

# The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred

## Ceramophile

New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University  
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Barry O'Keefe

Lucie Rie, British (b. Vienna 1902), untitled BOWL, ca. 1974, porcelain, H: 3-1/2" (8.9 cm.) Diam: 6-1/4" (15.8 cm.), Museum Purchase, The Roger D. Corsaw Collection, 1992.154.

## Focus on the Collection

Ellen Shankin is often referred to as one of the outstanding functional potters in the United States today. Only a glance at her work tells you why. Not only are her forms beautiful with the harmonious application of stunning glazes, but the pieces are also user friendly and reasonably priced. Although our Roger D. Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics already included an Ellen Shankin covered casserole and a butter/sugar/creamer set, the Museums opted to purchase this handsome pitcher from the Farrell Collection Gallery exhibit at Chicago International New Art Forms Exposition at Navy Pier last Sep-

tember. A similar pitcher with an ash glaze was awarded first place in the Seventh Annual San Angelo National Ceramics Competition in 1992. Ellen received a B.F.A. with honors from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred in 1977. Her home and studio are located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

*Ellen Shankin, American (b. 1952), untitled PITCHER, dated 1992, stoneware, glazed, H: 9-3/8" (23.8 cm.), Museum Purchase, The Roger D. Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics, 1992.146.*



## A Visit to Ted Randall's Studio

As part of the History of Ceramics Seminar taught each fall semester by Museum Director, Dr. Margaret Xie, who is also an Assistant

Professor of Art History, the eight first-year MFA candidates in ceramics were invited to visit the studio of the late Ted Randall

(1914-1985), who in addition to his many accomplishments as a well-known potter and sculptor, was a member of the teaching

faculty at Alfred from 1951-1981, and served as Head of the Division of Art and Design from 1958-1973. During this studio visit, Professor Val Cushing, current Chair of the Ceramics Division, gave an informal presentation about Ted Randall's life and ceramic creations. The graduate students, Val and I are grateful to Catherine Randall for allowing us this special studio visit and welcoming us so warmly.



*Professor Val Cushing and graduate students during visit to the studio of the late Ted Randall on October 29, 1992.*

## Recent Acquisitions

Forty-one ceramic works of art have either been gifted to the Museum or were purchased during recent months. The Roger D. Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics was enhanced through the purchase of several new pieces at Chicago International New Art Forms, including the ash glazed pitcher by Ellen Shankin (see illustration and *Focus on the Collection* article) and a porcelain cup and saucer by Bruce Winn. The exquisite Lucie Rie bowl, dating to approximately 1974, featured on the cover of this issue of *Ceramics Monthly*, was also purchased through the generosity of Roger D. Corsaw and the fund established in his name at Alfred.

Through memorial gifts made to the Nancy Laura Bien Acquisition

Additionally Nan's family donated, in her memory, a stoneware platter she had made.

A gift of a collection of ancient Near Eastern pottery was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Marks. The collection of twenty bowls, cups, ewers, and jars primarily from Syria, date circa 1800 B.C. Ford Singletary donated a choice selection of pieces from his collection to the Museum, including small bowls by Joan Mondale and Toshiko Takaezu and a large platter by Harvey Sadow. Barbara and Mel Bernstein donated a Charles Harder stoneware plate, a

Tom Speth porcelain flask and a Harriet Bernstein Bellows Speth glazed stoneware bowl to the Museum's permanent collection.

Other gifts include the donation of ceramic pieces by the following artists: Herb Cohen's untitled compote, Vi Mayfield's sphere titled "Malaga Cove 202," and a

bottle form vase and porcelain bowl created and decorated in underglaze cobalt blue by Chinese ceramist Li Jiansheng (Jackson Lee), California



Brother Thomas, (b. 1929, Halifax, Nova Scotia), VASE, *Ellipse Form*, ca. 1991, porcelain, textured iron yellow glaze, H: 12-3/8" (31.4 cm.), Gift of Pucker Gallery, Boston, in honor of Mario and Peg Prisco, 1992.163.

