

## Heirloom of the Artist: Rethinking Whistler's Peacock Room

By Lee Glazer, PhD

Associate Curator, American Art, Freer Gallery of Art  
and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian  
Institution, Washington, D. C.

On October 12, 2015 we will look at the ways in which the Peacock Room, James McNeill Whistler's famed decorative interior, has intersected with the history of collecting Asian ceramics in the West. The room began its life as a Victorian dining room filled with Chinese blue-and-white porcelain of the Kangxi era. It later became an aesthetic laboratory where the Gilded Age collector Charles Lang Freer juxtaposed a wide variety of Asian roughly textured, subtly glazed ceramics. Far from being a static icon of Victorian aestheticism, the Peacock Room has had a dynamic, international history. The stories that it can tell us are as much about Asian ceramics and shifting points of contact between east and west, as they are about Whistler's decorative harmonies.

Lee Glazer is Associate Curator of American Art at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery where her most recent exhibition, *Peacock Room REMIX: Darren Waterston's Filthy Lucre*, opened in May 2015. Glazer has a PhD from the Department of the History of Art, University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *A Perfect Harmony: The American Collection in the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art* (2013) and co-editor of *James McNeill Whistler in Context* (2008), *East West Interchanges in American Art* (2012), and *Palaces of Art: Whistler and the Art Worlds of Aestheticism* (2013). She recently reinstalled the Peacock Room to its appearance in 1908, when its shelves were filled with Asian ceramics collected by museum founder Charles Lang Freer. Glazer is the author of the accompanying book and app for iPad and iPhone, *The Peacock Room Comes to America* (2012). In 2013, she received a Smithsonian Institution Scholarly



*James McNeill Whistler, Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Peacock Room, 1876–1877, view of the south wall as installed for The Peacock Room Comes to America. Gift of Charles Lang Freer, F1904.61*



*James McNeill Whistler, Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Peacock Room, Detail.*



### ***Time to cull your cabinets!***

Donate to CCSC Treasure Sale and support our lecture program.

Studies Award for the topic, Whistler and Watercolor. The lecture will take place on October 12 at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT at 1:15 p.m., with tea to follow. Admission for non-CCSC members is \$25. Information: 203-531-6831 or [info@ctceramiccircle.org](mailto:info@ctceramiccircle.org).

## **Treasure Sale on December 14**

The CCSC Treasure Sale returns on December 14! The sale will take place following the scheduled lecture. To make this a success, we need your donations of ceramics, glass, jewelry and books on ceramics or the decorative arts. All proceeds benefit the CCSC. Please bring your items to the October 12 meeting, where Natalie Robinson and Jane Connochie will collect them. Items must be in good condition. For further information, call Natalie Robinson (914-725-2815) or Jane Connochie (203-622-1128).



*Plate, ca 1752-1758 Chelsea factory (English, active 1745-1769).\**



*Table, ca 1761-1763, Alcora factory (Spain, 1727-about 1858).\*\**

## **American Ceramic Circle Boston Symposium, November 5 to 7**

The 2015 Symposium of the American Ceramic Circle will offer a visit to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts with "drop-in tours" with the Curator, Thomas Michie, as well as an opportunity to visit either the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum or the Harvard Art Museums. The symposium begins on Thursday evening, November 5 with a welcome reception at Skinner, Inc. Among the speakers on Friday the 6th and Saturday the 7th will be independent scholars, as well as curators from these East Coast museums: The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Winterthur in Delaware; The Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art; and The Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Topics covered will range from "Della Robbia Sculpture..." of the Renaissance, and "Cockles and Mussels: Shells and English Ceramic Design" to "Arlene Shechet: Meissen Recast." And that's only a taste of the wide-ranging subjects the experts will delve into. The ceramics holdings of the MFA also will be explored in depth.

Information: [www.americanceramiccircle.org](http://www.americanceramiccircle.org) or [acc@acc.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:acc@acc.hrcoxmail.com) or call 757-565-8613 to find out more and to sign up for this exciting weekend in Boston.

