

2025

AMERICAN ART POTTERY ASSOCIATION

# CONVENTION

TUES. – SAT., APRIL 22nd - 26th | BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI.





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## Contact Information:

### GENERAL CONVENTION INFORMATION:

**RILEY HUMLER**  
(513) 432-5769

### SHOW & SALE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

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Dear AAPA Members,

We came, we saw, we had a blast!

In 2024 the AAPA visited Detroit area and things went so well, that we are going back again in 2025. With the clever planning by our Secretary Paul Katrich, and his Convention Committee, we were able to see a fantastic slice of the area, listen to some stirring discussions and have a well-attended show and sale but we all felt we had only scratched the surface. There is more to see and enjoy and having found a great hotel, The Kingsley in Bloomfield Hills, that serves our need very nicely, we are returning in 2025. We again have many sights to see, more incredible speakers, a fun filled auction of donated items and another great show and sale. Add to this, the chance to enjoy each other's company for four days in late April and I think we have a win-win-win situation. Please join us on April 22nd through April 26 for our Annual Convention. I predict a good time will be had by all.

Riley Humler

President

American Art Pottery Association



The days and times of the schedule are subject to change without notice when circumstances are beyond our control.



# Schedule of Events

## TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND

4:00 - 6:00 PM Registration desk opens at the Kingsley Hotel

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD

7:30 AM Registration desk opens in the host hotel lobby

9:30 AM (departure) Tour to Edsel Ford Estate (see details on the next page)

## THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH

10:00 AM (departure) Tour to Ann Arbor (see details on the next page)

6:00 PM Welcome Meet & Greet and auction preview at the Kingsley - hors 'd oeuvres/ cash bar

6:30 PM Welcome remarks by the President, introduction of Board, first time attendees.

7:30 PM All donation, no commission/ no reserve auction

## FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH

7:00 AM Dealer Set-up

8:30 AM – Ben Tyjeksi – The Art of Building With Clay

10:00 AM – Paul Katrich – Electricity and Endurance: The High Voltage Pottery of Paul J. Katrich

11:30 AM – Bruce Johnson – Head, Heart and Hand: An American Arts and Crafts Life

12:30 – 2:00 PM – Lunch break

2:00 PM – Martin Eidelberg – Women and the American Pottery Movement

3:30 PM – Ulysses Grant Dietz – That Belongs in a Museum: What Does That Even Mean?

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Convention Registered attendees early entrance to pottery show.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Art Pottery Show and Sale, Pottery identification table...bring your unknown pots for the experts. Book signing and sale by member author



**HOST HOTEL:** The Kingsley Hotel in Bloomfield Hills will again be our headquarters for the AAPA 2025 Convention. Meet-n-Greet, Seminars, Auction, & Show/Sale will be there & Bus Tours depart from the Kingsley. Room rate is again \$179 & available Apr 19-29 to allow for extra time before/after Convention. Register thru the link at [aapa.info](http://aapa.info) or phone the hotel 248-644-1400 by Apr 8 for room block reservations. We must book a minimum number of room nights or pay a penalty, so plan to stay at the Kingsley & onsite for events & socializing with other AAPA members

# EVENTS

## Tours BEGINING AT 9:30AM



### AT THE KINGSLEY

(LOWER LEVEL)

**TUE APR 22 4-6PM & WED**

**APR 23 OPEN 7:30AM -**

**REGISTRATION DESK.**

PICK UP YOUR BADGE & CON-  
VENTION INFO.

**THU APR 24-6:30PM -**

-CRANBROOK RM-

**WELCOME RECEPTION/**

**MEET & GREET.**

HORS D'OEUVRES & CASH  
BAR. SEE OLD FRIENDS, MAKE  
NEW ONES.

**FRI APR 25 – ALL DAY -**

-CRANBROOK RM-

EXPECT 5 EXCEPTIONAL  
**SEMINARS** BY NATIONALLY  
KNOWN SPEAKERS.

**FRI APR 25-5-7PM**

-BALLROOM-

**MEMBERS ONLY SHOW &  
SALE PREVIEW.**

GET THE FIRST CHANCE TO  
SEE POTTERY FOR SALE &

MAKE PURCHASES!

**FRI APR 25-7:45PM**

-CRANBROOK RM-

**MEMBERS ONLY AAPA**

**BENEFIT AUCTION**

WITH NO RESERVES, BUYER'S  
PREMIUM, INTERNET COMPE-  
TITION, OR SHIPPING. CASH  
BAR. BRING A FUN ATTITUDE  
& MONEY & MAKE THIS AUC-  
TION A BIG SUCCESS!

**SAT APR 26-9AM-3PM**

- BALLROOM -

**ART POTTERY SHOW &  
SALE**

FEATURING MANY OF THE  
COUNTRY'S PREMIER & MOST  
KNOWLEDGEABLE VINTAGE  
& CONTEMPORARY POTTERY  
DEALERS. MEMBERS FREE;

NON-MEMBERS-\$10.

**POTTERY IDENTIFICATION**

BRING A MYSTERY PIECE OR  
ONE YOU WANT TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT.

**BOOK SIGNING**

MEMBER AUTHORS WILL BE  
AUTOGRAPHING AND SELLING  
BOOKS.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD**

### Tour to Ford Estate

Wednesday's tour commences with a visit to the opulent Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate in Grosse Pointe. Beautifully situated on the shores of Lake St. Clair, this elegant mansion was home to Edsel, only son of automotive emperor, Henry Ford. Constructed in the England Cotswold taste by celebrated architect Albert Kahn, the home holds countless treasures of art and fine furniture lovingly assembled by the original owners.

