



Dragon and Phoenix Wucai Dish, China, Kangxi period, porcelain,
D 12 3/4 in. Photo: [iGavelAuctions.com](https://www.IGavelAuctions.com).

The 2026 Connecticut Ceramics Circle Seminar

"A Guide to Chinese Ceramics, Ancient and Modern"

and "Chinese Ceramics: How to Navigate a Complicated Market"

by Lark Mason, Jr. of Lark Mason Associates

Sponsored by Eileen Brennan-Galvin, Kate Cordsen
and Irene Willisich

Monday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. via Zoom

Registration at cceramicsc.org/2026-seminar

We are delighted to welcome Lark Mason, Jr. to present these two Seminar talks, which are complementary and build upon an understanding of ceramic types and cultures within China and those with Chinese trading partners. Ancient trade is not isolated from today's markets, because trade from the past distributed Chinese ceramics internationally and exposed Chinese ingenuity and techniques and materials to cultures outside of China, influencing not just ceramic manufacture but also relationships between China and the rest of the world.

Lecture One: "A Guide to Chinese Ceramics, Ancient and Modern," 1:00 p.m.

Chinese ceramic manufacture spans thousands of years and has influenced the design and materials used in Asian and Western societies. In this talk, we cover all major types of ceramics and specific kiln sites in China. Glazes, materials, kiln design, and decorative elements are explored in a sweeping overview from the Neolithic period through the 20th century.

Lecture Two: "Chinese Ceramics: How to Navigate a Complicated Market," 2:30 p.m.

A foundational understanding of Chinese ceramic types, materials, and history is important to understanding past and current markets. Internal trade within China and Southeast Asian markets and those between China and Western commercial centers dispersed Chinese ceramics throughout the world, creating a worldwide audience for Chinese ceramics. The international market today is based on early trade patterns and current trading, diplomatic, and economic policies, much like those that shaped trade in the past.

Lark Mason, Jr. is the owner of Lark Mason Associates, former President of the Appraisers Association of America; Past Chairman of Asia Week; Board Member of the Preservation Society of Newport County; former Professor at New York University; and translator and author of *Connoisseurship of Chinese Furniture*; *Chinese Furniture of the Qing Dynasty*; *Asian Art, Appraisal Handbook*, and *Communality of Humans Through Art*, with contributions to numerous other publications.

Register at cceramicsc.com/2026-seminar

Seminar Fees:

Member, \$35

Non-member, \$45

Seminar and 1/2 year membership: \$75

After registration, the Seminar Link will be sent out on February 2.

We look forward to having you join us for this illuminating pair of lectures!



Pair of "Lotus" Jars and Covers, China, Porcelain, Fahua style, Qing dynasty, H each approximately 18 1/2 in. Photo: iGavelAuctions.com.

Announcement of Connecticut Ceramics Circle 2026 Grant

The Connecticut Ceramics Circle is pleased to announce that we will offer a Grant or Grants for research or a project in the field of ceramics. Such research or project must further the CCC's mission "to promote the understanding of pottery and porcelain and to disseminate knowledge about diverse topics in the field of the ceramic arts."

The total funding for the 2025-2026 award or awards will be limited to \$2500. The Application is available on the CCC website, <https://www.cceramicsc.org/application-form>. Completed applications must be received by April 30, 2026.

Applications will be reviewed by the CCC Board of Directors, and all applicants will be notified of the results of the review process by June 15, 2026. Applicants who are offered a Grant (the "Grantee") must accept or reject the offer within one month of notification of the award. The final project will be due one year from the date of notification of the award.

Please email us at connecticutceramicscircle@gmail.com if you would like more information, or see our website.

We look forward to hearing from researchers, museum curators, artists, and others with an interest in the field of ceramics.

A Change and Additions to CCC Directory

Deborah Dearborn, 52 South Road, Deerfield, NH 03037

Donna Hannay, 16 Osborne Lane, Southport, CT 06890; cafedame@aol.com, 847.420.8574

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Debra Watson, 3303 Water Street NW, Unit 3M, Washington, D. C.;
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Matthew Wilcox, 5306 Knox Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144;
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San Francisco Ceramics Club Lecture Zoom Link

The recent excellent lecture by John Whitehead to the San Francisco Ceramics Club on January 18 over Zoom, "The Wonderful Misuse of Porcelain: Chinese and Japanese Porcelains Mounted in Gilt Bronze in Eighteenth-century France," may be viewed by those who missed it (or by those who enjoyed it so much they want to see it again!) using this link, kindly supplied by the SFCC:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/q9fi8FHm_BfI2hGYpb_IXni2jOZ4FpSh3rXa_Vr6wFc4VB4YLm3ifylWrExYCc_wO.m1jeK533Vc0s8EUU?startTime=1768763136000

Passcode: 9D.VYJsJ



Jar, Reinterpretation of a Moon Jar by Isadora Espinosa, Puenbo, Ecuador. Stoneware, finished with foraged local clay and experimental glaze, 12" x 15", 2025. Photo Credit: Adam Chau.

