



# CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

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Kangxi porcelain from the Freer Gallery and Walter McConnell 3-D printed replicas. Photo Robb Harrell

## **“Chinamania in Victorian England”**

**by Lee Glazer, Ph.D., Curator of American Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.**

On September 25, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Bruce Museum, Lee Glazer will speak about this groundbreaking exhibit. Porcelain has been an object of fascination in the West since its first appearance in the fourteenth century, when Marco Polo returned from China with a small grey-green jar whose exquisite fineness was, quite literally, beyond understanding: the secret of porcelain manufacture would not be discovered in Europe until the 18th century. Meanwhile, exploration, trade, and imperial ambitions fed the obsession with china from China, spawning new architectural forms and new terminology: many aristocratic palaces and country houses throughout Europe boasted a Porzellan-zimmer (porcelain chamber), a room specifically built for large displays of ceramics, a symptom of the epidemic Porzellankrankheit (porcelain sickness).

Two hundred years later British decorators revived the practice when Chinamania, as it was now termed, spread down the social ladder into middle class parlors.

This enduring legacy formed the basis of the recent “Chinamania” exhibition at the Smithsonian’s Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, which paired the work of contemporary ceramic sculptor Walter McConnell with historic examples of Kangxi porcelain from the collection of the Freer Gallery of Art. McConnell’s interest in the replication and serialized mass production of ceramic forms began after he visited China more than a decade ago, where

the large kilns and busy factories at Jingdezhen prompted him to think more deeply about China as an enduring resource for ceramic production. This lecture examines the long history of this cross-cultural relationship, situating Chinamania generally and McConnell's work in particular within a broader narrative of ceramic production, acquisition, and display.

Lee Glazer is a specialist in Gilded Age painting and the arts of the Aesthetic movement. Dr. Glazer received her Ph.D. from the Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Charles Lang Freer: A Cosmopolitan Life, A Perfect Harmony: The American Collection in the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art* and co-editor of *East West Interchanges in American Art: A Long and Tumultuous Relationship and Palaces of Art: Whistler and the Art Worlds of Aestheticism*. Her current research focuses on James McNeill Whistler's watercolors, to be featured in an exhibition at the Freer in 2019.

September 25, CCSC, 1:30 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut, with tea to follow.

**NOTE: Two Locations for CCSC Meetings in 2017-2018 and September 25 Meeting Start Time is 1:30 p.m.**

After finding an alternate meeting location because of the Bruce Museum's planned expansion, the CCSC learned in late August that, due to delays in permits, etc., the Bruce could continue to host our meetings through February 2018. Therefore, the decision was made to postpone our move to the First Congregational Church of Greenwich in Old Greenwich until March 2018. Mark your calendars with that change -- also please note a slightly later start time for our first meeting: We look forward to seeing you at the Bruce Museum on Monday, September 25 **at 1:30 p.m.**



*White Stupa* (detail), Walter McConnell, 2008. Cast porcelain from salvaged hobby industrial molds, zinc crystalline glaze, sand, and plywood shelving. Courtesy the artist and Cross-McKenzie Gallery, Washington, D.C.

## **Flower Arranger and Tea Volunteers Needed!**

The refreshments following the lectures are an enjoyable and integral part of our meetings. We are creating a new and more cooperative way to bring these into being, asking for volunteers to help set up and clean up for each meeting, as well as a volunteer to provide a flower arrangement for each meeting. At our September 25 meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide flower arrangements and to help with set-up and clean-up. If you would like to volunteer before the meeting or at any time, please contact Lillian Johnson at 203.912.7226 or at [lillianjj@optonline.net](mailto:lillianjj@optonline.net) to volunteer for a meeting. Thank you! Hospitality Co-Chairs, Lillian Johnson and Nancy Wells.

## **Clay Art Center Exhibit and Symposium, September 23, 2017, Celebrating 60 Years!**

The Clay Art Center in Port Chester, celebrating its 60th year, announces a new exhibit opening September 23, 2017 and Symposium to take place on the same day.

The exhibit, Reinvented: is an international invitation of artists who combine digital technology with traditional studio techniques. It is curated by CAC Program Manager Adam Chau, who is also the CCSC vice president. The Symposium, Future Now, is from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 23, and the exhibit is open until November 11, 2017. Both should be very interesting and very cutting edge! More information at [clayartcenter.org](http://clayartcenter.org).



Joey Watson

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## **CCSC Publicity Chair Cynthia Herbert Appointed President of the Appraisers Association of America**

An announcement was published in Antiques & the Arts Weekly, as follows: “The Appraisers Association of America has appointed Cynthia Herbert, AAA, president, board of directors. Ms. Herbert served as vice president of the Appraisers Association from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. She is president of Appretium LLC, is a certified member of the association in household contents, and has recently become a certified Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices (USPAP) instructor. She earned a BA from Georgetown University and MA from New York University, and completed certificates in museum studies and appraisal studies, also from NYU.” Congratulations to Cynthia on this prestigious appointment!

