



Ralph Bacerra

Ralph Bacerra

Early Works
Intimate and Personal

January 9 – February 6, 2010

Front cover, clockwise, from top:

Untitled Platter, ceramic, 22 x 22 x 2 ¼ inches

Untitled Bowl, ceramic, 4 ¼ x 12 x 12 inches

Untitled Lidded Box, ceramic, 3 x 11x 6 inches

FRANK
LLOYD
GALLERY

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Ralph Bacerra

With over twenty solo exhibitions to his credit, Ralph Bacerra developed an international reputation in the world of contemporary ceramics. Well known for his strength in surface pattern and decoration, Bacerra passed away on June 10, 2008.

Many of the smaller, early works show the artist's interest in Asian ceramics. He was particularly fond of Imari ware and Kutani ceramics. Rare among American ceramists, his works were collected by museums in Asia, including the Shigaraki Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art in Japan, and the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto. In the U.S., Bacerra's work was included in the National Collection of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., the M.H. de Young Museum in San Francisco, and the Everson Museum in Syracuse, New York.

Born in 1938 in Garden Grove, California, Bacerra had an affinity for ceramics from an early age, and was a star pupil of Vivika Heino at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles, California, earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1961. Following a tour of duty in the military, Bacerra taught at Chouinard from 1963 to 1972. Then Bacerra worked for a decade as a studio artist, where he researched technological applications of ceramic materials. He accepted a position as chairman of the ceramics department at Otis College of Art and Design in 1983, and continued his teaching until 1995.

Known for his straightforward statements and his disciplined approach, the artist stated, "My pieces are based on traditional ideas and engage in certain cultural appropriations—in form, in design, in glaze choices. However, my work is not postmodern in the sense that I am not making any statements—social, political, conceptual, or even intellectual. There is no meaning or metaphor. I am committed more to the idea of pure beauty. When it is finished, the piece should be like an ornament, exquisitely beautiful."



Untitled Footed Platter, c. 2000
porcelain
4 x 15 x 9 inches



Untitled Platter, c. 1970s
ceramic
3 x 15 x 9 inches



Untitled Platter
porcelain
22 x 22 x 2 ¼ inches



Untitled Platter, 1982
porcelain
19 x 19 x 3 inches



Untitled Platter, c. 1970s
porcelain
2 x 12 x 7 inches



Untitled Platter
porcelain
2 x 12 x 7 ¼ inches



Untitled Platter
porcelain
2 x 12 ¼ x 12 ¼ inches



Untitled Platter
porcelain
1 ¼ x 11 ¼ x 11 ¼ inches



Untitled Platter
ceramic
2 ¼ x 19 ½ x 16 inches



Untitled Platter
ceramic
2 x 14 x 11 inches



Untitled Bowl
ceramic
4 ¼ x 12 x 12 inches



Untitled Platter with Handle, c. 1975
ceramic
8 x 13 x 13 inches



Untitled Lidded Box, c. 1970s
porcelain
3 x 11 x 6 inches



Untitled Lidded Box, 1983

ceramic

9 ½ x 21 x 17 inches



Untitled Lidded Vessel with Base, 2000
porcelain
14 x 9 x 5 ¼ inches



Left to right: *Untitled Creamer*, c. 1980-82
ceramic
4 x 7 x 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches

Untitled Cup, c. 1980-82
ceramic
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches

Ralph Bacerra

1938 Born in Garden Grove, California
 2008 Died in Los Angeles, California

Education

1961 B.F.A., Chouinard Art School, Los Angeles

One Person Exhibitions

2010 Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
 2008 Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
 2006 Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
 2003 Garth Clark Gallery, New York
 2001 Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
 1999 Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
 Garth Clark Gallery, New York
 1997 Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
 1996 Garth Clark Gallery, New York
 1995 Cohen Berkowitz Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
 1994 Garth Clark Gallery, Los Angeles
 1993 Garth Clark Gallery, New York
 1990 Garth Clark Gallery, New York
 1989 Garth Clark Gallery, Los Angeles
 1988 Garth Clark Gallery, Los Angeles
 1986 Garth Clark Gallery, New York
 1984 Garth Clark Gallery, Los Angeles
 American Hand, Washington, D.C.
 1983 Theo Portnoy Gallery, New York
 1980 Theo Portnoy Gallery, New York
 1979 American Hand, Washington, D.C.
 1977 American Hand, Washington, D.C.
 1976 Theo Portnoy Gallery, New York

Selected Group Exhibitions

2003 *Artful Teapot: 20th Century Expressions from the Kamm Collection*, New York (catalogue)
Great Pots: Contemporary Ceramics from Function to Fantasy, Newark Museum (catalogue)
 2002 *Contemporary American Ceramics [1950-1990] A Survey Of American Objects and Vessels*, Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Nagoya, and National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan (catalogue)
 2001 *Poetics of Clay: An International Perspective*, Philadelphia Art Alliance, Pennsylvania
 2000 *Color and Fire-Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950-2000*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California
Allan Chasanoff Ceramic Collection, Mint Museum of Craft+Design, Charlotte, North Carolina
Conjunction: Melba and Al Langman Collection, Long Beach Museum of Art, California
 1999 *Anne and Sam Davis Collection*, Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, Arizona
 1997 *Kutani International Decorative Ceramics Fair '97*, Komatsu City Hall, Ishikawa, Japan
 1996 *The White House Collection of American Crafts*, Smithsonian Institution, Renwick Gallery (catalogue)
 1992 *International Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramic Art*, National Museum of History, Taipei, Taiwan R.O.C.

- 1991 *Metamorphosis of Contemporary Ceramics*,
Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Shigaraki
Ceramic Cultural Park, Japan (catalogue)
Clay, Color, Content: 28th Ceramic National,
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York
(catalogue)
- 1990 *Art that Works*, Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte,
North Carolina (catalogue)
- 1989 *Surface and Form*, National Museum of Ceramic
Art, Baltimore, Maryland, (catalogue)
- 1984 *Art in Clay*, Los Angeles Municipal Gallery,
California (catalogue)
- 1983 *Echoes*, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas
City, Missouri (catalogue)
- 1981 *Animal Images*, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian
Museum, Washington, D.C. (catalogue)
- 1980 *American Porcelain*, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian
Institution, Washington, D.C. (catalogue)
- 1972 *International Ceramics '72*, Victoria and Albert
Museum, London, England, traveled to National
Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan (catalogue)
- 1970 *Ceramics '70*, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse,
New York (catalogue)
- 1969 *Objects: USA*, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian
Institution, Washington, D.C. (catalogue)
- Bates Gallery, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Cooper Hewitt Museum, New York
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York
John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, Illinois
Kutani International Ceramics, Ishikawa, Japan
Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco
Mint Museum of Craft + Design, Charlotte, North Carolina
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Museum of Arts and Design, New York
National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
Newark Museum of Art, Newark, New Jersey
Nora Eccles Harrison Museum, Logan, Utah
Oakland Museum, Oakland, California
Racine Art Museum, Racine, Wisconsin
Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum,
Washington, D.C.
Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shigaraki, Japan
Syracuse University Art Gallery, Syracuse, New York
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England
The White House, Washington, D.C.
Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, Kansas

Museum American Museum of Ceramic Arts, Pomona, California
Collections Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, Arizona

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Anthony Cuñha (cover)
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