\**Plate, ca 1752-1758 Chelsea factory (English, active 1745-1769). Soft-paste porcelain, enamel decoration, Diam. 36.2 cm (14 1/4 in.) Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Jessie and Sigmund Katz Collection, 1988.*

\*\**Table, ca 1761-1763, Alcora factory (Spain, 1727-about 1858). Possibly modeled by Julian Lopez (Spanish, active about 1745-1775, died 1792). Tin-glazed earthenware, enamel decoration, 96.5 x 132.7 x 68.6 cm (38 x 52 1/4 x 27 in.) Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Henry H. and Zoe Oliver Sherman Fund, 2010.*



# The Use and Display of French Baroque Faïence in André Le Nôtre's Gardens

By Camille Leprince

Independent Scholar, Consultant and Member,  
*Chambre National des Experts Spécialisés en Objets d'Art et de Collection* (CNES)



*Monumental Garden Vase of Baroque Shape, painted in blue and white with Chinese figures and bearing the French Royal coat of arms (fleurs de lys erased probably after the Revolution). Nevers, circa 1670-1690  
Height : 82 cm ; width with handles : 72 cm.*



*Trianon de Porcelaine, 1671-1687.  
Reconstitution (non scientifique).  
Architectes : Louis Le Vau et François d'Orbay  
Commanditaire : Louis XIV*

On November 9, 2015 we will learn about André Le Nôtre (1613-1700), master of the art of the *Jardin à la française* during the reign and under the patronage of King Louis XIV (1638-1715). He created gardens for most of the royal chateaux: Saint-Cloud, Marly, Chantilly, and Sceaux, but Versailles remains his masterpiece.

Le Nôtre's art and his talent for the creation of gardens has been studied widely and published extensively, but the use and display of ceramics in his gardens is a subject that has been completely ignored. It has long been recognized that the *faïence* factories in Rouen, Saint-Cloud, Delft and particularly Nevers produced exceptional baroque wares characterized by their monumental size, classic shapes mixed with anthropomorphic and zoomorphic ornaments, and painted with colorful "modern" patterns influenced by Italy, Persia and China. But for whom and for what purpose were they made? And how and where were they used? Through study of archaeological findings from excavations such as those at Versailles, as well as examination of contemporary paintings, engravings, and archival documents, these questions are beginning to be answered.

Camille Leprince is a graduate of the *Paris-Sorbonne Université* (Paris IV) and the *École du Louvre* and is currently a PhD candidate. He spent several months working as an intern in the ceramics department at Christie's in New York, and he has subsequently been designated an "Expert" in European ceramics by the C.N.E.S. (*Chambre Nationale des Experts Spécialisés en Objets d'Art et de Collection*, the National Association of Experts Specialized in Decorative Arts and in Collecting), Paris. Camille collaborates with Michel Vandermeersch at Maison Vandermeersch, a recognized antiques dealer established in Paris in 1880 specializing in French porcelain, *faïence* and glass. Since 2009, Leprince's extensive academic writings have focused on ceramics from majolica to *faïence* and porcelain and have been published by *Feu et Talent*, Paris. Most recently, in September 2014, *Feu et Talent*



*Monumental Orange Tree Pot, With Antique Bearded Man Masks, detail, painted in blue of stylized motifs influenced by Chinese Kangxi porcelain. Nevers, circa 1665-1685.*

published Leprince's "*La Faïence Baroque Française et les Jardins de Le Nôtre*" ("French Baroque Faïence and the Gardens of Le Nôtre") for the world-famous Paris Antiques Fair, *La XXVIIe Biennale des Antiquaires*.

The lecture will take place on November 9 at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT at 1:15 p.m., with tea to follow. Admission for non-CCSC members is \$25. Information: 203-531-6831 or [info@ctceramiccircle.org](mailto:info@ctceramiccircle.org).

## October 20 CCSC Excursion to New Haven

There will be a trip to New Haven on October 20 to see the exhibition at the Yale University Art Gallery organized by CCSC grant recipient Sequoia Miller. It's entitled "The Ceramic Presence in Modern Art". For more information, contact Natalie Robinson 914-725-2815 or Patricia Hedlund 203-656-0726.

