



Betty Woodman (United States, 1930 – 2018), *Kimono Vases: Evening*. Glazed earthenware. Circa 1990.
Dimensions A: 31 x 22 1/2 x 8 1/2 in. (78.7 x 57.1 x 21.6 cm). B: 31 x 23 5/8 x 8 1/2 in.
(78.7 x 60.0 x 21.6 cm). Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the James Renwick Alliance and
museum purchase made possible by the Smithsonian Institution Collections Acquisition Program
(1992.118A-B).

"Betty Woodman: Interrogating Form"

by Jo Lauria, Independent Curator/Museum Consultant and Adjunct
Curator, American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona, California

Sponsored by Irene Willisch

Monday, March 14 at 2:00 p.m. EST via Zoom

A select group of artists can claim the territory of change-makers. Their work charts a new direction that creates the unimagined path to new perceptions and insights. Betty Woodman belongs to this rarefied group. This presentation will explore the arc of Betty's career and evaluate her contributions to ceramic art and her standing among prominent artists of the late 20th century.

Humble Beginnings: Betty's entrance onto the ceramic stage was typical for the era: after graduating from the School of American Craftsman, she taught pottery classes at various community centers in Boston. Marriage to George Woodman, a painter who had just received a faculty appointment at the University of Colorado, led to a move to Boulder in the mid-1950s. Betty became a successful studio potter of functional forms for the next two decades and taught ceramics at the University of Colorado. Along the way, son Charles and daughter Francesca were born.

Transformative Years: The breakthrough came in 1980 when Betty and George moved to New York City seeking "stimulation of the art world." Betty began a lifelong interrogation of sculptural ceramic forms, especially the classical vase and its potential as a conveyor of decorative information. This exploration was enhanced by extensive travel and study of the arts of other cultures and periods. Long summers spent working in her Tuscan studio at the family's farmhouse in Italy also informed her palette and encouraged an exuberant approach to pattern.

Experimentation to Recognition: Decades of intense "play" deconstructing and reframing the vase as sculptural object brought forth countless combinations: the single animated vase of imposing scale; vessels in pairs or groupings alluding to the figure; vessel as wall relief cavorting with architectural fragments; and vases staged within a setting of wall and floor paintings, anchored on shelves and pedestals, performing as both object and architecture. Galleries and museums responded to Betty's groundbreaking installations with exhibitions featuring her sculptural and painterly environments. In 2006, Betty Woodman was the first living female artist to be given a one-person show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The retrospective recognized the artist's lifelong pursuit of challenging the limitations and expanding the possibilities of her medium.

Jo Lauria is a Los Angeles-based curator, author, and educator who received her curatorial training at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. She is a specialist in the fields of craft, design, and decorative arts. She has organized many museum-based surveys and national touring exhibitions and has authored more than sixteen major publications in her field.

Lauria received the 2016 American Ceramic Circle Book Award for *Ralph Bacerra: Exquisite Beauty*. She is currently the Adjunct Curator of the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, California and Mentor Faculty at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, California. Forthcoming is the first comprehensive monograph on modernist architect William F. Cody, which she has coauthored with Catherine Cody and Dr. Don Choi (Monacelli Press, September 2021). *Peter Callas: An Enduring Legacy*, curated by [Jo Lauria](#), is a comprehensive career retrospective for the acclaimed New Jersey-based artist Peter Callas. Callas is internationally recognized for his expertise in firing Anagama kilns, a wood-fired, tunnel-type kiln that he discovered during his travels in Japan. The exhibition assembles over 50 works by Callas spanning 30 years of creative production, including intimate tea bowls, selected works on

paper, and the premier of an original film about the artist. Published in conjunction with the exhibition is a substantial, hardcover catalog totaling over 160 pages. The catalog will be available for purchase at the opening reception, and on the website later this month.

Register here for this Zoom lecture:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H1swE_ZzS_OUuI5sWyckFg



Betty Woodman (United States, 1930 – 2018), *Teacup and Saucer*. Glazed porcelain. Circa 1980.
Dimensions: (Teacup): 3 1/8 x 6 1/4 x 5 1/4 in. (8 x 15.9 x 13.4 cm). (Saucer): 1 x 7 1/4 in. (2.6 x 18.5 cm).
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift from the Collection of Michael Peter Giza (1998.55.6A-B).

Additions to the CCC Directory

Please add the following new member information should be added to your copy of the CCC Directory:

Eric Clauson, 621 S. Willett Street, Memphis, TN 58104;
eric.clauson@gmail.com, 310.710.5852

Carol Lyden, 148 E. 56th Street, New York, NY 10065;
carollyden3@gmail.com, 917.757.1266

[Register Online](#) for the Connecticut Ceramics Circle April 11 Seminar!



Go to <https://www.cceramicsc.org/errol-manners> to register for the April 11 Seminar, The Origin and Evolution of European Porcelain: From the First Experiments to the Golden Age, with two Lectures by Errol Manners, Dealer in European Ceramics and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Vincennes Bleu Lapis Ewer and Cover, Third Size (Pot 'à l'eau tourné', 3ème grandeur). Dated 1754 (marked with interlaced Ls and the date letter A for 1754). French, soft-paste porcelain. Height 4 7/8 inches. Provenance: 6th Earl of Rosebery, Mentmore, England

Announcing the Houghton International Seminar, London, United Kingdom, June 29 and 30

The Houghton International Seminar, “Fragile Splendour: Prestige, Power & Politics from the Medicis to the Present Day,” will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, June 29 and 30 at The British Academy, 11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH. Make your travel plans now to attend this exciting seminar!

The seminar will be an international tour of dynasties and the political power and prestige they held from the Golden Age of Renaissance art and

culture, starting in Florence with the rise of the political dominance of the Medici family, through to the importance attributed to the abundance of jewels worn in the Royal Indian Courts. Diplomatic gifts of luxury goods such as tapestries, silk, gold boxes and porcelain always played a central role in international relations.

Even if you don't envision travel to London to attend the seminar, a visit to the Brian Haughton Gallery's website at <https://www.haughton.com/seminar-2022> provides a view of the very interesting line up of the speakers and topics to be presented.

The ticket office for the seminar will open at 10:00 a.m. EST on Tuesday, March 1.

To purchase tickets on March 1, click on the link below:
<https://www.haughton.com/booking-form-2022>

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

March 15 to 30: As part of Asian Art Week, Christie's will hold an auction of important Chinese ceramics and works of art. Go to <https://www.christies.com/events/asian-art-week/what-is-on-to-view> the objects to be auctioned.

To March 6: Disney @The Met, a fascinating exhibit of decorative arts items that inspired Walt Disney in his creation of animated films, including Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast and others. While the museum is limiting capacity and dining locations are closed, armchair visitors may benefit from the exhibit's audio guide, available online. Twenty-two segments of three minutes each describe an object, its origin and its use by Disney, an amazing opportunity to learn about the exhibit from home! Go to metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2021/inspiring-walt-disney.

Ongoing: Liven up your winter! Vaccinated adults may register for a variety of types of classes at the Clay Art Center in Port Chester, New York at www.clayartcenter.org.

Ongoing: The Gardiner Museum in Toronto, Canada has reopened! At <https://www.gardinermuseum.on.ca/learn-create/programs-events/>, you'll find a number of interesting events to attend via Zoom, including chief curator Sequoia Miller's **March 8** tour of the new Shary Boyle exhibit, Outside the Palace of Me.



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