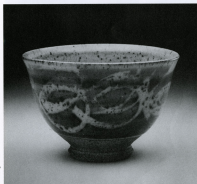
ceramic artist Max Fuller has donated a ceramic "Helmet" piece to the permanent collection and Mary Rose Carroll donated a finely potted Korean celadon glazed stoneware bowl.

The Museum is very pleased to announce that it has also received the gift of two Howard Kottler pieces from the Howard Kottler Trust. The two pieces are a stoneware *wend pot* from the 1950's and a mixed media piece titled *Trilogy* from 1987.

A small (H: 4-3/4") canary yellow and silver lustre English creamware pitcher with transfer ware designs, dating circa 1802, was recently donated to the Museum by Nancy Seiberling. It is a fine example of its kind and demonstrates the breadth of our interest in establishing a broad based collection of the finest examples of ceramics world wide.

The Pucker Gallery in Boston donated a superb example of the porcelains created by ceramic artist Brother Thomas. The piece, titled *VASE, Ellipse Form*, was donated in honor of Mario and Peg Prisco.

For information on how to make your donation of artwork to the Museum, please phone the Museum at 607-871-2421.



Peter Voukos, American (b. 1924), untitled BOWL, ca. 1960, stoneware, wax resist design, glazed, H: 4" (10.2 cm.) Diam: 6" (15.3 cm.), Museum Purchase, in Memory of Nancy Laura Bien, 1992.147.

Fund, the Museum purchased an early Peter Voukos functional bowl, dating from the 1950's, with a wax resist design (see illustration).

## Current Exhibitions



Above: Participants in the opening night reception for Asian Ceramics in Alfred Collections are, left, Dr. James W. McCauley, Dean of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and Steven Johnson, Alfred University's Director of Arts Programming.

At right: Opening night reception for Asian ceramic exhibit. Shown are Alfred University President Edward G. Coll, Jr., second from right, speaking with Museum Director and exhibit curator, Dr. Margaret Xie. Also pictured from left, Glenn Zveygerdt, professor of sculpture, and William Parry, professor of sculpture emeritus, Alfred University. The exhibit continues through June 11.

On view until June 11, 1993 are selections from the Krevolin Collection of Pottery from the Ancient Americas and the Roger D. Corsaw Collection of Functional American Ceramics. The current temporary exhibition, also on view through June 11, is *Asian Ceramics in Alfred Collections*. The *Asian Ceramics* exhibit opened with an impressive attendance at the public reception Thursday January 28th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The collection of nearly

seventy ceramic pieces from China, Japan and Korea which comprises this special exhibit was organized by Museum Director Dr. Margaret Xie as part of the Alfred University focus on the "Asian Experience" in 1992-93.

An illustrated catalogue of the Asian exhibit can be purchased by mailing a check for \$20 to the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, Harder Hall, Alfred, New York, 14802.



## Ceramic Connoisseurs Event

The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred sponsored its first ceramic collectors event in Alfred, New York, April 2-4, 1993. The two-day program was organized to create a permanent ceramic collectors support group to be associated with our Museum in Alfred. Our intention in organizing this group, named the Ceramic Connoisseurs, is to raise the consciousness of the collectors for

the ceramic media by offering this introductory event in Alfred. The itinerary included behind-the-scenes events such as tours of the studios of Val Cushing, Wayne Higby, John and Andrea Gill, William Parry, and Robert Turner; a private Museum tour and reception, gallery talk by the exhibits curator, and a visit to one of the Museum's storage vaults; a ceramics faculty panel discussion; tours of the MFA graduate student

studios and opening reception for the MFA graduate exhibits. This inaugural event was in support of more than just the Museum Ceramic Art at Alfred, but also in support of clay artists, ceramic collectors, and the galleries which sponsor these artists and their work. Subsequent plans involve other cities with related tours and behind-the-scenes events all pertaining to ceramic art.