## Displaying Ceramics in New Museums of Islamic Art

On October 22, the Pottery and Porcelain Club of Providence will present Walter B. Denny's lecture on Islamic ceramics. The recent opening of new museums and galleries of Islamic Art in, among others, Toronto, New York, Qatar, Houston, Paris, Detroit, London, and Springfield, Massachusetts has provided institutions with new opportunities to re-think how we look at this important medium. Professor Denny will discuss the successes and failures of these new displays of Islamic art with specific regard to their treatment of ceramics from the Islamic world.

Walter B. Denny is Professor of Art History, University of Massachusetts/Amherst, Amherst, MA and author of *Gardens of Paradise: Turkish Tiles 15th-17th Centuries* (Istanbul, 1998), and *Iznik: the Art of Ottoman Ceramics* (Thames and Hudson, 2015). (see page 7 for details.)



*Polychrome Plate, Safavid Iran, Polychrome Plate, 17th century. Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar.*

## China Institute Has Moved!

On August 17, 2015, the China Institute moved to 100 Washington Street (entry at 40 Rector Street), in lower Manhattan. The expanded galleries and class space will allow the China Institute to continue to be 'gateway to all things China' in the depth of its programming in art, education, culture, and business.



# Nordic Light as Mid-Century Modern Comfort: The Art of Bing & Grøndahl, Rörstrand, Gustavsberg and Arabia

By Ezra Shales, PhD

Associate Professor,  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design,  
Boston, MA



*Flared Cylinder*, 1941, Maija Grotell, wheel-thrown glazed stoneware, 15" x 11 ½" x 11 ½". Collection Museum of Arts and Design, New York, purchased by the American Craft Council, 1967. Photo: Eva Heyd



*Vase (Leda)*, detail, mid-20th century, Maija Grotell, glazed stoneware, h: 7-1/4", gift of Winslow Anderson, Collection Alfred Ceramic Art Museum 1993.57. Photo: Brian Oglesbee

When we pick up a textured ceramic coffee mug or casserole, most of us have a factory to thank—a factory that produced handicraft, not a lone potter—and the taste for such wares in North America is influenced by the brilliant pottery made by Scandinavian factories such as Bing & Grøndahl, Royal Copenhagen, Rörstrand, Gustavsberg, and Arabia. There, creative artists/designers were seen as being as necessary as standardized clay and predictable firing temperatures.

This lecture will address the role of ceramics in tempering and humanizing modern architecture and beautifying the post-war middle-class home. It will identify key artist-designer-craftsmen and craftswomen whose work came to the United States. The Museum of Modern Art championed Scandinavian tableware that balanced between tasteful luxury and austere form. The call for industrial modernization and democratization was seen in the concept of beautiful, well-designed, utilitarian objects, such as ceramic dinerwares, in the home.

Ezra Shales is a Professor in the History of Art Department at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. He is a past recipient of a CCSC grant whose previous lecture in April 2011 was "Art Pottery as a Craft of Self Invention: Charles Fergus Binns, Rookwood and the New American Ceramic Genre." Shales has a PhD from the Bard Graduate Center. He is author of *Made in Newark* (2010) and articles on varied subjects. Shales is active as a curator and recently organized "Pathmakers: Women in Art, Craft, and Design, Midcentury and Today" for the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City (open until September 30, 2015), and "O Pioneers! Women Ceramic Artists, 1925-1960" for the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum (September—December 2015) Alfred University, Alfred, NY.

The lecture will take place on December 14 at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT at 1:15 p.m., with tea to follow. Admission for non-CCSC members is \$25. Information: 203-531-6831 or [info@ctceramiccircle.org](mailto:info@ctceramiccircle.org).

# 2014–2015: The Year in Review

We congratulate Diane O'Connor, Program Committee Chairman, and her committee for another thought-provoking lecture season. What a diverse and interesting series of speakers and lecture topics!



