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CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

Newsletter

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Horse and Female Rider, China, Tang dynasty (618–907), earthenware with three-color (sancai) glaze and pigment. H. 17 ½". The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, gift of Stanley Herzman, in memory of Adele Herzman, 1991. Accession Number 1991.253.10.



Tomb Guardian Beast (Zhenmushou), China, Tang dynasty (618–907), earthenware with pigment and three-color (sancai) glaze. H. 30 ¾". The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Rogers Fund, 1911. Accession Number 11.83.4.

[“From the Ordinary to the Extraordinary: The Enduring Appeal of Tang Ceramic Tomb Sculpture”](#)

[By Virginia L. Bower, Adjunct Professor in Liberal Arts at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, and Professor of Art History, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey](#)

On October 15 at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, Virginia Bower will address the CCSC on the topic of Tang ceramic tomb sculpture. Originally created for mortuary purposes, placed within or near the interment site of the deceased, Chinese ceramic tomb sculpture was neither collected nor displayed outside of a funeral context in China and was little known elsewhere. This changed in the late 19th and especially the early 20th centuries when construction and exploration uncovered vast quantities of artifacts, among them ceramic mortuary wares. Initially acquired primarily by European, Japanese, and North American collectors, dealers and scholars, ceramic tomb sculpture soon came to be appreciated by the Chinese, and it is now prominently displayed in museums all over the world.

Aside from the unique life-size ceramic figures recovered from the necropolis of China's First Emperor (the "Terracotta Army" etc.), the most widely popular type of Chinese ceramic tomb sculpture is that of the Tang dynasty (618-907 CE). From the most commonly encountered "ordinary" examples to certain all-but-unique "extraordinary" masterworks, Tang ceramic tomb sculpture exercises an aesthetic allure that contributes to its enduring appeal, one that will be explored in this talk.

Virginia L. Bower did her graduate work in Chinese art and archaeology at Princeton University. She has been a co-curator or curator of or contributor to numerous exhibitions in American museums which resulted in these publications, among others: *Power and Virtue: Images of Horses in Chinese Art* (1997); *From Court to Caravan: Chinese Tomb Sculptures from the Collection of Anthony M. Solomon* (2002); *Recarving China's past: Art, Archaeology, and Architecture of the "Wu Family Shrines*, (2005); and *Brush, Clay, and Wood: The Nancy and Ed Rosenthal Collection of Chinese Art* (2008). Professor Bower was a co-editor of *Chinese Ceramics: From the Paleolithic Period through the Qing Dynasty* published by the Yale University Press and Foreign Languages Press, Beijing in 2010. A frequent speaker at educational institutions and museums, Professor Bower has also been an expert/lecturer on a number of non-profit-sponsored tours of China.

Monday, October 15 at 1:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, with tea to follow. Information and guest registration at 203.912.7226.

CCSC Meetings at the First Congregational Church, Old Greenwich

As the Bruce Museum undergoes its expansion, CCSC meetings have been moved to the First Congregational Church at 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut 06870. Parking is plentiful and there is a handicap entrance, so we hope our members will find it convenient and comfortable to attend our exciting schedule of 2018-2019 meetings at this location.

In case you wish to have lunch prior to the meetings, the following restaurants are suggested:

Walking Distance:

Le Fat Poodle, 20 Arcadia Road, Old Greenwich 06870, 203.717.1515 and via Open Table - \$\$

Applausi Osteria, 199 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich 06870, 203.637.4447 and via Open Table - \$\$

Beach House Cafe, 220 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich 06870, 203.637.0367 and via Open Table - \$\$

The Old Greenwich Social Club (closest), 148 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich 06870, 203 990.3033 and via Open Table - \$\$

Oriental Gourmet, 214 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich 06870, 203.637.1010 Take-out - \$



Clay Art Center Fall Exhibit and Opening Reception

Clay Art Center's new fall exhibit, ALL, opens with a reception on September 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and continues through Saturday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at their location at 40 Beech Street, Port Chester, New York 10573.

ALL features the work of two clay artists, Novie Trump and Trisha Coates in their focus on the human impact on our natural environment. Novie Trump's installation is of ceramic insect specimens, while Trisha Coates creates objects and installations of ceramic detritus. Information at 914.937.2047 or at www.clayartcenter.org.