## Upcoming Exhibitions

### Fifty Years of MFA Ceramic Art at Alfred

October 7-10, 1993

Special Exhibition for  
Chicago International New  
Art Forms Exposition

This special exhibition from the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred will feature Fifty Years of MFA Ceramic Art at Alfred. Although the work of all of the MFA graduates in ceramics can not be shown in one exhibit, there will be both a printed listing and continual slide presentation of the MFA graduate student work created between 1943-1993.

A selection of work will be shown by the ten Alfred graduates who have received the honor of American Craft Council Fellow. These ten graduates include our first MFA

graduate Daniel Rhodes (AU '43) and our second MFA graduate Vivika Heino (AU '44), and Robert Turner (AU '49), Theodore Randall (AU '49), Susan Peterson (AU '50), Val Cushing (AU '56), Ken Ferguson (AU '58), Dave Shaner (AU '59), Don Reitz (AU '63), and Joel Myers (AU '68). When possible, one MFA graduate piece and one contemporary piece by these individuals will be exhibited in this special show.

This exhibition is being organized to honor the fifty years of MFA graduates from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred



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University; to demonstrate one of the unique features of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred, which is the "Gloryhole" of MFA graduate student work; and to celebrate the success of those involved with the ceramic arts in America.

For further information about this special exhibit at Navy Pier in Chicago, please contact Margaret at 607-871-2421.

Above: Ken Ferguson, American (b. 1938), *Vessel with Running Horses*, 1988, stoneware, wood fired, Ht. 17-1/2" (44.5 cm.) Diam. 14-1/2" (36.8 cm.), Museum Purchase, The Roger D. Corsaw Collection, 1988.2.

At left: Ken Ferguson, American (b. 1938), unfired TEAPOT, stoneware, glazed, Ht. (with handle) 6-3/4" (17.1 cm.) Diam. 6" (15.2 cm.), Gloryhole Collection, 1988.2.



Photographs this page, Brian Ogilvie

## Message from the Director

### Question

*What do the collections of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred and mothballs have in common?*

### Answer

The ceramic collections belonging to the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred will be "in mothballs" for at least six months to a year beginning in June 1993, due to demolition work which is part of the rehab of Harder Hall. In order to ensure the safety of the collections, public exhibitions will be closed and the collection moved off site for the duration of the demolition portion

of the Harder Hall rehab project. Although the exact date of reopening is unknown, future newsletters will keep you posted.

In the meanwhile, we will not be idle — we will merely shift our focus as necessity decrees. We will continue enhancing the collection through gifts or purchases; we will actively seek to increase the Museum's operating endowment fund as part of the Alfred University capital campaign; we will take another special exhibit to Chicago International New Art Forms in October; we will continue to plan for the construction of a separate new

Museum facility; and we will continue work on cataloguing and photographing the thousands of objects that are already part of the Museum's permanent collection.

The Museum's offices will temporarily be moved from the fifth floor of Harder Hall to room 234 in the new Scholes Library of Ceramics. Our mailing address and phone number will remain unchanged.

We remain thankful for your support.

Margaret Carney Xie  
Director

## Museum Receives Grant

As part of the Alfred University Strategic Plan to promote the College of Ceramics and its internationally recognized ceramics collection, the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred is proud to announce that it has received a grant totalling \$50,000, payable over the next ten years at \$5,000 per year, from the Arthur L. and Lea R. Powell Foundation. The grant will support

*The Museum is grateful for the support for this important project from the Arthur L. and Lea R. Powell Foundation.*

further research and the cataloguing of the stonewares created by the founding Director of the New York State College of Ceramics, Dr. Charles Fergus Binns. The results of the research will be the completion of a catalogue raisonné concerning the life work of Binns and a travelling exhibit highlighting the Binns collection at Alfred. This promises to be the "final word" on Binns, his stonewares, and his recognition as the "Father of American Studio ceramics." The Museum is grateful for the support for this important project from the Arthur L. and Lea R. Powell Foundation. This project is part of an effort to recognize and to celebrate the NYS College of Ceramics centennial anniversary in the year 2000.