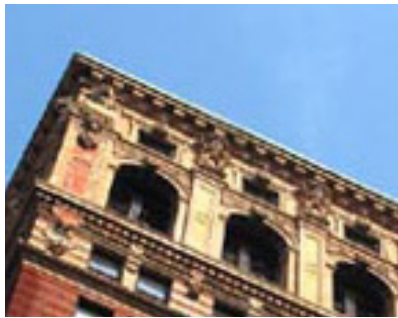
October  
Scott Ruby  
“Imperial Russian Porcelain Treasures of the 18th & 19th Centuries”



November  
Julia Weber  
“Meissen Porcelains with East Asian Decoration: from the Ernst Schneider Collection”



December  
Frederico Santi  
“Zsolnay Ceramics: Collecting A Culture”



January  
Francis Morrone  
“Skyscraper Art: Ornamental Terracotta on Iconic New York Buildings, 1870-1940”



February  
Andrew Cornell Robinson “From the Mid-East to the World: The Global Adaptation & Adoption of Tin-Glazed Pottery”



March  
Amanda Lange  
“Rise to the Top! Creamware from The Alistair Sampson Collection at Historic Deerfield”



April  
Jeffrey Ruda  
“When West Meets East: Christopher Dresser, Felix Bracquemond & Japonisme”



May  
Stuart Slavid  
Fairyland “Lustre: Iridescent Whimsy at Wedgwood - The Work of Daisy Makeig-Jones”



## Elsewhere in the Decorative Arts

### **October 5 "Money, Beauty, Power: The Transformation of Taste in America's Gilded Age."**

Ulysses Grant Dietz, Chief Curator, Curator of Decorative Arts, Newark Museum. Anniversary Lecture/Luncheon: Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 10:30 a.m., The Water Club, 49 River Road, Cos Cob, CT. Information and Reservations: [info@greenwichdecorativearts.org](mailto:info@greenwichdecorativearts.org).

**October 12 "Heirloom of the Artist: Rethinking Whistler's Peacock Room."** Speaker: Lee Glazer, Associate Curator, American Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. Lecture: CCSC, 1:15 p.m., Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Admission non-members \$25. Information: 203-531-6831 or [info@ctceramiccircle.org](mailto:info@ctceramiccircle.org).

**October 15 "New Discoveries in the Ancient Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee."** Speaker: Jodi Magness, Professor, University of North Carolina. Lecture: Archaeological Associates of Greenwich, 8:00 p.m., the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. Non-member admission: \$15. Information: 203-661-4654 or [aagnancyb@aol.com](mailto:aagnancyb@aol.com).

**October 20** CCSC to New Haven. Excursion: Yale University Art Gallery, "The Ceramic Presence in Modern Art: Selections from the Linda Leonard Schlenger Collection" tour by Sequoia Miller, CCSC Anniversary Year Grant Recipient. Information: 914-725-2815 or 203-656-0726.

**October 22 "Displaying Ceramics in New Museums of Islamic Art."** Speaker: Dr. Walter Denny, Professor of Art History and Mideastern Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. Lecture: Pottery and Porcelain Club, 2:00 p.m., Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design, Benefit Street, Providence, RI. Information: 401-351 4042 or [daisy.schnepel@verizon.net](mailto:daisy.schnepel@verizon.net).

**November 2 "The Painted Furniture of Philadelphia 1800-1820."** Speaker: Alexandra Kirtley, Montgomery-Garvan Associate Curator of American Decorative Arts, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Lecture: Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m., Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Information: [info@greenwichdecorativearts.org](mailto:info@greenwichdecorativearts.org).

**November 5-7 American Ceramic Circle Symposium.** Host: Boston Museum of Art, Boston, MA. Symposium: American Ceramic Circle. Information: 757-565-8613 or [www.americanceramiccircle.org](http://www.americanceramiccircle.org).

**November 7 "Port Chester: Melting Pot(s)."** Exhibition and Tasting: Michael Strand, Clay Art Center. 700 Port Chester High School students and residents created "el-bowls." Pick a bowl, sample recipes by local chefs. 4-6:00 p.m., the Clay Art Center, 40 Beech Street, Port Chester, NY 10573.

