



Pair of Figures of "Beggar Musicians," German, Meissen Porcelain Manufactory, models by Johann Joachim Kaendler (1706–1775). Original year of modelling: c. 1736; beggar-woman reworked later. Date of porcelain paste: both c. 1730–65; date of decoration: both 18th century. Hard-paste porcelain. Heights: man 5 ¼ in. (13.4 cm.); woman 5 1/8 in. (13 cm.). Model no. man: 918; woman: 915. Shimmerman Collection nos. MPBP_16 & 17.

“All Walks of Life: Meissen Porcelain Figures of the Eighteenth Century”

by Dr. Vanessa Sigalas,

David Dangremond Associate Curator for Collections Research
at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford

Sponsored by Carol Lyden

Monday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1717242635507/WN_JSl1eWzuR6eOEFkfkct_A

Please join the Connecticut Ceramics Circle on Monday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m., as Dr. Vanessa Sigalas guides us through a captivating exploration of 18th-century life in Saxony, Paris, London, and St. Petersburg, using Meissen porcelain sculptures from the Alan Shimmerman Collection in Toronto, Canada, as well as from the Wadsworth Atheneum's collection in Hartford.

Renowned master modeler Johann Joachim Kaendler, in collaboration with his fellow modelers at Meissen, portrayed glimpses of daily existence, meticulously capturing even the minutest details. From the carefully arranged trinkets of a street vendor to the intimate script of a love letter and the culinary tools of a cook preparing a hare, Kaendler's work unveils the richness of *All Walks of Life*.

The Alan Shimmerman Collection, with its emphasis on groups of criers (street sellers) and artisans, offers a fresh perspective on the inception, production, and dissemination of Meissen porcelain. Dr. Sigalas' lecture is based on her recently published collection catalogue bearing the same title, providing an immersive journey into the intricate world of eighteenth-century European society as depicted through these masterfully crafted sculptures.

Vanessa Sigalas joined the Wadsworth Atheneum in 2011, serving in various capacities and focusing mainly on researching the European art and decorative arts collections. Despite her deep love for books and archives, Sigalas has always enjoyed the hands-on work with objects. In 2013, she assisted with the Storage Renovation and Relocation Project, and in 2015 she was part of the team to reinstall the European art collections, where she assisted the curatorial team and led the installation team of the decorative arts department.

As an art historian, Sigalas specializes in European art from the seventeenth to the first half of the twentieth centuries, especially eighteenth- and nineteenth-century German porcelain. One of her research interests is the connection between ivory and porcelain, particularly at the Dresden Court of Augustus the Strong (1670-1733). At the Wadsworth, she works with American and European decorative arts and sculpture from the ancient to the modern worlds, but she also explores its collections of non-Western art.

Sigalas holds a Dr. phil. in Art History from the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany. She has published in a variety of journals, exhibition catalogues, and books. Her latest book, *All Walks of Life: A Journey with the Alan Shimmerman Collection* (2022), focuses on Meissen porcelain figures from the eighteenth century. In addition, she has taken on the role of editor for several publications, with her most recent work being *MORGAN—The Collector: Essays in Honor of Linda Roth's 40th Anniversary at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art*, co-edited with Jennifer Tonkovich. Additionally, she served as the managing editor of the *American Ceramic Circle Journal* from 2015 to 2023.

Sigalas has curated exhibitions in Germany and the US. Her most recent exhibitions at the Wadsworth include, in conjunction with director Matthew Hargraves, *“Between Life & Death: Art and the Afterlife”* (Fall 2023), as well as the community-focused and staff-curated exhibition, *“Styling Identities: Hair’s Tangled Histories,”* which was on view until August 2024.

Register here for the Zoom Lecture on Monday, December 9:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1717242635507/WN_JSI1eWzuR6eOefEKfkt_A

Please Note that Zoom has instituted updates, so please make sure you've updated your Zoom account before clicking on the link sent to you by Zoom for the November 12 lecture.



Figure of a “Drunken Peasant,” German, Meissen Porcelain Manufactory, Johann Joachim Kaendler (1706–1775). Original year of modelling: c. 1740. Date of porcelain paste: 18th century. Date of decoration: 18th century. Hard-paste porcelain. No marks. Height 6 5/8 in. (16.8 cm.). Model no. unknown, Shimmerman Collection no. MPBP_3.