Potter, teacher and ceramic scientist Charles F. Binns in the early days of the College of Ceramics. (Photo courtesy New York State College of Ceramics Archives, Scholes Library of Ceramics)

# Friends of the Museum

Listed below are the individuals or organizations who have taken out a new membership or renewed their membership contribution, or contributed to an acquisition, memorial, or capital campaign fund, or contributed ceramic work to the permanent collection, from the period September 11, 1992 to February 22, 1993. It is not too late for you to join and help us provide a broader funding base for the Museum. Your membership contribution helps to fund our changing exhibitions program, care of the permanent collection, and special educational events. Membership information is located on the back of this issue.

## BENEFACTOR

Roger D. Corsow  
Barbara Corsow Klock  
Cedric and Daisy Marks  
Pucker Gallery, Boston  
Nancy Seiberling  
R. Ford Singletary  
Robert and Sue Turner

## PATRON

Dr. David Becker (in honor of Robert Turner)  
President and Mrs. Edward G. Coll, Jr.  
Mary Rose Carroll  
Max Fuller  
John Gill  
Vi Mayfield  
Peter Susanski  
Ann and Harry Wollman

## CONTRIBUTING OR BUSINESS

Lisa Anderson  
Lee Baldwin  
Ruth M. Bowen (in memory of Elizabeth Pendleton)  
J. David Broudo  
Rick and Karen Gringhuis  
Lewis and Jenny Keovlin  
Charles Lakofsky  
Elaine Liff  
Susan Peterson  
Judith Schwartz  
Richard and Pat Spriggs

## SUSTAINING

Henry Bauer

Kathleen Collins and Jeff Love  
Catherine Deardorf  
Europces Keramisches Werkzentrum  
Roger and Carla Freeman  
Rhonda Friedman  
Bruce and Susan Greene  
Gary Hoeswitz  
Jeff Jacob  
Adele Levine  
W. Richard and Jeannette Ott  
Judith Salomon and Jerry Weiss  
Ann and Dave Shaner  
Lynn and Jennifer Taylor  
Richard Zakin

## FAMILY

Alfred Pharmacy  
Linda Atsackle and Lee Shaw  
Robert and Dianne Birring  
Dr. and Mrs. Philip Bonnet  
Sally Brogden and Todd Johnson  
Jerry and Mary-Lou Carlidge  
Paul and Cynthia Culley  
Susan M. Gallagher  
Nathaniel Hsieh  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Leedy  
John P. Loree  
Jordan Lubitz  
Anne L. Merogliano  
Aaron Milrad  
Edward and Sally Mueller  
Michael Nordstrom  
Halvey and Alice North  
Mario and Peg Prisco  
Jim and Carol Reed  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rosenmiller  
Gaylord and Elzada Rough  
Chris Congdon Sheridan

John and Susanne Stephenson  
Anne Winslow Wright  
Roy and Betsy Zimmerman

## INDIVIDUAL

Anonymous (in memory of Ted Randall)  
Melvin H. Bernstein  
Martha Rice  
Zoe Coombs  
Christina Corsiglia  
Delores Cross  
Josh DeWeese  
Elizabeth Galacy  
Will Hinton  
Isobel Karl  
Karen Kames  
Wendy Kirst  
Eric Kubinyak  
Carlton B. Moore  
Carla Narett  
Jeff Oestreich  
Elizabeth Jane Pleak  
Annabeth Rosen  
Helene Margolies Rosenbloom  
Sandra Seofield  
Maureen Seamonds  
Chris Staley  
Anne Swadley  
Farley Tobin  
Susan Tunick  
Ward Vorava

## SENIOR CITIZEN/STUDENT

Nancy H. Baldwin  
Bacia Edelman  
Charles Habecker  
Jane P. Harsook  
Ebie F. Muller

## Endowment Pledges for the Museum

As of March 1, 1992, the following individuals had pledged \$1,000 or more toward the Museum's endowment campaign:

Charles J. Lakofsky (AU '46)  
William D. Parry (AU '47) and Elizabeth M. Sibley Parry  
Susan H. Peterson (AU '50)  
Peter A. Slusarski (AU '49)  
Robert (AU '49) and Sue Turner

Alfred University's Board of Trustees has determined that the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred

will be part of the University capital campaign, with a minimum goal of \$100,000. This is intended to support the Museum's current level of operations and programming by the interest income generated from the endowment, with the flexibility of the fund being switched to a construction fund at the appropriate time.

