



January 14, 2015

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET



Return to White Mesa (1978). Glazed earthenware, raku-fired. Private collection.



Pictorial Lake (1986). Glazed earthenware, raku-fired. Collection of Sarah H. Morabito.



Lake Powell Memory—Recollection Falls (1996). Glazed porcelain. Private collection.



Stone Gate (2007). Glazed earthenware, raku-fired. Collection of the artist.

- Title:** INFINITE PLACE: THE CERAMIC ART OF WAYNE HIGBY
- When:** January 25–March 29, 2015
- Description:** “Earth, sky, time, light, space: my work is a meditation on the relationship between mind and matter,” writes world-renowned ceramic artist Wayne Higby. This nationally touring retrospective of Higby’s work brings together 55 ceramic pieces from 1967 through 2012. Included are innovative raku-fired vessels that evoke the Colorado landscapes of Higby’s childhood, glazed porcelain slabs inspired by his many visits to China, and studies for the largest hand-cut architectural installation in the world. A longtime professor at the NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Higby is currently director and curator of Alfred’s Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art.
- Credits:** *Infinite Place* is organized by the Arizona State University Art Museum Ceramics Research Center, Tempe, Arizona, and curated by former Curator of Ceramics Peter Held. In Rochester, it is sponsored by the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund, the John D. Greene Endowment for Contemporary Exhibitions, and the EDMAC Foundation. Additional support is provided by Charlotte & Raul Herrera, Mary Sue Jack & Richard E. Kreipe, Deanne Molinari, Ron & Cathy Paprocki, and Mann’s Jewelers.
- Special events:** These include a Members’ Opening Party; lecture by the artist; teacher inservice; and two ceramics master class. *For details, see attached release.*
- Hours:** Wednesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm. Open special hours Tuesday, February 17 from 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.
- Admission:** \$12; senior citizens, \$8; college students with ID and children 6–18, \$5. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Half-price admission Thursdays from 5–9 is made possible in part by Monroe County. February 14–22 and March 28–April 5, kids 18 and under are free if accompanied by an adult.
- Press contacts:** Meg Colombo, 585.353.7566 / mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu
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NATIONALLY TOURING EXHIBITION CELEBRATES WORLD-RENOWNED CERAMIST WAYNE HIGBY

ROCHESTER, NY — “Earth, sky, time, light, space: my work is a meditation on the relationship between mind and matter,” writes world-renowned ceramic artist and educator Wayne Higby.

A major retrospective of Higby’s work opens January 25, 2015 at the Memorial Art Gallery and remains on view through March 29. *Infinite Place: The Ceramic Art of Wayne Higby* brings together 55 ceramic pieces from 1967 through 2012. Included are innovative raku-fired vessels that evoke the Colorado foothills of Higby’s childhood, glazed porcelain slabs inspired by the artist’s many visits to China, and studies for the largest hand-cut architectural installation in the world—the monumental *Earth Cloud* wall sculpture at SUNY-Alfred.



Infinite Place is organized by the Arizona State University Art Museum Ceramics Research Center, Tempe, Arizona, and curated by former Curator of Ceramics Peter Held. In Rochester, it is sponsored by the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund, the John D. Greene Endowment for Contemporary Exhibitions, and the EDMAC Foundation. Additional support is provided by Charlotte & Raul Herrera, Mary Sue Jack & Richard E. Kreipe, Deanne Molinari, Ron & Cathy Paprocki, and Mann’s Jewelers.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

A longtime professor at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Wayne Higby is currently director and curator of Alfred’s Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art.

A native of Colorado Springs, Higby received his BFA from University of Colorado, Boulder. While still an undergraduate, he spent six months traveling through Europe and Asia with family friends, a formative experience that convinced him to become not only an artist but also an educator. He went on to earn his MFA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Higby gained national attention in the early 1970s with innovative raku-fired vessels that are abstract interpretations of the Western landscapes of his childhood. Two decades later, his work underwent a dramatic shift. Following a 1991 visit to the People’s Republic of China, he began working with slabs of glazed porcelain that continued to reference landscape, but as a focal point of meditation. The trip marked the beginning of an ongoing association with China, where Higby is an honorary professor of art at Shanghai University and an Honorary Citizen of the “Porcelain City” of Jingdezhen.

