

Work by Alfred University's Higby subject of solo exhibition at Rockwell Museum of Art
5/03/18



Wayne Higby

CORNING, NY – Work by Wayne Higby, who serves as the Wayne Higby Director and Chief Curator of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum and as a professor of ceramic art in the Alfred University School of Art and Design, will be featured in a one-person exhibition at the Rockwell Museum of Art in Corning.

Earth and Sky: The Ceramic Art of Wayne Higby opens May 18 and runs through Sept. 4, 2018. The exhibition will feature works curated from Higby's own collection, including selections from his well-known series of bowls, gates, and clouds.

For more than four decades, Higby has been exploring the intersections of form and surface treatment in his three-dimensional landscapes. He is a leading second-generation artist of the American Ceramic Art studio movement, whose panoramic work ranges from raku earthenware to celadon glazed porcelain. His unique vision blends real and imagined spaces, while harnessing the viewer's movement to activate hidden vistas in his work.

In his late-career architectural installation work *EarthCloud* and *SkyWell Falls*, Higby's recurrent theme of the natural world manifests itself on an expansive scale. While his work is not about landscape, he continues to utilize landscape as a poetic vehicle through which to express the universal subjective self. Higby's work continues to be a projection of wonder and the sublime.

His nuanced approach to the ever-changing conditions of the natural world can be traced from his sketches through to

his finished works. Corresponding preparatory works accompany each series and provide a glimpse into the artistic process. The practice of creating multiple studies of one location was an approach used by 19th century landscape painters. This exhibition provides a contemporary response to the American landscape tradition as it engages the ideals represented by the Rockwell Museum's Hudson River School collection on view in the permanent Visions of America Gallery on the third floor of the Museum.

Higby's artwork is held in the permanent collections of numerous art museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the National Art Museum of China, Beijing, the Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo and the Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia.

An opening reception for Earth and Sky will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. (remarks at 6 p.m.) on Friday, May 18 at the Rockwell Museum of Art, 111 Cedar St., Corning. Admission is free for museum members, \$10 for non-members and \$5 for students. Advanced reservation is required by 5 p.m. May 17 and can be made by calling 607-937-5386.