American Ceramic Circle Symposium, Detroit, November 1-4, 2018

This November, participants in the annual symposium of the American Ceramic Circle will visit Detroit's world famous art museum, galleries and architectural gems from November 1 - 4, with optional pre-and-post visits. Lectures by international experts on ceramics and a viewing of the newly reinstalled Asian galleries at the Detroit Institute of Arts, as well as visits to the nearby Cranbrook Art Museum, will be highlights. For information and to register, visit <http://www.americanceramiccircle.org/symposium.html>. Questions? Call Suzanne Hood at 757.565.8613 or contact her at acc@acc.hrcoxmail.com.



Seated Female Musicians, China, Tang dynasty (618–907), earthenware with pigment. H. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", H. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", H. 6"; H. 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ ". The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York Rogers Fund, 1923. Accession Number 23.180.4–7.

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

September 20: "From Blithewold's Gardens in Bristol, Rhode Island to the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale, Gardini Marinaressa: The Evolution of the Rainkeep," lecture by Allison Newsome, sculpture artist at the opening luncheon of the Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island. Noon at the Rhode Island Country Club. For information and registration, contact daisy.schnepel@verizon.net.

September 21-22: Symposium, A Passion for Porcelain: A Symposium in Honour of Meredith Chilton. Two days of lectures at the Gardiner Museum, Toronto, by leading scholars on porcelains from the 17th to the 19th centuries, honoring Meredith Chilton, former chief curator at the museum and one of the CCSC's favorite speakers. Go to <https://www.gardinermuseum.on.ca/events> for more information and to obtain registration materials.

September 21-22: Symposium, Rienzi's Biennial Symposium: Hidden in Plain Sight: Meanings and Messages in Ceramics, 1650-1950. Rienzi House Museum of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas. For more information, go to mfah.org/rienzisyposium.

September 26: Gallery Talk and Exhibition, "Mizusushi, Japanese Water Jars from the Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz Collection" by Dr. Ive Covaci, Lecturer in Art History. Fairfield University Art Museum, Fairfield, Connecticut, Bellarmine Hall Galleries, talk at noon, exhibition through December 14. Lecture registrations at www.fuam.eventbrite.com. Directions and parking information at www.fairfield.edu/museum.

September 27: "Real or Repro?: Identifying Authentic English Transfer-Printed Creamware for the American Market, 1780-1825" by Daniel Sousa, the Peggy N. Gerry - Anne K. Groves Curatorial Intern at Historic Deerfield. Ceramics Study Club of Boston, 1:00 p.m. at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information at ceramicsstudyclub.org.

October 1: "Casanova's Europe: Art, Pleasure, and Power in the 18th Century" by Thomas Michie, Russell B. and Andréa Beauchamp Stearns Senior Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts. 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., lecture and luncheon at the Riverside Yacht Club, 102 Club Road, Riverside, Connecticut. For information and registration, email greenwichdecorativeartssociety@gmail.com.

October 15: "From the Ordinary to the Extraordinary: The Enduring Appeal of Tang Ceramic Tomb Sculpture," by Virginia L. Bower, Adjunct Professor in Liberal Arts, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Professor of Art History, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut. For information, call 203.912.7226 or visit ctcsc.org.

October 25: "Shell-Shock: Centuries of Wedgwood's Shell Fancing" by Adele Ierubino Barnett, Wedgwood Specialist and Founder, Wedgwood Society of Washington, D. C. Ceramics Study Club of Boston, 1:00 p.m. at King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information at ceramicsstudyclub.org.

October 25: "Wedgwood Outside the Box: Fairyland Lustre" by Stewart Slavid, Director and Appraiser of English and Continental Ceramics, Skinner, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island, 2:00 p.m. at the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 224 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island. For information and registration, contact daisy.schnepel@verizon.net.

Ongoing to March 24, 2019: Iridescence, featuring ceramics, glass and jewelry through the centuries that incorporate iridescence. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 East 91st Street, New York, New York. For information, www.cooperhewitt.org.

Ongoing to October 31: The Art of Tea, Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts, 481 South Federal Highway, Dania Beach, Florida 33004. Also to December 31, Carnival & Cabaret, an exhibit that explores flamboyant festivals in Venice, Rio and New Orleans as seen by European porcelain artists. For information, go to www.wmda.com.

October 10, 2018 - September 22, 2019: Masterpieces of French Faience: Selections from the Sidney R. Knafel Collection. Exhibit in the Portico Gallery of the Frick Museum, 1 East 70th Street, New York, New York. Go to www.frick.org for further information.



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Our mailing address is:

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