



MC 51

## Brother Thomas Bezanson

Friend

### Collection:

Acquisition: Given by Doris K. Fina, Executor for the estate of Sister Angela Fina, February 2014

Processed: Verna Cox Mullen

Updated: Laura Habecker, 2020

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

## Brother Thomas Bezanson

(born Charles Bezanson)

(1929-2007)

Born: August 5, 1929, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Died: August 16, 2007, Erie, Pennsylvania

Parents: Charles Alonso Bezanson and Jessica Revels Bezanson

### Education:

1950 Graduated from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

1968 Graduated with a degree in philosophy from the University of Ottawa. Awarded the University Gold Medal

### Work/Teaching:

1951-58 Studied and traveled in Europe

1953 Began pottery with encouragement of friends Foster and Sandy Beveridge (potters), Fritz Weber, (ceramic engineer)

1958-59 Entered Benedictine Monastery, Weston Priory, Vermont, December 1959

1960-67 Wrote series of articles, (100) *Potter's Notebook*, published by Nova Scotia Department of Education

1976 Visiting lecturer at NYSCC at Alfred University, Alfred, New York

1978 Traveled to Japan, meeting with five noted potters, "National Treasures."

Traveled to Taipei as guest of Dr. Paul Chiang, the director of the National Palace Museum.

1983 Awarded national Endowment for the Arts grant

1985 Became Artist-in-Residence at Mount Saint Benedict in Erie, PA

2007 Died at Mount Saint Benedict in Erie, PA

### Exhibitions

1972 G.W.V. Smith Art Museum, Springfield, MA

1974 St. Mary's University Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

- 1980 G.W.V. Smith Art Museum, Springfield, MA
- 1982 Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA
- 1983 Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA
- 1984 Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA
- 1986 Carlyn Gallery, New York, NY  
Galerie Kieff, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 1987 Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA  
New Acquisitions Gallery, Syracuse, NY
- 1988 Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA  
Mount Saint Benedict, Erie, PA  
Olin Museum, Roanoke College, Salem, VA
- 1989 Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, Amherst, MA  
Seton Memorial Gallery, Saint Peter's School, New Brunswick, NJ  
Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA  
Bennington Museum, Bennington, VT
- 1990 Dee Erlie Gallery, Milwaukee, WI  
Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA  
Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA
- 1991 Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA, "The Continuing Search for the Beautiful"  
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia, "Brother Thomas: Vessels from 1980 to 1990"  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, "Collecting American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, 1971-1991"
- 1992 Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston, MA  
Nada/Mason Gallery, Northfield Mt. Hermon School, Northfield, MA
- 1993 Queensborough Community College Art Gallery, Bayside, NY  
Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA, "Vessel and Visions"  
Canton Art Institute, Canton, OH

- Benedicta Art Center, College of St. Benedicta, St. Josephs,  
MN
- Dimock Gallery, George Washington University, Washington,  
DC
- 1994 Catharine G. Murphy Galleries, College of St. Catherine, St.  
Paul, MN
- Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Of Measures Beyond the  
Perfect"
- 1995 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Gifts from the Fkire II"
- 1997 St. Vincent's College, Latrobe, PA, "Gifts from the Fire: The  
Ceramic Art of Brother Thomas"
- 1998 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 1999 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "A Time for Celebration"
- Green Gallery, Akasaka, Tokyo, Japan
- Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA, "Reflections from the  
Fire"
- 2001 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "The Beauty of the Seen"
- 2003 Southern Vermont Arts Center, Manchester, VT
- Sagendorph Art Gallery, Keene State College, Keene, NH,  
"Visions in Cloth and Clay"
- Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Creator of Luminaries"
- Harrison Gallery, Williamstown, MA, "40 Years of Ceramic Art"
- 2004 Soufer Gallery, New York, NY, "From the Earth: The Ceramic  
Art of Brother Thomas"
- 2005 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "How Great is our Joy!"
- 2006 Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, Erie, PA, "The Journey and  
the Gift"
- Soufer Gallery, New York, NY, "Porcelains by Brother Thomas"
- 2007 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "The Sacred Deed: The Art of  
Brother Thomas"
- Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, New Brunswick,  
Canada
- 2008 Soufer Gallery, New York, NY, "Porcelains by Brother Thomas"