Report from Ecuador by Ceramist Adam Chau

In 2025, ceramist and former CCC Vice President Adam Chau made a trip to Ecuador to explore the current state of contemporary ceramics there, with the aid of a CCC grant. We are pleased to publish his findings below:

During my trip to Ecuador, I focused on understanding contemporary ceramics through conversations with artists working in and around Quito, the capital. I partnered with Barroquema, a ceramic business that produces clay and glaze, to find six Quito-based ceramic artists whose practices range from functional pottery to sculptural work. While their methods and philosophical approaches to ceramics differed, all of them expressed a shared pull toward pre-Columbian ceramics as a foundational reference point. Artists cited the gallery Casa del Alabado as a crucial institution that, by reframing pre-Columbian objects, has revived interest in the country's artistic heritage.

One of the most striking observations from these conversations was the clear hierarchy between sculpture and utilitarian pottery. Artists consistently described a strong distinction between those who make "art" objects and those who produce functional wares. This divide felt more pronounced than in the U.S., likely due to Ecuador's robust production-pottery systems, which make utilitarian ceramics highly visible, economically structured, and culturally distinct from studio-based sculptural work.

At the same time, there is a growing enthusiasm for ceramics among younger generations. Several artists noted an increase in people wanting to open studios or pursue clay as a serious practice. However, this optimism is tempered by concern about sustainability, particularly in the absence of widespread higher-level education in ceramics. Although I was unable to interview any of the few ceramic professors at the university level, I did speak with a student who recently graduated who emphasized efforts to integrate critical thinking into what has historically been a technically focused curriculum.

I also learned about the ceramics biennial in Cuenca, growing in popularity and renown, which I unfortunately missed, but which appears to be an important platform for contemporary ceramic art. The lingering questions for me remain economic: who is collecting and purchasing this work, and how does international trade affect the growth of the industry?

The link to Casa del Alabado: <https://alabado.org/home/>

Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

February 6: The Wedgwood International Seminar presents a Zoom lecture by Angelika Kuettner, Curator of Ceramics and Glass at Colonial Williamsburg on "Wedgwood and Colonial Williamsburg." The Zoom Link will be sent to

members on Sunday, February 1, but information can be found on the WIS FaceBook page, on Instagram, and at the WIS website at www.wedgwoodinternationalseminar.com

February 11: The Pottery & Porcelain Club in Providence, Rhode Island will have a lecture at 11:00 a.m., "A Revolution in Taste: Chinese Blue-and-White Porcelains of the Yuan (1279-1368) and Early Ming (1368-1644) Periods" by Robert D. Mowry, Alan J. Dworsky Curator of Chinese Art Emeritus, Harvard Art Museums, Senior Consultant in Chinese and Korean Art, Christie's, followed by a luncheon at the Hope Club, 6 Benevolent Street, Providence. Members and Guests are welcome to reserve by email by February 3 with the names of those attending to judithbrott@gmail.com, and mail your check for \$35.00 per person payable to The Pottery and Porcelain Club, c/o Ms. Judith Brott, 31 Elmgrove Ave., Apt.1, Providence, RI 02906.

Ongoing to February 15: 'For Maria,' an exhibit honoring the Tewa ceramic artists Maria and Julian Martinez is at the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. More information at <https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb/exhibitions/maria-rose-b-simpson-and-pueblo-pottery>.

Ongoing to February 21: Nicole Cherubini has a solo exhibition 'Hotel Roma' showing her handbuilt and monumental ceramic pieces at Friedman Benda, 515 West 26th Street, New York City. More information at <https://www.friedmanbenda.com>. Cherubini pieces have recently been acquired by the Everson Museum and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum.

Ongoing to February 28: Paul Scott, who previously lectured to the CCC, has an exhibit 'One Way or Another,' along with Caroline Slotte, at HB381, a contemporary ceramics and sculpture gallery at 381 Broadway in New York City. More information at <https://hb381gallery.com>.

Due May 1: Applications are due on May 1 for the Paul and Gladys Richards Study of British Transferware grant administered by the Transferware Collectors Club. The grants are up to \$10,000 and support research, publications, exhibitions, lectures and conferences that advance the understanding and appreciation of British transfer printed ceramics. For more information, go to <https://www.transferwarecollectorsclub.org/research-learning/research-grants>.

March 9: "An Introduction to French Soft-Paste Porcelain Factories of the 18th Century" by Bernard Dragesco, ceramics specialist and dealer, Paris, via Zoom, presented by the Connecticut Ceramics Circle.
