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# CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

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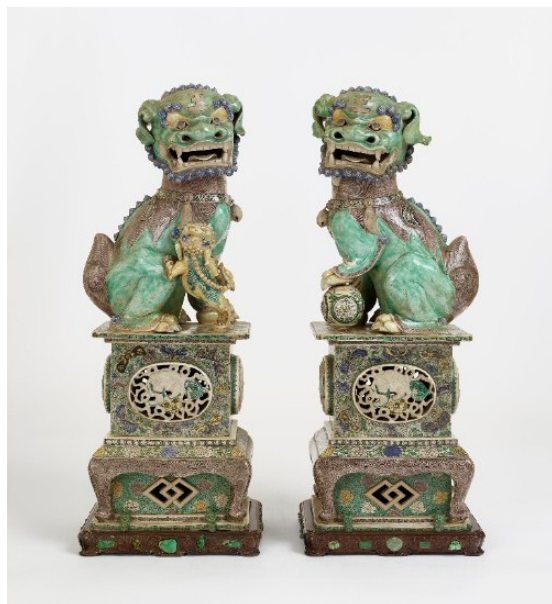
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## [“The Rockefeller Family Collects: Chinese Ceramics at Kykuit”](#)

[By Cynthia Bronson Altman, Curator of the Collections, Kykuit:  
The Rockefeller Estate, Tarrytown, New York](#)

On Monday, March 12, Cynthia Bronson Altman will address the CCSC on the above topic. Kykuit, the Dutch word for “lookout,” is the 40-room Beaux Arts mansion built by John D. Rockefeller in 1914 on the highest hill of his 300-acre property in Tarrytown. Both John D. Rockefeller, Jr. who moved there with his wife Abby Aldrich Rockefeller in 1937 on the death of his father, and his son Nelson were avid collectors of Chinese ceramics, which they added to Kykuit’s interiors. Mr. Rockefeller, Jr. acquired many pieces from the collection of J. P. Morgan in the early decades of the 20th century. Qing dynasty Famille verte and Famille Jaune vases and figures populate the office and the deep blues and aubergines of Ming fa hua temple jars, garden seats and figures compliment the Music Room, the central room of the first floor. Nelson Rockefeller and his family lived at Kykuit for two decades in the 1960s and 1970s, and he brought magnificent funerary wares of the Han and Tang dynasties to Kykuit.



*Large Double-Gourd Vase with Lotus Blossoms and Scrolling Foliage, late Ming Dynasty, 16th Century, porcelain with Fa hua enamels. Kykuit, National Trust for Historic Preservation.*

*A Pair of Fu Lions, Qing, Kangxi period, 1662-1722, porcelain in Famille Verte enamels. Kykuit, National Trust for Historic Preservation*

Ms. Bronson Altman has been curator of the collections at Kykuit for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund since 1991 and for the Rockefeller family for several years prior. She oversees the conservation and care of the collections of 20th century outdoor sculpture, the fountains and sculptural elements in the gardens, and the fine and decorative arts within the house. Ms. Bronson Altman has published and lectured on the history of the collections and gardens, the Picasso tapestries, the Japanese Garden and Chinese ceramics. She has arranged exhibitions at Pocantico, the New York offices of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and at Rockefeller University. She has also advised on curatorial issues for the National Trust at Philip Johnson's Glass House and at Rockefeller University. Ms. Bronson Altman is a graduate of Middlebury College and received an M.A. in art history from Columbia University, specializing in Asian art.

CCSC, Monday, March 12 at 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut, with tea to follow. Information and guest registration at 203.912.7226.

### Treasure Sale at March 12 Meeting!

Jane Connachie and Natalie Robinson have received a lovely group of ceramic, glass and costume jewelry items, as well as books, for the CCSC Treasure Sale, which will take place following the lecture on Monday, March 12. Please come ready to buy! The sale supports a good cause, the CCSC Grant to an individual or organization involved in promoting scholarship in the field of ceramics. Thank you!



