



Early Neoclassical *Mantel Clock*, Vienna Factory, circa 1770. Hard-paste porcelain mounted on a gilt-metal base. Marked twice in underglaze blue with the Vienna *Bindenschild* and three dots.
Lost to the Bloch-Bauer family of Vienna, Austria, by persecution.

Join us for the Joint Zoom Lecture Presented by the Connecticut
Ceramics Circle and the Greenwich Decorative Arts Society

“The Lost Porcelain of World War II: Restitution and Ceramics”

by Lucian Simmons, Vice Chairman, Worldwide Head of Restitution
and Senior Specialist, Global Fine Arts Department, Sotheby's NY

Sponsored by CCC Member Carol Lyden

Monday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom - Register at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/5016733669644/WN_nZ_8BuEfQCS_GOgTSK_uqUg

Lucian Simmons will speak about the fate of many of the great ceramics collections of pre-war Europe. He will touch on the Meissen collections of Franz and Margarete Oppenheimer and Hermine Feist, as well as the encyclopedic collections of Emma Budge and the Rothschild family. He will also discuss the role ceramics played in philanthropy and connoisseurship in Weimar Germany, giving examples from collections that he has researched.

Lucian Simmons is Vice Chairman, Worldwide Head of Restitution and Senior Specialist, Global Fine Arts Department Sotheby's New York, which he joined in 1995. He works extensively with art collectors and their advisors throughout North America and Europe. He has been involved in the sale of some of the most significant artworks to come to auction in recent years, including *Onement VI* by Barnett Newman (sold for \$43.8 million in May 2013) and *Bildnis Gertha Felsöványi* by Gustav Klimt (sold for £24.8 million in June 2015). He has worked on restitution and provenance issues since 1997 and has been involved in the resolution of claims to artworks worth in excess of \$850 million.

Mr. Simmons has a legal background, having been called to the Bar in 1984 and later re-qualified as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales, which he remains. Prior to joining Sotheby's, he was a partner in the London City Law Firm of Barlow, Lyde and Gilbert.

Mr. Simmons has spoken widely on art market issues and in particular on the displacement of art during WWII. He gives regular seminars at universities and law schools across North America and has given evidence to the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport of the House of Commons, London, to the European Parliament, Brussels, and to the Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets.

Register for the lecture at:

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Two Lidded Vases, Meissen, circa 1730-35, painted porcelain, extremely rare. H 12.29 in. (31.5 cm) × w 7.5 in. (19.2 cm) × d 6.44 in. (16.5 cm), Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. Lost to the Oppenheimer Family through persecution.

The New-York Historical Society Presents *Crafting Freedom: The Life and Legacy of Free Black Potter Thomas W. Commeraw*

In December 2020, Mark Shapiro lectured to the CCC about Thomas Commeraw, among other African-American potters, and it is exciting to see that this potter's work is being recognized by the New-York Historical Society on Central Park West in Manhattan until May 28, 2023. As part of the exhibit, on April 10, 2023, historian Leslie Harris will join David M. Rubenstein in conversation to discuss the shadow of slavery and the history of African Americans in New York City from the early days of New Amsterdam to the Civil War era.

As The New-York Historical Society tells us at <https://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/crafting-freedom-thomas-commeraw1>, *Crafting Freedom: The Life and Legacy of Free Black Potter Thomas W. Commeraw* is the first exhibition to bring overdue attention to a skilled craftsman whose racial identity was long overlooked. Born enslaved, Commeraw rose to prominence as a free Black entrepreneur, owning and operating a successful pottery. Over a period of two decades, Commeraw amassed property, engaged in debates over state and national politics, and participated in the life of New York City's free Black community. The exhibition explores Commeraw's multi-faceted history—as a craftsman, business owner, family man, and citizen.

Crafting Freedom presents more than 20 stoneware jars and jugs produced by Commeraw's pottery between the late 1790s and 1819 alongside examples by his contemporaries, exploring the production, decoration, and markings of these beautiful utilitarian forms. The potter's personal, political, and civic activity come alive through other artifacts, newspaper clippings, broadsides, books, and documents, including a certificate of freedom bearing Commeraw's signature and first-hand accounts of his fraught journey to Sierra Leone with the American Colonization Society.



Jug, Thomas W, Commeraw, New York City, 1797-1819, salt-glazed stoneware. Overall: 12 in. x 7 3/4 in. (30.5 x 19.7 cm). New-York Historical Society. Purchased from Elie Nadelman, 1937.820.

Save the Date! June Bonus Lecture!

We are very excited to announce that renowned potter, Jennifer McCurdy, will be our bonus lecturer on Monday, June 12 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Mark your calendars and register for the lecture at our website, www.cceramicsc.org.