- 2009 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Brother Thomas Tenmoku Masterworks"
- 2010 Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA, "Art of the Spirit: Ceramics by Brother Thomas"
- 2011 Soufer Gallery, New York, NY, "Porcelain Creations"  
Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Ablaze with Spirit: Brother Thomas' Copper Glazes"
- 2013 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Beauty of Form: The Ceramic Art of Brother Thomas"
- 2015 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Received in the Spirit: The Ceramic Art of Brother Thomas"
- 2017 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Large Forms Ceramics by Brother Thomas"
- 2018 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Brother Thomas: Seeking the Sublime"
- 2019 Pucker Gallery, Boston, MA, "Brother Thomas Bezanson: Tall Forms"

Publications/

Lectures

- 1960-67 Articles, "Potter's Notebook," published by Nova Scotia Department of Education, Halifax, Canada
- 1984 Lecture "Contemplative Values in My Work," Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 1986 Article, "Color, Light and Harmony," Studio Potter's Magazine
- 1987 Lecture and article, "The Artist's Word," Everson Museum, Syracuse, NY
- 1988 Lecture, "The Pathways to Simplicity," Mount Saint Benedict, Erie, PA  
Lecture, "Art and Religious Experience," Roanoke College, Salem, VA  
Book, *The Path to the Beautiful*, Pucker Art Publications, Boston, MA
- 1989 Lecture, "Alchemy and the Potter's Art," Bennington Museum, Bennington, VT

- 1990 Lecture, "Ars, Artis," Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA
- 1991 Film, "Gifts from the Fires," Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 1993 Lecture, "Freedom: First Gift/Last Gift," Mount St. Benedict, Erie, PA
- Book, *Gifts from the Fire: The Porcelains of Brother Thomas*, Pucker Art Publications, Boston, MA
- Lecture, "BIG TIGER/little tiger," Walsh College, Canton, OH and Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA
- 1994 Lecture, "A Reflection on 'Recognition' in Art," Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 1995 Lecture, "Viewpoints," Asia Society Forum, New York, NY
- Article, "Outer Space/Inner Space," Studio Potter Magazine
- 1997 Article, "The Millennial Eggs: Beauty and Hope," Pucker Art Publications Exhibition Catalogue, Boston, MA
- 1999 Book, *Creation out of Clay: The Art and Writings of Brother Thomas*, Pucker Art Publications, Boston, MA
- 2001 Book, *Celebrate the Days: The Brother Thomas Book of Days*, Pucker Art Publications, Boston, MA, including "Reflections on the Cup," an article by Brother Thomas.
- 2003 Book, *Offerings of the Spirit: A Tribute to Brother Thomas*, Pucker Art Publications, Boston, MA
- 2004 Article, "Risk and Discovery: New Works by Hideaki Miyamura," Pucker Art Publications Exhibitions Catalogue, Boston, MA
- 2005 Book, *This is the Day: Work and Words by Brother Thomas*, Pucker Art Publications, Boston, MA, including "Wonder and Awe," an article by Brother Thomas
- 2006 Article, "Adam's Secret," in *The Journey and the Gift*, Pucker Art Publications Exhibition Catalogue, Boston, MA
- 2007 Article, "Where the Mountain Met the Sea," in *The Sacred Deed: The Art of Brother Thomas*, Pucker Art Publications Exhibition Catalogue, Boston, MA

## Series Descriptions

The collection consists primarily of correspondence between Brother Thomas Bezanson and Sister Angela Fina, written from October 1992-February 2007. Also included are essays written by Brother Thomas, tributes to Brother Thomas, his obituary, and papers and obituary of Angela Fina.

## Collection

### Box 1

Correspondence, undated

Correspondence, October 1992-November 1998

Correspondence, January 1999-December 2000

Correspondence, January 2001-July 2002

Correspondence, May 2003-February 2007

Brother Thomas essays

Tributes to Brother Thomas

Brother Thomas obituaries

Angela Fina papers and obituary

See also the Vivika Heino Collection, (MC34, Series IV, Box 3) for correspondence between Brother Thomas and Vivika Heino.