



Large "Oriental" Vase, painted by Maria Longworth Nichols for Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, 1883.

"Private Eye: How a Curatorial Vision Influenced  
a Personal Collection"

by Ulysses Grant Dietz, Chief Curator Emeritus, the Newark Museum,  
New Jersey

Sponsored by Celia Hopkinson and Amy Parenti

Monday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, Greenwich,  
Connecticut with Tea Following

and Wednesday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

Zoom Sponsor: Joanne Fallon

Register for the Zoom Seminar at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6917132139490/WN\\_emNzSRZWT0SktmssRphKbw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6917132139490/WN_emNzSRZWT0SktmssRphKbw)

Please join us online on Monday, May 20 for the in person meeting with Ulysses Dietz, followed by tea at the splendid Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut. For those unable to get to Greenwich that day, we offer a second lecture via Zoom on Wednesday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m., for which the registration link is above and below.

From 1980 until 2017 Ulysses Dietz collected ceramics for the Newark Museum—covering a wide range of periods and types—with a specialty in art pottery and studio ceramics. He was pretty much a *tabula rasa* when he got to Newark from Winterthur, and quickly focused on the idea of ceramics as art—a notion that bridged the Arts & Crafts movement into the Contemporary Craft Movement of the post-WWII period. He didn't collect much for himself; but after 37 years, he realized that he actually had a modest collection of ceramics that was absolutely shaped and inspired by the collecting he did for the museum. This talk will be a personal look at what he bought for Newark, what he ended up owning, and how his development of a curatorial eye shaped what he acquired for himself.

Ulysses Grant Dietz served as curator of Decorative Arts at The Newark Museum from 1980 until 2017 and was appointed Chief Curator in 2012. He received his BA in French from Yale University in 1977, and his MA in American Material Culture from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program in 1980.

As the curator of 115 exhibitions covering all aspects of the decorative arts from colonial to contemporary, he studied and collected furniture, silver, base metals, glass, ceramics, textiles, and jewelry. He is particularly proud of his work on the Museum's National Historic Landmark Ballantine House, built in 1885. The Ballantine House was reinterpreted between 1992 and 1994 with a ground-breaking installation called *House & Home*.

Mr. Dietz has published numerous articles on decorative arts, drawn from the Newark Museum's nationally known collections. His most recent publications are *Masterpieces of Art Pottery, 1880-1930*, from the Newark Museum in 2009, and *Dream House: The White House as an American Home*, released in September 2009 by Acanthus Press in New York. His last book as curator was published in 2017, *Jewelry from Pearls to Platinum to Plastic*, which catalogues the impressive collection held by the Newark Museum that derives from the days when jewelry was a major Newark industry.

Mr. Dietz is a great-great grandson of Ulysses and Julia Grant. His is a trustee of the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University, and of the Society of Presidential Descendants.

Register here for the Zoom lecture:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6917132139490/WN\\_emNzSRZWToSktmssRphKbw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/6917132139490/WN_emNzSRZWToSktmssRphKbw)

Please note that Zoom has instituted updates, so make sure to have updated your Zoom account before clicking on the link sent to you by Zoom for the May 22 lecture.



Dinner plate, China, 1868. One of seven dinner plates from the Ulysses S. Grant Service ordered by Julia Grant in 1867-68. Given to the Newark Museum by Mr. Dietz's parents at his request.

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### June Bonus Lecture!

On June 10 at 2:00 p.m., the CCC is pleased to present a bonus lecture, "Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction," to be given by Nonie Gadsden, the Katherine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, via Zoom. Takaezu's work is enjoying a posthumous celebration at museums around the country, including the Noguchi Museum in Queens, and we are delighted to be able to present the curator of the Boston MFA's exhibition to share with us the significance of Takaezu's 20th century work. The link to register for this lecture is as follows: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4317074212778/WN\\_B0ZNWkhT1GSoRb6nH06Fg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4317074212778/WN_B0ZNWkhT1GSoRb6nH06Fg).

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The Proposed Slate of Officers for  
the Connecticut Ceramics Circle for 2024-2025

The May 20 meeting will also serve as the CCC's Annual Meeting. The following slate of officers is proposed for 2024-2025. If there are any objections to this slate, please register your opinion by emailing CCC Secretary, Ellen Brennan-Galvin at [ellen.brennangalvin@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.brennangalvin@gmail.com). Thank you.