## **Publication of *Ceramics in America 2016***

This annual publication, issued by the Chipstone Foundation and distributed by the University Press of New England, has a wealth of articles and book reviews about a wide range of ceramics subjects of possible interest to CCSC members. Past and future

lecturers, Ezra Shales and Angelika Kuettner, have articles in the book, and CCSC member Leticia Robert's has a much-praised book review in it, as well. Go to [www.upne.com](http://www.upne.com) to order your copy.

## Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

**Now to October 1:** Exhibit: Make-Do's: Curiously Repaired Antiques, by Andrew Baseman (CCSC December 2017 Lecturer) at Boscobel House and Gardens, Garrison, New York. Information at [boscobel.org](http://boscobel.org).

**September 15:** Symposium: John Lockwood Kipling: The Legacy, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Bard Graduate Center, 38 West 86th Street, New York City. Free, register at [bgc.bard.edu/events](http://bgc.bard.edu/events). More information at [bgc.bard.edu](http://bgc.bard.edu).

**September 15 to January 7, 2018:** Exhibit, John Lockwood Kipling: Arts & Crafts in the Punjab and London, Bard Graduate Center, 18 West 86th Street, New York City, to January 7, 2018. More information at [bgc.bard.edu](http://bgc.bard.edu).

**September 16:** "1177 BC: The Year Civilization Collapsed." Lecture by Eric H. Cline, Professor of Classics and Anthropology at George Washington University, Washington, D. C. Byram Schubert Library, Greenwich, at 2:00 p.m.

**September 22-23:** Symposium: Italian Maiolica and Europe, in honor of Professor Timothy Wilson, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England. For information and to register, reach Christopher Doogue at [christopher.doogue@ashmus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:christopher.doogue@ashmus.ox.ac.uk).

**September 23-November 11:** Exhibit, "Reinvented" an international invitational of artists who combine digital technologies with traditional studio techniques. And Symposium: Future Now, September 23, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All at the Clay Art Center, 40 Beech Street, Port Chester, New York. For information and Symposium reservations, call 914.937.2047 or [clayartcenter.org](http://clayartcenter.org).

**October 2:** "Dressed to Excess: Extreme Fashion and Flamboyant Style in the 16th to the 18th Centuries." Lecture by Jonquil O'Reilly, Assistant Vice-President/Specialist, Old Master Paintings, Sotheby's, New York. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society at 2:00 p.m., The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. For information or reservations, email [greenwichdecorativeartssociety@gmail.com](mailto:greenwichdecorativeartssociety@gmail.com) or go to [greenwichdecorativeartssociety.org](http://greenwichdecorativeartssociety.org).

**October 19:** "Hopi Pottery Tales: Historic Museum Collections and Pueblo Pottery Futures." Lecture: Lea S. McChesney, Curator of Ethnology, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico. at 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Bard Graduate Center, 38 West 86th Street, New York City. Free, please register at [bgc.bard.edu/events](http://bgc.bard.edu/events). More information at [bgc.bard.edu](http://bgc.bard.edu).

**October 26:** "All the World's a Stage: Ceramics and Design in the Age of the Tableau Vivant." Lecture: Gwendolyn L. Smith, Specialist, European Furniture and Decorative Arts, Fine Silver at Skinner, Inc., Marlborough, Massachusetts. Pottery and Porcelain Club of Providence at 2:00 p.m. Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island. For information and to reserve, [potteryandporcelainclubri.org](http://potteryandporcelainclubri.org) or email [potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com](mailto:potteryandporcelainclubri@gmail.com).

**November 13:** "Things of Beauty Growning: British Studio Pottery." Lecture by Glenn Adamson, editor-at-large, The Magazine Antiques, formerly curator at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York City. CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information at 203.912.7226 or at [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org).

**Now to April 28, 2018:** Exhibit: "Moustier Ceramics: Gifts from the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Collection. An exhibit of Moustier faience celebrating the gift of 60 works from the Thaw Collection. The pieces are shown alongside related prints and textiles produced at Mont-Sainte-Marie during the 18th century. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 East 91st Street at Fifth Avenue, New York. [www.cooperhewitt.org](http://www.cooperhewitt.org) for more information.

**Now to December 3 and September 14-December 3:** Exhibits: "Clare Twomey Made in China" and "Things of Beauty Growning: British Studio Pottery." Yale Center for British

Art, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. [britishart.yale.edu](http://britishart.yale.edu) for more information.

**Now to January 7, 2018:** Masterpieces from the Asia Society Museum Collection, Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue, New York. [asia.society.org](http://asia.society.org) for more information.



*Chelsea porcelain silver-shape dish, with 'Hans Sloane' botanical decoration, circa 1755-56. Length 8 3/8 inches. Victoria and Albert Museum, London, museum number C.48-1959.*



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