

NEWSLETTER VOLUME XXXIV NUMBER 9 JUNE 2024



Three-Quarter Moon, 1985, Toshiko Takaezu (1922-2011). Stoneware with glaze. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Gift of Mary-Louise Meyer in memory of Norman Meyer. Reproduced with permission.

Photograph © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

"Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction"

by Nonie Gadsden, Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Sponsored by Marylin Chou

Monday, June 10 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Register

at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4317074212778/WN B0ZNWkh
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We hope you can join us online on Monday, June 10 for the lecture with Nonie Gadsden about Toshiko Takaezu and her pioneering work in ceramics.

The Museum of Fine Arts' current exhibition 'Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction' highlights the work of a technically masterful and innovative artist best known for her ceramic sculptures which she considered abstract paintings

in the round. Toshiko Takaezu was a key figure in the reconceptualization of ceramics in the 1950s, shifting ideas from the functional craft tradition to the realm of fine art. This exhibition argues that Takaezu's cross-cultural and multidisciplinary practice makes her one of the most compelling American Abstract artists of the 20th century. Hear from exhibition curator Nonie Gadsden, the MFA's Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, about Takaezu's gestural style, distinctive palettes, and complex layering of glazes, and get a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the exhibition.

Nonie Gadsden earned her B.A. from Yale College and her M.A. from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. Gadsden is responsible for a wide range of artwork at the MFA including decorative arts and sculpture from North, Central and South America, from ancient times through the 20th century. Her recent work includes mounting the exhibition 'Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction' (2023-24), serving as lead curator for 'Women Take the Floor' (2019-2021); developing new 20th century galleries, including "Art and Jazz" and "Folk Meets Modernism" (opened 2022); and publishing a book based on the MFA's collection of American modern design, *America Goes Modern: The Rise of the Industrial Designer* (2022).

Register here for the Zoom lecture:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4317074212778/WN B0ZNWkhT1 GSoRb6nH06Fg



'Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction' exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Photograph © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



'Confected, Borrowed & Blue - Transferware by Paul Scott,' on Exhibit at the Shelburne Museum

The Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont, is presenting an exhibit of ceramic works by former CCC lecturer, Paul Scott from May 11 to October 20, 2024. A delightful museum on the shores of beautiful Lake Champlain, this exhibit is another good reason for a summer road trip there!

The centerpiece of the solo exhibit, curated by Kory Rogers, is Paul Scott's newest commissioned work seen above, "Cumbrian Blue(s), New American Scenery, (Sampler Jug No:10), Shelburne & Sugar," which references the connection between the 18th and 19th century sugar trade and the fortune that was the basis of the Shelburne Museum collection. The image shown below is from Paul Scott's November 2021 lecture to the CCC,, "Cumbrian Blues: Updated Narratives, Transferware for the 21st Century."

For more information, go to https://shelburnemuseum.org/current/



Cumbrian Blue(s), Flower Cup No:4.' Paul Scott 2021. Cut detail from Enoch Wood & Sons Castles pattern plate (c. 1930), in transferware cup c. 1820, H. 4 5/16", h. 11cm. Maureen Michaelson Collection.

San Francisco Ceramic Circle: Link to Recorded Lecture

The San Francisco Ceramic Circle has generously shared the link below to the recording of their May 12 lecture, "Larger Than Life: The Artwork of Tony Natsoulas."

<u>Tony Natsoulas SFCC May2024.mp4</u> <u>drive.google.com</u>

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

Ongoing: To June 2, the International Ceramic Art Fair at the Gardiner Museum in Toronto, Canada. For more information, go to https://icaf.gardinermuseum.com/?

Ongoing: To August 4 at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life at Historic Deerfield, 'Unnamed Figures: Black Presence and Absence in the Early American North.' Through 97 remarkable works including paintings, needlework, ceramics, and photographs, the exhibition invites visitors to focus on figures who appear in—or are omitted from—early American images and will challenge conventional narratives that have minimized early Black histories in the North. The exhibition, originally shown at the American Folk Art Museum in New York City, was hailed by the New York Times as "A vitally important, deeply moving show..." Included with general admission.

For more information, go to https://www.historic-deerfield.org/exhibitions/

Ongoing: To August 18 at the Everson Museum, Syracuse, New York: 'A Journey through Haudenosaunee Culture and Clay.' Dive into the captivating world of O'tá:ra by Akwesasne Mohawk artist Natasha Smoke Santiago. Natasha has spent the last two decades mastering traditional Haudenosaunee pottery techniques, infusing her work with storytelling, activism, and exploration of native foodways. From seed keeping experiments to collaborations with Indigenous chefs, each piece tells a unique story. O'tá:ra, meaning "our clay" and "our clan," celebrates the foundational role of clay in Haudenosaunee culture.

Also, **to October 20**, 'Claymania at the Everson: Clayscapes,' a tribute to clay's ubiquitous presence in our lives, and to the powerful metaphorical and spiritual role that it can play. The Everson's famous collection of ceramics is filled with works that explore the landscape—from artist Robert Arneson's monumental celebration of California's mountainous landscape to Uruguayan-born Lidya Buzio's earthy vessels adorned with the skyline of her adopted home in New York City. For information, go to https://everson.org

Ongoing: Christie's currently has an online sale of ceramics by Picasso, many of them colorful and/or charming. To see the items on offer, go to https://onlineonly.christies.com/s/picasso-ceramics/lots/3462? COSID=42824788&cid=DM511623&bid=415580233







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