Bard Graduate Center Presents Staging the Table in Europe 1500-1800, February 17 to July 9, 2023

Staging the Table in Europe 1500–1800 provides a window into the culinary spectacles created during Europe’s early modern period.

The exhibition explores the dining customs and practices of the time through gloriously illustrated books used by servants in the wealthiest households. The manuals include instructions for carving meats, fishes, and fruits and folding napkins into elaborate sculptural forms. Images from the books are displayed alongside the material culture of the table: rarely seen table linens and carving knives and forks made of precious materials. With more than fifty examples of books, knives, carving sets, linens, and other items from the late Middle Ages to the end of the eighteenth century, *Staging the Table in Europe* reveals how the realm of food and table service became a space for practices and objects designed to inspire wonder.

Tickets available at <https://www.bgc.bard.edu/exhibitions/exhibitions/109/n-a>

Register for the Connecticut Ceramics Circle 2023 Seminar!

Ceramics on the Great River

"Canton Connection: The China Trade on the Connecticut River"

"Pots in Context: The Ceramics Collections at Historic Deerfield"

by Amanda Lange,
Curatorial Department Director and
Curator of Historic Interiors at Historic Deerfield

Monday, April 17, Lectures at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. ET via Zoom

Members: \$35 Nonmembers: \$45

Partial-Year Membership Including Seminar: \$75

Sign Up at <https://www.cceramicsc.org/amanda-lange-china-trade-connecticut-river>



Clay Art Center is pleased to present
Homecoming, An Invitational Exhibition Celebrating 25 Years of
Clay Art Center's Artist in Residence Program

Opening Reception: March 4, 6:30 – 8:30pm
In the Gallery: March 3 – April 10

The Homecoming Exhibition celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the nationally recognized Artist in Residence program at Clay Art Center. This exhibition presents current work from past Clay Art Center resident artists drawn from across the United States with an opportunity to survey them collectively.

Since its inception in 1998, by Director Emeritus Reena Kashyap, over 50 young emerging artists have called Clay Art Center "home." Clay Art Center has provided valuable time and space for artists to refine their voice as they developed their work. In turn the residents each made significant contributions to Clay Art Center as both artists and educators. Many of our past residents have gone on to careers in the national ceramics field as artists and educators, and many continue their relationship with Clay Art Center through exhibition, shop and educational opportunities.

The Clay Art Center is at 40 Beech Road, Port Chester, New York 10573. Go to www.clayartcenter.org for more information.

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

To March 4: Ceramist and former CCC lecturer Jeff Shapiro is among 60 ceramic artists currently exhibiting at the Philadelphia International Tea Bowl Exhibition which closes March 4. The exhibit is taking place at the Duke Gallery of the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, Pennsylvania 19086. More information at www.communityartscenter.org or at 610.566.1713.

March 15: "Worcester Modellers of the 20th Century" by Antiques expert and TV personality Philip Serrell, who shares his enthusiasm for the talented modellers, many of them women, that made Worcester great in the 20th century. Presented by the Museum of Royal Worcester. Register for this Zoom lecture at <https://museum-of-royal-worcester.arttickets.org.uk/museum-of-royal-worcester/2023-03-15-winter-online-talk-philip-serrell-on-worcester-porcelain-modellers-of-the-20th-century?t=1675525015815>. Voluntary contributions requested.

March 24 and 25: Rococo Across Borders: Designers and Makers, a two-day symposium in London presented by the French Porcelain Society jointly with the Furniture History Society. This symposium goes beyond the traditional geographical, chronological and conceptual fields of Rococo design to explore how it evolved throughout the eighteenth century. In particular, it aims to open up wider discussions about the historical contexts for Rococo ceramics and furniture, the place of the 'Rococo' in museums and art historical scholarship today. Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rococo-across-borders-designers-makers-tickets-519081104557>.

March 30: "Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina," an EX LIBRIS lecture through the Providence Athenaeum by Ethan Lasser, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Curator and Chair, Art of the Americas. The lecture is based on the exhibit of the same name on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston from March 4 to July 9, 2023. Non-members pay what you can among the choices of \$5, \$10, and \$20 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-person-ex-libris-hear-me-now-tickets-495379502427>.

April 17: Ceramics on the Great River: "Canton Connection: The China Trade on the Connecticut River," and "Pots in Context: The Ceramics Collections at Historic Deerfield." Connecticut Ceramics Circle Seminar, two lectures at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. ET. Register at <https://www.cceramicsc.org/amanda-lange-china-trade-connecticut-river>.

Ongoing: AMOCA, the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, California, has links to seven exhibitions to visit virtually at <https://www.amoca.org/members/exhibitions/>. In addition, a Curator talk about their exhibit Breaking Ground: Women in California Clay can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fR0xcpUT0v4>.