Make your pledge today. Phone the Museum at 607-871-2421 for details. Your support is needed!

The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred  
New York State College of Ceramics  
at Alfred University  
Harder Hall, Fifth Floor  
Alfred, New York 14802

607-871-2421

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**The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred  
Membership Information  
Friends of the Museum of Ceramic Art  
at Alfred**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a Friend at  
the membership level indicated below

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 or more Benefactor  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250-499 Patron  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100-249 Contributing or Business  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50-99 Sustaining  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Family  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Individual  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Senior Citizen/Student\*

\*If Student Membership, please include a  
photocopy of your student I.D. card.

All contributions to the Museum of  
Ceramic Art at Alfred are tax deductible to  
the extent allowed under the law. All  
contributions will be used for collections,  
conservation, exhibitions, or educational  
programs unless otherwise specified.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Cheques should be made payable to:  
The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred*

**Mail to:**

The Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred  
Membership Office  
Harder Hall, Fifth Floor  
New York State College of Ceramics  
at Alfred University  
Alfred, New York 14802  
607-871-2421

**Information**

**Directions:** From Route 17 (Southern Tier  
Expressway), Exit 33 in Almond, follow the  
signs for Alfred University to Route 21  
South, to Route 244, and then into Alfred.  
Turn left at the traffic light onto Pine  
Street. Harder Hall is the large brick  
building on the right and the main  
entrance is on the uphill (east) side. The  
fifth (top) floor of Harder Hall houses part  
of the Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred.

**Handicapped Entrance:** Use ramp on  
southwest side of building in parking area;  
turn right and take elevator to 3rd floor.  
From elevator go straight to the old Scholes  
Library and take elevator to 5th floor.

**Admission:** FREE

**Telephone:** 607-871-2421

**Public Hours:** Spring semester until June 11-  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
and Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. or by appoint-  
ment. Due to the rehab of our space, please  
phone ahead for an appointment.

**Tours:** Group tours should be scheduled 2  
weeks in advance. Call during regular  
business hours for an appointment.

**Cameras:** Photography is permitted only  
with handheld cameras and electronic flash  
in permanent collection exhibit areas only.  
No photos may be taken of travelling  
exhibitions. No photographs taken in the  
Museum may be reproduced, distributed,  
or sold without permission from the  
Museum.

**Smoking:** No Smoking is allowed in the  
fifth floor Harder Hall exhibit area.

**Checkroom:** All umbrellas, parcels and  
bags must be left in the racks available in  
the Museum foyer.

**Membership:** Benefits to members  
include subscription to the Museum  
newsletter, *Ceramophile*; invitations to  
celebrate special exhibitions and educa-  
tional programs; discount on Museum  
exhibition catalogues; invitations to  
participate in Museum sponsored trips; and  
the Annual Report publication.

**The Museum of Ceramic Art  
at Alfred**

**Governing Authority**

Dr. James W. McCauley, Dean  
The New York State College of Ceramics  
at Alfred University

Kathleen Collins, Dean  
School of Art and Design

**Advisory Committee**

Carole H. Coll  
Val Cushing  
Wayne Higby  
Lewis Krevolin  
Mark Lyman  
Edward P. Lyon  
Martin Moskof  
William Parry  
Susan Peterson  
Susan Strong  
Robert Turner  
Margaret Carney Xie

**Staff**

Margaret Carney Xie, Director  
Anne Caster, Adjunct Curator  
Val Cushing, Adjunct Curator  
Andrea Gill, Adjunct Curator  
John Gill, Adjunct Curator  
Wayne Higby, Adjunct Curator  
Museum Assistants: Jeni Moriyama and  
Robin Caster  
Museum Aides: Jenna Meaney, Michelle  
Plucinsky and Chad Trick  
Museum Intern: Tracy Bardynski