

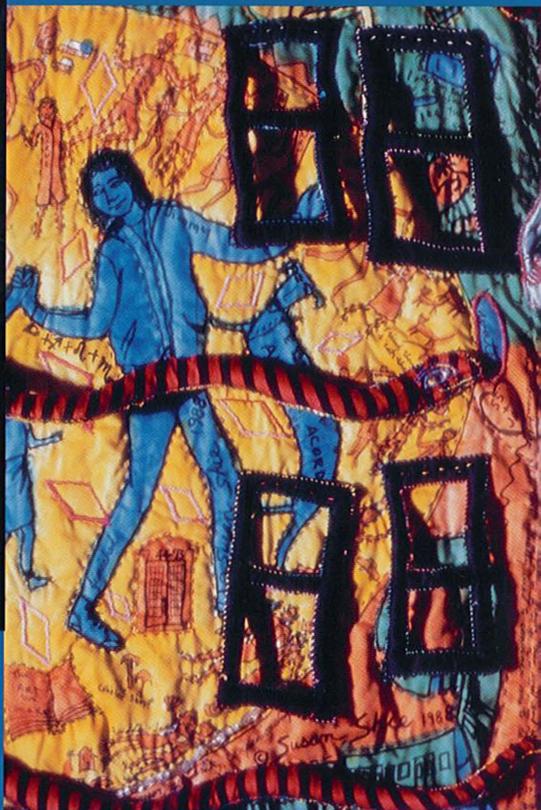
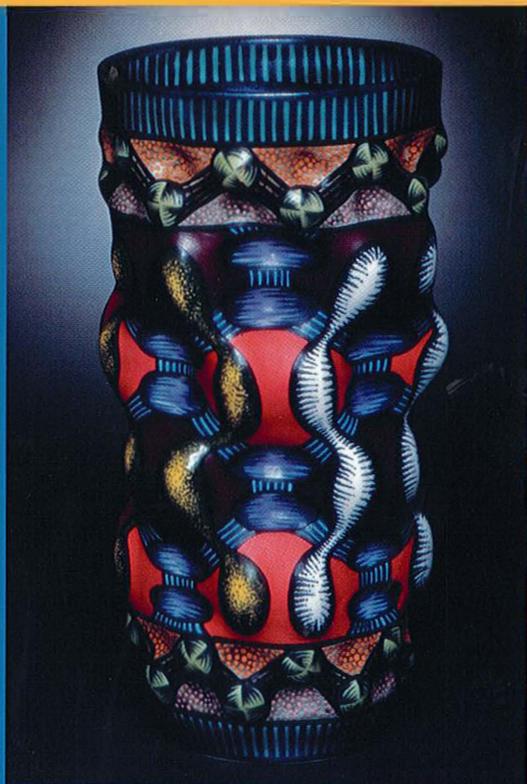
Ohio Arts Council's

RIFFE GALLERY

TRANSCENDING TRADITIONS

Ohio Artists in

CLAY + FIBER



Organized by the Ohio Arts Council



CURATORS

Janice Lessman-Moss, Professor of Art, Kent State University
Judith Salomon, Associate Professor, Cleveland Institute of Art

OHIO ARTISTS TRANSCEND TRADITIONS OF CERAMICS

From an essay by Judith Solomon, Associate Professor, Cleveland Institute of Art

Work by the clay artists in this show represents the diversity of contemporary ceramics. All of these artists are interested in form, volume, surface and personal interpretation. They have transformed nature into art through human activity, transcended tradition and created their own voices and styles. They use clay because it can reflect their sense of touch and give permanence to their creations and ideas.

The works of **George Bowes** are a hybrid of the decorative, obsessive past of Sevres and Wedgwood, with a contemporary embrace of popular culture and a sense of humor and political potency. He makes classic vessels, then transforms them with a painterly deftness that makes them radiate and undulate.

Kristen Cliffl makes sculptures using feminine iconography and a tongue-in-cheek view of the contemporary woman's role in society. She uses gender specific objects to question norms and confront stereotypes. Her universal message is laden with humor, self-appraisal and self-searching.

Rebecca Harvey makes utilitarian, functional pottery using traditional, industrial slip casting techniques that have been reinvigorated with a playfulness often associated with childhood toys. Her pieces are layered with a sugary, unctuous glaze. Their joyful personas transform everyday tabletop vessels into an enchanted party.