### Sign up Soon for April 9 CCSC Seminar!

This year's seminar promises to both inform and dazzle with examples of flower-adorned Chelsea porcelain. Titled the Most Beautiful, Useful and Uncommon: Sir Hans Sloane's Botanical Treasures on Chelsea Porcelain, offering three lectures from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., as well as a delicious box lunch, the seminar will take place on Monday, April 9 at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Road, Old Greenwich. Sign-up forms were distributed at the February 12 meeting and will be available at the March 12 meeting for those who need them. Sign up soon! More information from Marilyn Chou at 203.863.9655 or at [marylin.chou@gmail.com](mailto:marylin.chou@gmail.com).



## Clay Arts Center Activities: Exhibit: Me, Myself and I and Discussion with Dr. Bonnie Kemske

Since January 23, the Clay Art Center has been holding a national juried exhibition, Me, Myself and I. The exhibit, which runs through March 24, features vessel-based work exploring identity, curated and juried by renowned artist and educator Kathy King. Visit the Clay Art Center at 40 Beech Street, Port Chester, New York. Information at 914.937.2047 or at [www.clayartcenter.org](http://www.clayartcenter.org).

In addition to the exhibit, on March 7, the CAC will welcome Dr. Bonnie Kemske, author of *The Tea Bowl: East and West*, who will lead an exploration and discussion of the teabowl from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Wendy Weinstein at [wendy@clayartcenter.org](mailto:wendy@clayartcenter.org) or at 914.937.2047, x221.



*Well-head*, Han Dynasty, 206 B.C. to 220 A.D., earthenware, with green glaze. Kykuit, National Trust for Historic Preservation, bequest of Nelson A. Rockefeller.

## Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

**March 5:** "The Great Estates in Greenwich: Then and Now." Lecture: Davidde E. Stracklein, chair, board of trustees, Greenwich Historical Society. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information and reservations at [greenwichdecorativeartssociety@gmail.com](mailto:greenwichdecorativeartssociety@gmail.com).

**March 7:** "A Secret and Most Excellent Art: The Porcelain of DuPaquier." Lecture:

Meredith Chilton, Gardiner Museum, Toronto. At the Frick Museum, 6:00 p.m., 1 East 70th Street, New York, NY. For information and to register, go to [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org).

**March 12:** "The Rockefeller Family Collects: Chinese Ceramics at Kykuit." Lecture: Cynthia Bronson Altman, Curator of the Collections, Kykuit: The Rockefeller Estate, Tarrytown, New York. CCSC, 1:15 p.m., the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. For information, call 203.912.7226 or visit [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org).

**March 22:** "Saggar-Fired Ceramics -- Inspiration: Landscape." Lecture by Suzanne Hill, Ceramic Artist and Professor of Ceramics, Concord, Massachusetts. Pottery and Porcelain Club, 2:00 p.m. at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Email [potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com](mailto:potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com) for information and registration.

**April 9:** The Most Beautiful, Useful and Uncommon: Sir Hans Sloane's Botanical Treasures on Chelsea Porcelain. **Seminar:** Three lectures by Sally Kevill-Davies independent scholar, researcher and writer, London, England. CCSC, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. For information, call 203.863.9655 or email [marylin.chou@gmail.com](mailto:marylin.chou@gmail.com).

**April 18:** "Chelsea Botanical Porcelain and the Rise of the Landscape Garden." Lecture by Sally Kevill-Davies, independent scholar, London, England. Ceramics Study Club of Boston, 1:00 p.m. King's Chapel Parish House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information at [ceramicsstudyclub.org](http://ceramicsstudyclub.org).

**Ongoing to April 1, 2018:** Linking Asia: Art, Trade and Devotion. Exhibit at the Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado. Information at [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org).

**Ongoing to May 27, 2018:** Picasso Ceramics at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark. Information at <https://en.louisiana.dk>.

**June 13-14:** Porcelain Circling the Globe: International Trading Structures and the East Asia Collection of Augustus the Strong (1670-1733). International conference with speakers from important museums worldwide. Taking place in Dresden, Germany, information from [ruth.simonis@skd.museum](mailto:ruth.simonis@skd.museum).



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