

Ceramic historian to deliver annual Perkins Lecture at Alfred University

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Paul Greenhalgh, president of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, has been invited to present the fourth annual Dorothy Wilson Perkins Ceramic History Lecture sponsored by the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University. His lecture, entitled "Social Complexity and the Historiography of Ceramic," will be presented at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, in Holmes Auditorium on the AU campus. His upcoming talk will argue that a consistent idea of the history of ceramic is still in the process of construction. Through several case studies from within the European tradition, ranging from the Classical period to the Renaissance, the 19th century and the contemporary scene, this lecture will suggest how the history of ceramic might be characterized. He will demonstrate that complexity theory, developed among research scientists, is of use to ceramic historians. Prior to becoming president of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Greenhalgh was the head of research at London's Victoria and Albert Museum. His most recent undertaking for the Victoria and Albert Museum was curating Art Nouveau 1890-1914, the largest exhibition ever staged on the subject. Greenhalgh is a historian specializing in the period 1850 - 1940 and a theoretician of contemporary culture. He trained at the University of Reading and London's Courtauld Institute of Art. He has published, taught, and organized museum exhibitions on many aspects of art and society. This is the fourth in a continuing series of lectures by noted experts in the field of ceramic history. Garth Clark presented the inaugural Dorothy Wilson Perkins Ceramic History lecture, "Between a Toilet and a Hard Place: Is the Ceramic Avant Garde a Contradiction in Terms" in October 1998; Susan Peterson presented the second lecture, "Faux and Real Folk Art: the Story of Mingei" in October 1999; and Lopold Foulem presented "Ceramics Paradigms and Paradigms for Ceramics" last October. The lecture series is funded through an endowment gift from Dr. Lyle Perkins, an Alfred University alumnus who received both his BFA and MFA degrees from Alfred before obtaining a Ph.D. from Ohio State University, in memory of his wife, Dr. Dorothy Wilson Perkins, who earned her BFA from Alfred in 1939 before receiving her master's and then her Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State. Excerpts or complete transcripts of past Dorothy Wilson Perkins Ceramic History lectures may be obtained from the Museum's website at www.ceramicsmuseum.alfred... or by calling the Museum offices at 607-871-2421.