Officers

Co-President	Jennifer Ketay Brock
Co-President	Natalie Robinson
Vice President	Linda Green
Treasurer	Irene Willisich
Secretary	Ellen Brennan-Galvn

Committee Chairs

Archivist	Richard White
Credentials	Gail Ahern
Membership & Directory	Marylin Chou Nick Stagliano
Newsletter	Jennifer Ketay Brock
Program	Letitia Roberts
Publicity	Cynthia Herbert
Research	Natalie Robinson
Nominating	Nick Stagliano
Website and Social Media	Linda Green

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Save the Date for the Third Annual Connecticut Ceramics Circle  
Members Tea on Thursday, July 11

We are thrilled to announce the return of our Members Tea at the lovely home of Ellen Brennan-Galvin in Greenwich on Thursday, July 11. Watch for an invitation in your mailbox and mark it on your calendar!

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Beginning Saturday April 27 and running to June 7, the Clay Arts Center presents an exhibit, Transitions, by ceramist Lydia C. Thompson at 40 Beech Street, Port Chester, New York 10573. More information at [www.clayartcenter.org](http://www.clayartcenter.org). Also of note is the Second Annual Port Chester Arts Festival, presented by Clay Art Center and Neptune In June. The festival will take place on Saturday, June 1 beginning at 11:00 a.m. It will take place at various locations throughout the day in Port Chester until 4:00 p.m.

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Crinoline *Figure*, Meissen, circa 1737, modelled by J. J. Kaendler.

### Bonham's Paris April Sale of Rare Meissen Piece

The Meissen Crinoline Figure from the collection of Mrs. Charles E. Dunlap sold on April 8 at Bonham's Paris for 127,400 Euros, quite a bit higher than the estimate.

As Bonham's tells us, "Porcelain figures and groups were an essential part of table culture at European courts in the 18th century. The discovery of the secret of hard-paste porcelain at Meissen around 1710 led to the replacement

of sugar sculpture on the table with the finer and more durable material that could also be painted and gilded. The elaborate table sculptures were an expression of beauty and the grandeur of the court but were also an amusing and sophisticated tableau to stimulate conversation among the diners and a diversion from the sometimes-rigid court etiquette." This very fine example helps us to envision that 18th century practice.

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## Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

**May 15:** The Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island announces their Annual Meeting, Luncheon and Lecture at 11:30 a.m. at the Wannamoisett Country Club in Rumford, Rhode Island, with Cali Almy, ceramic artist and educator, to address them after the luncheon. The cost is \$35.00; to attend, please contact Daisy Schnepel at [daisy.schnepel@verizon.net](mailto:daisy.schnepel@verizon.net) by May 6.

**May 19:** The Peter Freeman, Inc. gallery at 140 Grand Street in New York presents *Made in Cologne*, a selection of ceramic sculptures produced in the atelier of Niels Dietrich. Over the past forty years, Dietrich has established an essential workshop used by some of the most important contemporary artists. To July 19. More information at [www.peterfreemaninc.com](http://www.peterfreemaninc.com).

**Ongoing:** The San Francisco Ceramic Circle has generously shared the link from their April 14 Zoom lecture for those who missed it the first time around.

"All Walks of Life: Meissen Porcelain Figures of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century" was given by Vanessa Sigalas, Associate Curator of Collections Research, at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut, and the link follows:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4\\_qKubapu\\_ZrgzN1FlInymtej44qkrHAVXRI\\_wC7czFRKOi4wi6Cw0B0GomaGbMQ.4zqy0u-2ltgGUBOI](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4_qKubapu_ZrgzN1FlInymtej44qkrHAVXRI_wC7czFRKOi4wi6Cw0B0GomaGbMQ.4zqy0u-2ltgGUBOI)

**Ongoing:** "Howard Kottler: The Iconoclast Troublemaker," a video by Judith Schwartz on this American ceramist, conceptual artist and professor of ceramics at the University of Washington, is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md9XMYJJkl>.

**Ongoing:** Though the exhibit is now closed, the Gardiner Museum in Toronto invites you to preorder the stunning Magdalene Odundo exhibition catalogue, *Magdalene Odundo: A dialogue with Objects* at <https://www.gardinermuseum.on.ca/shop/product/magdalene-odundo-a-dialogue-with-objects/>.

**Ongoing:** The website of the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, California has a video of a talk by ceramics artist Claudia Solózano on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGPONLwPkMk>. The museum has now announced their four new artists in residence; their website shows some exciting works by each artist, as well as information on each of them at [www.amoca.org](http://www.amoca.org).

**Ongoing Through June 2:** 'The Lost Generation: Women Ceramicists and the Cuban Avant-Garde,' an exhibit at the McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College, 2100 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston.

**May 20:** "Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction" by Nonie Gadsden, Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, via Zoom. Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4317074212778/WN\\_B0ZNWkhT1GSoRb6nH06Fg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4317074212778/WN_B0ZNWkhT1GSoRb6nH06Fg).

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