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# CONNECTICUT CERAMICS STUDY CIRCLE

"Ormolu-Mounted Porcelain"

By Daniëlle Kisluk-Grosheide, Henry R. Kravis Curator, European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

On Monday, December 10, Daniëlle Kisluk-Grosheide will explore some of the Metropolitan Museum of Arts most beautiful and interesting pieces of ceramics, those that meld porcelain with the 18th-century taste for ormulu decoration. The practice of embellishing Asian and European porcelains with silver or gilt-bronze mounts has a long history. By adding handles, bases, and rims, the Asian pieces were adapted to the European aesthetic, and damaged or mediocre objects could be ingeniously enhanced. In the fashionable Paris shops of the *marchands-merciers*, mounted porcelains were sold, along with figures, bowls, and other porcelain objects transformed by the addition of gilt bronze into candelabra, inkstands or potpourri vessels .



*Pair of Three-Light Candelabra*, circa 1750. The pair of Meissen hard-paste porcelain figures of bitterns attributed to the modeler Johann Joachim Kändler (1706-1775); the gilt-bronze mounts, Paris. H. of birds 14 1/2"; overall 22 ". The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Mrs. Robert Lehman, 2006. Accession number 2007.90.3,4.

Daniëlle Kisluk-Grosheide is the Henry R. Kravis Curator in the Department of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is a graduate of the Free University of Amsterdam and of Leiden University with a specialization in the decorative arts. She is responsible for the collections of French decorative arts and period rooms and has lectured and written extensively on various aspects of the European decorative arts. She was the co-curator of an exhibition at the Bard Graduate Center in New York, *Salvaging the Past: Georges Hoentschel and French Decorative Arts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art* (2013) and of the recent Met exhibition, *Visitors to Versailles 1682-1789* (2018). Among Ms. Kisluk-Grosheide's publications are (with Deborah L. Krohn, and Ulrich Leben, editors) *Salvaging the Past: Georges Hoentschel and French Decorative Arts from The Metropolitan Museum of Art*, New York: The Bard Graduate Center, 2013, and (with Bertrand Rondot) *Visitors to Versailles from Louis XIV to the French Revolution*, New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2018.

The lecture will take place at 1:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich at 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut. Information at [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or call 203.912.7226.



*Mounted Vase.* Chinese porcelain, early 18th century. The gilt-bronze mounts, France, circa 1750. H. 23 3/8". The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wrightsman, 1971. Accession number 1971.206.22.

## Important Milestone for the Database of The Transferware Collectors Club

At the Transferware Collectors Club annual meeting last month, an important milestone was announced: The database of Patterns and Sources now contains more than 15,000 patterns transfer-printed on British pottery and porcelain between 1700 and 1900 and over 1,000 print and ceramic designs identified as sources for selected patterns. The database can be used by members (for free) and by non-members for \$10 for a limited 24-hour period. For more information and to access the database, go to [www.transcollectorsclub.org/tware/utility.php](http://www.transcollectorsclub.org/tware/utility.php).

### Please Add These Names to the 2018-2019 CCSC Directory

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### At the Cooper Hewitt, Lecture and Exhibit: Tablescapes: Designs for Dining

For the first time in 30 years, the magnificent surtout de table, designed for the stepson of Napoleon Bonaparte and newly renovated, is on display at the Cooper Hewitt Museum, Smithsonian Design Museum at 2 East 91st Street in New York City, as part of three table settings from three centuries. The exhibit, on display through April 14, 2019, includes an installation of Depression-era table linens designed by American textile designer Marguerita Mergentime, who blended bold colors, typography, and a fascination with American culture and history into her festive designs. Pointing to future directions for dining design, 2017 National Design Award winners Joe Doucet and Mary Ping were commissioned to envision a dining environment to come, one that is responsive to the needs of a rapidly changing world.

This coming Thursday, November 29, there will be a reception and exhibition viewing, followed by a lecture by Dr. Ulrich Leben, European decorative arts specialist. The lecture is titled "A Grand Statement: The Surtout de Table and French Empire Style During the Napoleonic Era." The reception and exhibition viewing starts at 6:30 p.m., with the lecture at 7:00 p.m. Go to <https://www.cooperhewitt.org/channel/tablescapes> for more information and to purchase tickets.

There will be a second lecture on Tuesday, December 11, "Diplomacy and Dining: A Look at Table Architecture and Cuisine in Empire France." Sarah Coffin, retired senior curator and head of the Product Design and Decorative Arts Department at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum will speak from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the museum. Go to <https://www.cooperhewitt.org/channel/tablescapes> for more information and to purchase tickets.

For those unable to get to the museum or the lectures, the museum has put all the objects on display on their website. For comfortable and convenient armchair browsing, go to <https://collection.cooperhewitt.org/exhibitions/1159161439>.



Enjoy making your own Christmas ornaments at the Clay Art Center, 30 Beech Street, Port Chester, NY 10573. Classes will be held on Saturday, December 1 and on Saturday, December 8 at 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. The classes sell out, so register soon at 914.937.2047. While at the Center, take advantage of the Annual Sale and Studio Tour taking place through December 22 to find handmade items of beauty and wit that will bring holiday cheer to those on your list.

### Historic Deerfield Offers Internships

College juniors and seniors are invited to apply for the nine-week, tuition-free Summer Fellowship Program in History and Material Culture at Historic Deerfield, Inc. Located in the scenic Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts, Historic Deerfield is the perfect place to explore New England and regional history, material culture and museum studies. Apply at <https://www.historic-deerfield.org/how-to-apply>.



*Mounted Ewer.* Chinese porcelain, Wanli period (1573-1620). The silver-gilt mounts, London, circa 1585. H. 13 5/8". The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund, 1944. Accession number 44.14.2.

### Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

**December 3:** "Facets of Art Deco: Connecting Jewelry as Design in the 1920s and 1930s." Lecture by Sarah Coffin, former senior curator and head, Product Design and Decorative

Arts Department, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum. Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m., the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830. email [greenwichdecorativeartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:greenwichdecorativeartsociety@gmail.com) for information and registration.

**December 7:** "Revisiting Ireland's Long 18th Century Through Art and Design." Lecture by Christopher Monkhouse, Rhode Island Pottery and Porcelain Club, 8:00 p.m., preceded at 6:00 p.m. by a reception for Mr. Monkhouse and 6:45 p.m. by dinner at the Hope Club, 6 Benevolent Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906.

Contact [daisy.schnepel@verizon.net](mailto:daisy.schnepel@verizon.net) for reservations and information.

**December 10:** "Ormolu-Mounted Porcelain" by Daniëlle Kisluk-Grosheide, Henry R. Kravis Curator, European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, New York. CCSC, 1:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Avenue, Old Greenwich, Connecticut. Information at [ctcsc.org](http://ctcsc.org) or call 203.912.7226.

**Ongoing to January 6, 2019;** Dining by Design, Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library, 5105 Kennett Pike (Route 52), Winterthur, Delaware. For information, <https://www.winterthur.org>.

**Ongoing to September 22, 2019:** Masterpieces of French Faience: Selections from the Sidney R. Knafel Collection. Exhibit in the Portico Gallery of the Frick Museum, 75 objects from the finest collection of French faience in private hands. 1 East 70th Street, New York, New York. Go to [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org) for further information.