

AU faculty, alumni participate in Denver Art Museum ceramics symposium

11/11/11

Several Alfred University faculty members and alumni of the College of Ceramics at AU participated in a major ceramics symposium at the Denver Art Museum this fall. The symposium, titled "Overthrown: The State of Contemporary Ceramics," focused on the importance of ceramics as a contemporary art medium. Ezra Shales, associate professor of art history at Alfred University, was moderator for the panel discussions with "Overthrown" artists. AU Turner Fellow and visiting Assistant Professor Heather Mae Erickson; School of Art & Design Professor Walter McConnell, a member of the AU class of 1986; and 2005 alumnus Del Harrow also participated in the symposium on the panel of "Overthrown" artists. Erickson is the Robert Chapman Turner Teaching Fellow in Ceramic Art. She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in crafts-ceramics from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and a master of fine arts degree in ceramics from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Her ceramic art has been exhibited across the United States and internationally. McConnell is a ceramicist and professor of art. He earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in ceramics and painting from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and a master of fine arts degree in ceramics from Alfred University. He has exhibited in galleries throughout the country and has received several artist grants and other awards for his ceramics work. Harrow is currently an assistant professor of art at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Oregon and is a graduate of the AU College of Ceramics' master of fine arts program. His ceramics pieces have been included in solo, group and juried exhibitions nationwide. Shales holds a bachelor of arts degree in Latin and Greek from Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT; a master of fine arts degree in painting from Hunter College, New York City; and a Ph.D. in decorative arts, design and culture from the Bard Graduate Center, New York City. He has had articles and essays featured in several major art and design journals and has published a book, "Made in Newark: Cultivating Industrial Arts and Municipal Identity in the Progressive Era."