Higby’s other honors include the American Craft Movement Visionary Award from the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, and Master of the Media and Distinguished Educator Awards from the Smithsonian Institution’s James Renwick Alliance. He serves as Vice President of the International Academy of Ceramics, Geneva, Switzerland.

Higby’s work is in such major collections as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; and Hermitage State Museum, St. Petersburg,

Russia. The Memorial Art Gallery owns four of his works, including *Lake Powell Memory—Silent Rain*, which was acquired in 2010 in honor of former director Grant Holcomb's 25th anniversary at MAG.

SPECIAL EVENTS

These include a Members' Opening Party (January 24); teacher inservice (January 28); two ceramics master classes (February 27 and March 6); and lecture by the artist (March 1). *For details, see attached release.*

PUBLICATION

The exhibition is accompanied by *Infinite Place: The Ceramic Art of Wayne Higby* (Stuttgart: Arnoldsche Art Publishers, 2013), a fully-illustrated, 216-page monograph edited by exhibition curator Peter Held. Available in hardcover at the Gallery Store, \$85.

NATIONAL TOUR

The Memorial Art Gallery is the final venue of a two-year national tour. Previous sites were the Arizona State University Art Museum (Tempe), Renwick Gallery (Washington, DC), Reading (PA) Public Museum, Philadelphia Art Alliance and Racine (WI) Art Museum.

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INFINITE PLACE: THE CERAMIC ART OF WAYNE HIGBY
Programs and Events

MEMBERS' OPENING PARTY

- Saturday, January 24, 8–11: Special for members! Celebrate the art of Wayne Higby with music and entertainment inspired by the landscapes of the American West. Enjoy desserts and beverages available for purchase from our party sponsor, Max at the Gallery.

All membership levels are welcome, but reservations are required. Let us know if you'll join us by contacting 585.276.8939 (memberperks@mag.rochester.edu). Not a member? Visit mag.rochester.edu/join today.

LECTURE *included in MAG admission*

- Sunday, March 1 @ 2 pm: "A Conversation with Wayne Higby." Artist Wayne Higby will be joined by Henry M. Sayre, Distinguished Professor of Art History, Oregon State University, and exhibition curator Peter Held.

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS \$25

- Wednesday, January 28, 4:30–7 pm: "The Landscape of Your Life." Join MAG director of education Marlene Hamann-Whitmore, writer M.J. Iuppa and artist Julie Flisnik to look at, and learn from, the ceramic art of Wayne Higby. Participants will spend time art-making and writing responses after an engaging visit to the exhibition. The target audience is classroom, ELA and art teachers K–12. To preregister call Kerry Donovan, 585.276.8971.

MASTER CLASSES \$90 (MAG members \$81); to register call the Creative Workshop, 585.276.8959

- Friday, February 27, 9:30 am–3:30 pm (with lunch break): "Form and Multiplicity: Dimensional Tiles." Kala Stein is an artist, designer and educator who teaches ceramics at Alfred University. Her one-day workshop responds to themes of pattern, repetition and vast scale in *Infinite Place*. Students will design a dimensional geometric clay tile and make a plaster press mold.
- Friday, February 27, 9:30 am–3:30 pm (with lunch break): "Collaged Landscape: Dynamic Ceramic Surface." This class taught by visiting artist Jesse Ring focuses on drawing and painting with multiple ceramic processes. Participants will learn to generate dynamic surfaces and explore the interface between them. The class includes material inlay, mono print transfers, intricate paper stenciling, laser decals and ceramic enamels.

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS *included in Gallery admission*

- Sunday, January 25 (opening day), 1, 2 & 3 pm
- Fridays, January 30–March 27, 2 pm
- Sundays, February 1–March 29, 1 pm