**November 9 "The Use and Display of French Baroque Faïence in André Le Nôtre's Gardens."** Speaker: Camille Leprince, Independent Scholar, Consultant and Member, *Chambre National des Experts Spécialisés en Objets d'Art et de Collection* (CNES). Lecture: CCSC, 1:15 p.m., Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Admission non-members is \$25. Information: 203-531-6831 or [info@ctceramiccircle.org](mailto:info@ctceramiccircle.org).

**November 12 "Ceramics and the Art Nouveau and Art Deco Movements."** Speaker: Nicholas M. Dawes, Appraiser, VP Special Collections, Heritage Auction Gallery. Pottery and Porcelain Club, 2:00 p.m., Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design, Benefit Street, Providence, RI. Information: 401 351 4042 or [daisy.schnepel@verizon.net](mailto:daisy.schnepel@verizon.net).

**November 19 "Crossroads of the Carthaginian and Roman Empires in Tunisia."** Speaker: Brett Kaufman, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University. Archaeological Associates of Greenwich, 8 p.m., the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich. Non-member admission \$15. Information: 203-661-4654 or [aagnancyb@aol.com](mailto:aagnancyb@aol.com).

**December 7 "Art Nouveau: A Jewel in Every Medium."** Speaker: Benjamin Macklowe, President, Macklowe Gallery, NYC. Lecture: Greenwich Decorative Arts Society, 1:15 p.m., Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Information: [info@greenwichdecorativearts.org](mailto:info@greenwichdecorativearts.org).

**December 14 "Nordic Light as Mid-Century Modern Comfort: the Art of Bing & Grøndahl, Rörstrand, Gustavsberg and Arabia."** Speaker: Ezra Shales, Associate Professor, Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Lecture CCSC, 1:15 p.m., Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Information: 203-531-6831 or [info@ctceramiccircle.org](mailto:info@ctceramiccircle.org). **CCSC Treasure Sale:** 2:30 p.m. after CCSC Lecture. Information and Donations: Natalie Robinson (914-725-2815) or Jane Connochie (203-622-1128).



## 2015-2016

- October 12**     **"Heirloom of the Artist: Rethinking Whistler's Peacock Room"**  
Lee Glazer, Associate Curator, American Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Artuor M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- November 9**     **"French Baroque Faïence and André Le Nôtre's Gardens"**  
Camille Leprince, PhD Candidate, Member, CNES (*Chambre National des Experts Spécialisés en Objets d'Art et de Collection*, National Association of Experts Specialized in Decorative Art and in Collecting).
- December 14**     **"Nordic Light as Mid-Century Modern Comfort: the Art of Bing and Grøndahl, Rörstrand, Gustavsberg and Arabia"**  
Ezra Shales, PhD, Associate Professor, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA.
- January 11**     **"Porcelain Wars: The Rivalry Between Meissen and Du Paquier"**  
Meredith Chilton, Acting Curator and Founding Curator, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada.
- February 8**     **"Old Friends, New Direction: European Ceramics at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston"**  
Thomas Michie, Curator of European Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.
- March 14**     **"Chigusa and the Art of Tea"**  
Louise Allison Cort, Curator of Ceramics, Freer Gallery of Art and Artuor M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- April 11**     **"The Magic and Majesty of Majolica"**  
**Seminar\***     Nicolaus Boston, Independent Scholar, Proprietor Nicolaus Boston  
**9:30-2:30p.m.**     Antiques, London, UK.
- May 9**     **"Arts and Industry: Collaboration and Relevation"**  
Kristin Pulcar, Art and Industry Coordinator, John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI.

Unless otherwise noted, the CCSC meets at the Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT.

Lectures start promptly at 1:15 p.m. There is no lecture charge for members. The lecture fee for non-members is \$25.

Reservations: 203-531-6831 or e-mail: [rsvp@ctceramicscircle.org](mailto:rsvp@ctceramicscircle.org)

\*There will be an additional charge for the seminar.