

[Click Here To View Images and for a Printable Version](#)



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXX

NUMBER 6

MARCH 2020

"Building a Collection: The Robert A. Ellison Jr. Collection of American Art Pottery at The Metropolitan Museum of Art"

By Adrienne Spinozzi, Assistant Research Curator, American Wing, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

On Monday, March 9 at 1:15 p.m., Adrienne Spinozzi will share with us the story of the Ellison Collection of American Art Pottery, donated to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2017 and 2018, which transformed this museum's collection of American ceramics of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Built over a period of forty years by pioneering New York City-based collector Robert A. Ellison Jr., it encompasses the major makers, designers, and artists, working in clay from about 1876 through the mid-1950s; it includes some of the nation's most celebrated art potters and potteries such as William Grueby, Newcomb Pottery, and Rookwood, and lesser-known artists such as William J. Walley. This lecture will look at the early history of collecting ceramics at The Met and will show how this unparalleled collection builds on this long-standing tradition. It will also highlight Ellison's most recent gift to the museum, a collection of 20th- and 21st-century ceramics given in honor of the Met's 150th anniversary in 2020.



Vase, Frederick Hurten Rhead and Agnes Rhead, University City, Missouri, 1910. Earthenware, H. 9 1/8". Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Gift of Robert A. Ellison Jr., 2017 (2017.357.4). Photograph by Robert A. Ellison Jr.

Adrienne Spinozzi is an Assistant Research Curator of American Decorative Arts at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she specializes in American ceramics and 19th- and 20th-century American decorative arts. She studied Art History, English literature and Studio Art/Ceramics at Hartwick College, and received a Master of Arts in 2006 from The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture. From 2001-2002, a Fulbright Fellowship to Cheju-do, South Korea made possible an Independent study of traditional ceramic techniques; intensive study of Korean language, culture, and arts; as well as an English Teaching Assistantship.

She is currently organizing two exhibitions on ceramics: one is a selection of 20th- and 21st-century objects from pioneering collector, Robert A. Ellison Jr. (spring 2021); the other is an exhibition of 19th-century stoneware from Old Edgefield District, South Carolina, the American Wing's first exhibition to highlight the work of enslaved and freed African American artisans (spring 2022). Her most recent publication is *American Art Pottery: The Robert A. Ellison Jr. Collection* (with Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen and Martin Eidelberg, 2018). She currently serves on the Curatorial Advisory Board of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms and is the Vice President of the American Ceramic Circle.

The lecture is at 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830, with tea to follow. For more information, ctcsc.org or 203.912.7226.

The Treasure Sale Could Use Some More Treasure!

The CCSC Treasure Sale will be held on March 9, the next meeting. A few more ceramic and glass items, as well as costume jewelry and books are needed to fill out the offerings already received. Any additional contributions to the sale will be gratefully accepted by 12:30 p.m. that day. Thank you!

Spring 2020 Seminar Series at Bard Graduate Center

There are two lectures in this series of special interest to lovers of ceramics:

The first is on March 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and it is given by Sequoia Miller, now Chief Curator of the Gardiner Museum and a former recipient of a CCSC Research Grant. His topic is, "Blackface Harlequins and Other Challenges of New Museology." The lecture will take place at the Bard Graduate Center's Lecture Hall at 38 West 86th Street, New York. For information and to register for this free lecture, go to bgc.bard.edu/events.

The second lecture of interest is the Iris Foundation Awards Lecture being given on March 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. by Sanchita Balachandran, Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Archeological Museum in Baltimore, "Marked in Clay: Interdisciplinary Methods to Reimagine Ancient Greek Potters at Work." The lecture will take place at the Bard Graduate Center's Lecture Hall at 38 West 86th Street, New York. Again, for information and to register for this free lecture, go to bgc.bard.edu/events.



Left: Vase, Mary Chase Perry, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, Michigan, ca. 1904. Earthenware, H. 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Gift of Robert A. Ellison Jr., 2018 (2018.294.181). Photograph by Robert A. Ellison Jr.

Right: Vase, Hugh C. Robertson, Dedham Pottery, Dedham, Massachusetts, ca. 1896-1908. Stoneware, H. 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Gift of Robert A. Ellison Jr., 2018 (2018.294.68). Photograph by Robert A. Ellison Jr.

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

March 2: "Creating Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library." Lecture by Jeff Groff, Estate Historian, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Email greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com for information and to register.

March 9: "Building a Collection: The Robert A. Ellison Jr. Collection of American Art Pottery at The Metropolitan Museum of Art." Lecture by Adrienne Spinozzi, Assistant Research Curator, American Wing, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830. More information at ctcsc.org or call 203.912.7226.

March 16: "Between Myth and Ritual: Clay in India." Talk by ceramist Modhvi Subrahmanian, currently the artist in residence at Hunter College, New York. Her work includes sculptures, containers and installations. The Clay Art Center, 40 Beech Street, Port Chester, New York 10573 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free, to register go to clayartcenter.org.

March 25: "Pictures Worth a Thousand Pots: Tracing Ceramics in Art." Lecture by Angelika R. Kuettner, Associate Curator of Ceramics and Glass, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia. Ceramic Study Club of Boston, 1:00 p.m., King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston. For information and to register, go to chinastudentsclub.org.

March 26: "Simply Riveting, Broken and Mended Ceramics." Lecture by Angelika Kuettner, Associate Curator of Ceramics and Glass, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island, 11:00 a.m. at the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Art, Providence, Rhode Island. Contact daisy.schnepel@verizon.net for reservations and information.



Copyright © 2020, Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

c/o Irene Willisch, 14 Bryon Road, Old Greenwich, Connecticut 06870

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle · 1424 Sage Street · Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103 · USA

