conversation with Binns Medalists*. Recorded at Harder Hall, Alfred University, April 8, 2000. Professor Wayne Higby moderates a discussion with Binns Medal recipients Susan Peterson and Robert Turner. 105 minutes.

#### The Dorothy Wilson Perkins Ceramic History Lecture Series:

Clark, Garth. *Between a toilet and a hard place: Is the ceramic avant-garde a contradiction in terms?* October 27, 1998. Video available in Scholes Library (VC 440)

Peterson, Susan. *Faux and real folk art: the story of Mingei* Margaret Carney introduces the lecture and gives a brief biographical sketch of Perkins. October 26, 1999. 84 minutes

Greenhalgh, Paul. *Social Complexity and the Historiography of Ceramic*. October 18, 2001. Audiotape available.

Levin, Elaine. *Marguerite Wildenhain: Inspirational and Passionate about her Craft*. October 8, 2002. Audiotape available.

Court, Louise. *Crawling through Mud: Avant-Garde Ceramics in Postwar Japan*. October 14, 2003. Audiotape available.

Trilling, James. *The Aesthetic of Process – and Beyond*. November, 3, 2005. Audiotape available.

## Box 5

Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred Project, Molinaro Associates & Lord Cultural Resources Planning and Management, 1995?

Site and Building Analysis, November 1997

Predesign Report, Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates. January 1998

Schematic Design, Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates. January 1998

Program, Kallmann McKinnell & Wood, February 2000

Architectural Schematic Design Report, Kallmann McKinnell & Wood, June 2001, July 2002

## Unboxed and unprocessed

Eight scrapbook albums, prepared by Margaret Carney and donated in 2008.  
Years covered: 1991 - 2001