



# CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

NEWSLETTER    VOLUME XXX    NUMBER 3    DECEMBER 2019

HELP US CELEBRATE CCSC'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
AT THIS GALA LECTURE!

"The Art of Libation in Classical Athens"

by Milette Gaifman, Associate Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology,  
Department of Classics and History of Art, Yale University

We will join in the spirit of Professor Gaifman's talk on libation to consume some of our own in celebration of this year's 30th Anniversary of the founding of the CCSC. Join us on Monday, December 9 at 1:15 p.m. at the Bruce Museum for this gala event!

In her lecture, *The Art of Libation in Classical Athens*, Professor Gaifman will explore imagery of libations in Greek Art of the fifth century BCE. The word "libations" conjures up clinking glasses, a flow of alcohol, and a joyful atmosphere. In contrast, Classical Greek art probably brings to mind somewhat less light-hearted thoughts. The lecture will reveal that libations and Classical art have more in common than we may initially assume. In her lecture, Professor Gaifman will show how libation imagery portrayed meaningful social and religious connections in private homes, in the public sphere, between the living and the dead and between mortals and immortals.



The Porch of Caryatids on the Athenian Acropolis.

Milette Gaifman is Associate Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology at Yale University, jointly appointed in the departments of Classics and History of Art. She received her B.A. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1997, and her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2005. She is the author of several books and journals, including *The Art of Libation in Classical Athens* (Yale University Press, 2018); and *The Embodied Object in Classical Antiquity*, special issue of *Art History* (June 2018). She is the Coeditor-in-Chief of the *The Art Bulletin*, the flagship journal of art history globally. Her most recent honor is the Gaddis Smith International Book Prize from the MacMillan Center at Yale (2013). Her current book project, titled *Classification and the History of Greek Art and Architecture*, is the revised and expanded version of the Louise Smith Bross Lectures that she delivered in May 2018 at the Art Institute of Chicago and to the Department of Art History at the University of Chicago. It examines how classifications shape our understanding of Greek art and architecture in the modern era.

## Holiday Show and Sale at the Clay Art Center, Port Chester, New York!

The annual Clay Holiday Show and Sale starts in the Gallery of the Clay Art Center on Saturday, November 23 and extends through Saturday, December 21. The Gallery will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Find works by your favorite artist or discover the work of someone new. A great source of gifts for the upcoming holidays!

For hands-on crafters, there will be four sessions of clay ornament-making workshops from Saturday, December 7 to Saturday, December 14. Consult [www.clayartcenter.org](http://www.clayartcenter.org) for more information.



## Clay in a Digital Age by Adam Chau

Digital manufacturing broadly fits into three areas of working: lasercutting, CNC routing, and 3d-printing. Most popular for the general public has been 3-d printing, where a machine extrudes material that builds on top of itself in a precise way (using a computer-generated 3d model as a map). Ceramic artists have already begun to experiment with the possibilities of 3d-printing, such as Bryan Czibesz, Ron Rael, and Michael Eden to name a few. Instead of extruding plastic, which is used in mainstream 3-d printing, these artists have devised machines that will exude ceramic materials instead.

The other two techniques, lasercutting and CNC routing (cutting and removing), are being explored by both artisans and commercial entities. Most recently an article was published on the possibilities of post-firing ceramic welding using a pulsating laser. [Read the article here.](#)

More experimental practices in 3d printing are by the likes of Katie Bunnell, Ph.D. who prints a single layer of colored slip onto plaster and encapsulates it in liquid clay; Dr. Bunnell was the founder of *Autonomic* – a design cluster at the University of Falmouth, England. Dr. Bunnell's research and cohort look at ways to bring digital manufacturing to traditional craft and vice-versa. Universities such as Harvard and MIT now have faculty dedicated to the study of digital media.

Unfortunately, on the commercial front, businesses are struggling to capitalize on digital manufacturing. In 2018, Shapeways (a large 3d print service in Brooklyn, NY) closed its 3d ceramics factory. The West coast competitor, Ponoko, has also shed their ceramic printing capabilities. Smaller, more boutique companies, such as Teethon, that specialize in ceramic printing are still operating, however.

Ed. Note: It will be interesting to see how these digital capabilities develop in the future.



Vase, Cheonan, South Korea, Seong Man Ahn, 2015. 3D-printed ceramic of blue-glazed earthenware. H. 9", L. 9". Collection of Victoria & Albert Museum, London, England, with permission.



## CCSC is 30!

Yes, it's true, the Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle was founded in 1989, and this year we celebrate the organization's 30th Anniversary. Please join us on December 9, not only for Professor Gaifman's illuminating lecture of what the Greeks were consuming, but for a bit of bubbly of our own to celebrate our group's happy milestone!

### Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

**December 2:** "The Best of American Fashion." Lecture by Caroline Rennolds Milbank, Independent Fashion Historian and Author. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. More information at [greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com](mailto:greenwichdecorativearts@gmail.com).

**December 9:** "The Art of Libation in Classical Athens." CCSC 30th Anniversary Celebration and Lecture by Milete Gaifman, Associate Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology, Departments of Classics and History of Art at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut. Information at [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or at 203.912.7226.

**December 9:** "Fit for a King: August the Strong's Porcelain in the Arnhold Collection." Lecture by Charlotte Vignon, Curator of Decorative Arts, The Frick Collection. 2:00 p.m. at The Frick Collection, 1 East 70th Street, New York City. \$100 (\$90 members). For more information, go to [frick.org](http://frick.org).

**December 12:** Studio Visit. From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each Thursday through December, visit Natalia Arbalaes, a Columbian-American ceramist from Miami, Florida, as she creates ceramic sculptures. Museum of Arts and Design, 2 Columbus Circle, New York, New York. For more information, go to [madmuseum.org](http://madmuseum.org).

**December 14:** "The Temple and the Eagle: The Fusion of Cultures in Mexican Talavera." Holiday Program and Lecture by Dennis Carr, Caroline and Peter Lynch Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts.

Pottery and Porcelain Club of Rhode Island, 6:00 p.m., The Hope Club, 6 Benevolent Street, Providence, Rhode Island. Contact [daisy.schnepel@verizon.net](mailto:daisy.schnepel@verizon.net) for reservations and information.

**Now to January 15, 2020:** The Diana Reitberger Collection of Modern and Contemporary Ceramics, an overview of recent activity in the field of studio ceramics with an emphasis on Canada and an eye to the world. The Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada. For more information, go to [www.gardiner.on.ca](http://www.gardiner.on.ca).



*Storage Vessel (Neck-Amphora)*, Westreenan Painter, Man and woman with libation instrument, Attica, ca. 450-440 BC, Terracotta, H. 13 3/16", Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



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