



Steven Young Lee

Minneapolis Institute of Arts,
Gift of C. Curtis Dunnavan

Gary Erickson

Barbara Diduk

Kate Fisher

OCTOBER 28–DECEMBER 11
Flaten Art Museum, St. Olaf College

All events are free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7:30 P.M.

Roundtable Discussion, *Flaten Art Museum Gallery*

Featuring Barbara Diduk, artist and curator of *The Vase Project*, on which this exhibit is founded; artist Gary Erickson; artist Kate Fisher; and moderator Karil Kucera, associate professor of Asian studies and art history at St. Olaf.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 6–8 P.M.

Exhibit Opening Party, *Flaten Art Museum Gallery*

Artists Barbara Diduk, Gary Erickson, and Kate Fisher will be present.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 7 P.M.

Workshop, *Dittmann Center 305*

Steven Young Lee, director of the Archie Bray Center, will give an illustrated talk about his work as it relates to the exhibit.

earth, water, FIRE

stolaf.edu/collections/flaten

Hours: MTWF 10 a.m.–5 p.m.;
Th 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; SSu 2–5 p.m.
Closed for Thanksgiving Break
November 23–27.

Earth, Water, Fire is a St Olaf
College *Transformations*
Theme Year Event.



Part visual narrative, part sociological study, and part archival document, the *Earth, Water, Fire* exhibit is grounded in 101 vases from Jingdezhen, China's porcelain capital. This show explores the dichotomy between manufactured goods and fine art as each vase is made to certain, unalterable specifications, then painted by various Chinese artists. The St. Olaf exhibit includes objects by four contemporary Western ceramists whose works have been influenced by Jingdezhen porcelains: Barbara Diduk, Gary Erickson, Kate Fisher, and Steven Young Lee. The exhibit will also include historical pieces on loan from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

As co-curators of *The Vase Project*, Barbara Diduk of Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and Zhao Yu of Hunan Normal University in Changsha, China, asked the first artist to paint a landscape incorporating Jingdezhen's ubiquitous kiln stacks; each subsequent painter was asked to use the immediately previous artist's work for inspiration, working with the same vase shape. These pieces are displayed serially, in the order completed. Linked to these works are a series of pieces by each Western ceramicist, all of whom have worked at Jingdezhen.

In addition to works in the Flaten Art Gallery, ceramic works from the St. Olaf College collection have also been placed in various venues around campus. A catalog will be available in the gallery, along with a guide to the locations of the smaller exhibition spaces on campus that are housing ceramic works.

This exhibit is made possible by the *Transformations* Theme Year Fund, the St. Olaf Freeman Asian Arts Fund, the Arnold Flaten Memorial Lecture Fund, and the St. Olaf Department of Art and Art History. Special thanks to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, co-curators Kate Fisher and Karil Kucera, and the students of Kucera's Visual Culture in Modern China class.