

California design artist honored by alma mater

6/17/10

Jerome "Jerry" Ackerman of Culver City, CA received a 2010 Alfred University Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement during the 124th Annual Alumni Association Awards Picnic earlier this month. The award honors alumni whose achievements in their profession, career, or avocational pursuits, or service to society, bring honor and distinction to Alfred University. Ackerman, a member of the AU class of 1952, has had his work featured in major exhibitions nationwide and was included in every California Design show from 1954-76. His work is in numerous private and museum collections including the Smithsonian Institution, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Oakland Museum, the Renwick Gallery, and the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred. In their early years, Ackerman and his wife, Evelyn, opened Jenev Design Studio, building a successful career based on ingenuity, talent, and hard work. As sales increased, the Jenev ceramics line was marketed nationally by independent sales representatives. Ackerman's shared success with his wife helped to expand their business to ERA Industries, also expanding their offerings. The couple began to produce home accessories, furniture, and architectural elements in various forms of media including ceramics, mosaics, textiles, wood, and metalwork. A 50-year history of the couple's success can be viewed at www.ackermanmodern.com. The couple resides in Culver City. Ackerman graduated from AU with a master's of fine arts degree. Prior to Alfred University, he studied at Wayne University (now Wayne State University) where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in education and art.