Invitation to Gallery Viewing on December 19, Open to Membership!

You are invited on Thursday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. to visit an Upper East Side Townhouse/Gallery in New York City to see their fine European ceramics, as well as some contemporary artists. The gallery viewing will be followed by lunch (Dutch treat as always). Space is limited, so RSVP right away, please, to Natalie Robinson at natrobs@gmail.com or at 914.725.2815!

*****|

Invitation to Greenwich Decorative Arts Society Lecture, December 2

We had the pleasure of welcoming many GDAS members at our November 11 lecture at the Bruce Museum, and we have been reciprocally invited to attend the next GDAS lecture at the Bruce, given by Phillip D. Zimmerman on Monday, December 2.

An interest in early American furniture has been constant throughout Mr. Zimmerman's career. His book is on the furniture and other collections of two important houses (1771 and 1774) owned by the Historic Odessa Foundation in Odessa, Delaware. Each house retains many original furnishings and was actively preserved at a very early date. The resulting connections between objects and interpretive possibilities are extraordinary and have already spawned several smaller publications. Other furniture topics, notably the work of William Savery of Philadelphia, occupy Mr. Zimmerman's time and energy.

As always, a delicious afternoon tea will be served following the lecture.

We hope that you will attend what sounds like a fascinating lecture! Please RSVP as soon as possible to CCC Co-President Natalie Robinson at natrobs@gmail.com.

Additions and Corrections for the Connecticut Ceramics Circle Directory

Please add the following information to your 2024-2025 Directory:

Samantha Minshull, 177 Park Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205; 603.566.2065, siminshull@gmail.com.

Miranda Thomas Shackleton, P. O. Box 248, Bridgewater, VT 05024; 802.777.5231, miranda@Shackletonthomas.com.

The last four digits of Erin Mandley's telephone number should be 2730.



Virtual Meet and Greet with 2024-2025 Artists in Residence!

At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, the Clay Art Center will have a Virtual Artist Talk with their Artists in Residence and their Westchester Community Foundation Fellow. Join this program to learn more about these emerging artists, their work, processes and inspirations.

Artists are Carley Holzem; Evelyn Mtika in her second year of residence; Christine Raposas, and Stephanie Perez.

Click [here](#) to learn more about these talented artists.

And register here for the Meet and Greet:

<https://www.clayartcenter.org/events-at-clayartcenter/2024/12/virtual-meet-amp-greet-with-2024-2025-artists-in-residence>.

A special event at the Center at 40 Beech Street in Port Chester, New York, will be ornament painting on Saturday, December 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., which will include sweet treats and seasonal flavors!

And don't forget the ongoing Holiday Market, open to December 23.

<https://www.clayartcenter.org/>

AUCTION WATCH: Results

Bonhams Paris branch, Cornette de Saint Cyr, reported some fine auction results from their November 14 auction:

A pair of rare Dutch Delft equestrian statues, circa 1725-50, sold for 23,040 Euros, and a very large Delftware covered vase, circa 1740, sold for 20,480 Euros. These were from the private collection, assembled over 25 years, of a Dutch collector. Images of these items are below.



Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

December 8: The French Porcelain Society Living Room Lecture, "The Hausmaler: Independent German Decorators of Ceramics and Glass," by Errol and Henry Manners will be given at 1:00 p.m. ET on Zoom from London.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83860843834?pwd=MQRI6aceNDUuqJYt3PkfbhUYmdTg6P.1>

Meeting ID: **838 6084 3834**

Passcode: **400264**

Ongoing: The Transferware Collectors Club has published their latest Bulletin. It is available online to members, with an article available to all at https://www.transferwarecollectorsclub.org/sites/default/files/bulletins/24_tcc_xxv_no2-feature.pdf

Ongoing at the Everson Museum: Through March 30, 2025, the Everson presents the exhibit 'It Came from the 70s,' ceramics from their collection. The museum also has a Festival of Trees and Light from December 5 to 15. <https://everson.org> for more information.

January 13: "City of Tiles: New York from Subway Stations to the Tops of Skyscrapers," a lecture by Francis Morrone, architectural historian and author. Presented by the Connecticut Ceramics Circle at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.