Nature and its relationship to the human figure are the main sources of influence for **Eva Kwong**. The surfaces of her pieces are carved and scratched away to reveal a world beneath the skin. Her forms take on a meditative sensuality that is powerful in its simplicity and directness.

The wood fired vessels of **Kirk Mangus** borrow the sensibility of early Asian ceramics and get their volumes from the classic Greek clay tradition. His pieces are irreverent, boisterous and explore the roughness and rawness of the clay and the joy of making.

Kelly Palmer transforms the human form so it is almost unrecognizable. Shapes of the 1950s are blown up; sensuality and mass are emphasized. Surface embellishment is used to tell a story. Approaching Palmer's pieces is like being invited to a telescopic viewing of an unknown abyss.

George Bowes



Kristen Cliffl



Rebecca Harvey



Eva Kwong



Kirk Mangus



Kelly Palmer



Dorothy Gill Barnes



Nancy Crow



Deborah Frazee Carlson



Jo Ann Giordano



Susan Shie + James Acord



Lilian Tyrrell



FIBER ART REFLECTS SENSITIVITY FOR MATERIALS AND PROCESSES

From an essay by Janice Lessman-Moss, Professor of Art, Kent State University

The fiber artists in this exhibition create work that reflects an understanding and sensitivity for the processes and materials of their art. Their work has a richness of detail and conveys a sense of wholeness and integrity of design. These artists create work with roots in the traditions of basketry, tapestry, screen printing, weaving, brocade, quiltmaking and embroidery. Their unique visions and aesthetic sensibilities become clear through their use of distinctive vocabularies.

Dorothy Gill Barnes manipulates bark and other natural materials into sculptural forms of provocative beauty. She is acutely aware of the seasons and respects the subtleties and variations of nature. She lets the forms and techniques evolve with the flexibility, texture, color and character of the harvested material.

Nancy Crow's quilts are dynamic patterned compositions that have a strong affinity with the informal construction of traditional crazy quilts. Crow's bold, saturated array of hand dyed fabrics provides a palette for the creation of her work. Her quilts are rich with nuance and harmonious passages.

Deborah Frazee Carlson uses doubleweave and brocade to create small, detailed cloth tablets or scrolls. Their intimate size compels viewers to examine the weavings carefully, drawing them in by the rhythmic movement of marks and images and the recognition of symbols or words.

Jo Ann Giordano's constructions use sheer fabrics and delicate materials as a metaphor for the fragility of human existence. At a distance her works are beautiful and compelling patterned objects. Close examination reveals provocative content.

The team of **Susan Shie** and **James Acord** dazzles the eye and mind with visual stimuli in quilted, beaded, painted, embellished, mixed media objects. Joy, exuberance and spontaneous energy are evident in their work. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, they instill hope and healing.

Lilian Tyrrell's weavings are created through the pictorial process of tapestry that has been used historically to record heroic or religious events and allegories. Tyrrell employs this time-consuming method of production to contrast with the immediacy and proliferation of visual images conveyed through popular media.

We're Building Ohio Through the Arts

The Ohio Arts Council, a state agency established in 1965, builds the state through the arts – economically, educationally and culturally – preserving the past, enhancing the present and enriching the future for all Ohioans. The Council believes the arts should be shared by the people of Ohio. The arts arise from public, individual and organizational efforts. The OAC supports and encourages those efforts.

Bob Taft, Governor
Barbara S. Robinson, OAC Board Chair
Wayne P. Lawson, Executive Director

Ohio Arts Council
727 East Main Street
Columbus, OH 43205-1796
614/466-2613

For TTY/TDD
use Ohio Relay Service 1-800-750-0750

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www.oac.state.oh.us

The Ohio Arts Council is an equal opportunity employer.

The Riffe Gallery, operated by the Ohio Arts Council, showcases the work of Ohio's artists and curators and the collections of the state's museums and galleries.

RIFFE GALLERY

Vern Riffe Center
Across from the Statehouse on High
Downtown Columbus
Call 614/644-9624



Gallery Hours

M, Tu 10-4 Sat 12-8
W, Th, F 10-8 Sun 12-4
Free Admission

Cover Photos

LEFT George Bowes, *Vase*
RIGHT Susan Shie + James Acord, *Tropical New York, Detail*

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