Next, our group will enjoy a casual lunch at Sinbad's, beloved and friendly boite scenically located on the Detroit River since 1949. (Limited menu, included in the tour).

Following lunch comes a major coup: a champagne tour of the David Whitney Mansion. This spectacular Victorian gem sports every magnificence that a "Gilded Age" lumber baron could subsidize. The Whitney, now a four star restaurant, is replete with authentic Tiffany windows, impressive wood carvings, and a reputed resident ghost. Not to be missed.

Last, and far from least, we will visit the storied Fisher Building, architect Albert Kahn's supreme masterpiece. Constructed at the apex of the Roaring 20's, no expense was spared in the decoration of this Art Deco phantasmagoria. Murals, marble, and magnificence; the skyscraper is often cited as the finest of its era.



**THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH**

### Tour to Ann Arbor

Our first stop will be a guided tour of impressive and encyclopedic University of Michigan Museum of Art. The institution possesses wonderful holdings of Pewabic Pottery, and a fine collection of decidedly rare Markham (which originated in Ann Arbor). They are also the repository of numerous architectural delights made by Louis C. Tiffany for the New York Havemeyer Mansion.

Our group will proceed across the street to the historic and handsome Arts and Crafts Michigan Union, where all can enjoy a break and obtain refreshments or a light lunch from one of the several concessions. Constructed in 1919, the impressive building hosted a 1960 speech by John F. Kennedy wherein the Peace Corps was first proposed.

Our final stop is the intriguing Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Possessing something for every interest, its 10000 artifacts include works from the Classical, Egyptian, and Middle Eastern worlds. If we ask nicely, we may be given access to an important, early Tiffany window in the recesses of the structure.



**Tour plans/info is current as of publication and subject to change. Please check aapa.info for updates**

# Seminars

Seminars will be held in the Cranbrook Room



8:30 AM | Presented By Ben Tjeski

## The Art of Building With Clay

Author, Teacher, Tile Artist, Architectural Historian

Ben Tyjeski, co-author of “Carl Bergmans and the Continental Faience & Tile Company” will share stories about handmade buildings with clay materials, specifically terra cotta and faience tiles, and his own artistic practice. He has traveled with his camera across the Midwest to piece together the history of how our ancestors used clay to create buildings with enduring beauty and character, that often tell stories. His journeys have inspired his own line of Arts & Crafts tiles that he creates in the studio in the garden behind his house. Ben is a K-8 Art teacher, faience tile artist, and architectural historian based in Milwaukee. He graduated with a BFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



10:00 AM | Presented By Paul Katrich  
**Electricity and Endurance: The High Voltage Pottery of Paul J. Katrich**

Potter, Collector, Art Historian

A studio potter of almost thirty years, Paul J. Katrich is a modern traditionalist specializing in “lost” techniques and rare glazes. A sincere collector, degreed art historian, and sometime museum conservator, his work is informed by respect and fascination for his ceramic forebears. Paul’s unique luster pottery is highly individual and eagerly sought by connoisseurs. He will share anecdotes, secrets, and joys of the many challenges undertaken with his husband, George Lees, to establish an artistic enterprise. Anticipate a lively and irreverent conversation regarding process and perseverance, from tribulation to delight. Paul presently serves as AAPA Secretary, a post which he has been honored to hold for several years.



11:30 AM | Presented By Bruce Johnson

## Head, Heart and Hand: An Arts and Crafts Legacy

Founder The National Arts & Crafts Conference, Asheville, North Carolina

Born to a family of collectors, Bruce Johnson credits his father with one of his daily Rules of Life: “If you are going to do something, do it right.” When he discovered Arts and Crafts, Bruce shed himself of a house full of Golden Oak furniture and dove headfirst into the shark-infested waters of Arts and Crafts auctions, shows, dealers, and collectors. He freely admits his most important lessons came at a painful cost, but will openly share more than forty years of experiences with his audience at the AAPA spring convention.

Bruce Johnson has been an Arts and Crafts collector since 1979, when he came across a set of twelve Roycroft dining chairs in the basement of one of his Iowa City refinishing clients. After five earlier years as a Midwest high school English teacher, Bruce had become an antiques collector, dealer, mall owner, speaker, refinisher, columnist, and author. In 1988, he founded the National Arts and Crafts Conference and Shows at the 1913 Grove Park Inn overlooking Asheville, NC, and directed it for the next thirty-five years. In 1998, the Stickley Museum selected him as only the third recipient of their Als Ik Kan Award. Bruce has twenty books to his credit, half of which are related to the Arts and Crafts movement. He continues to write from the small horse farm he and his wife Leigh Ann continue to enjoy outside Asheville.



2:00 PM | Presented By Martin Eidelberg

## Women and the American Art Pottery Movement

Professor Emeritus of Art History at Rutgers University

The important role of women in the American art pottery movement is widely acknowledged. Louise McLaughlin, Maria Longworth Nichols, Laura Fry, Adelaide Alsop Robineau—all are celebrated luminaries in the history of American ceramics. Likewise, by-now iconic photographs taken around 1900 showing women at work in the Rookwood, Grueby, and Newcomb College potteries testify to the omnipresence and importance of women.

Yet, for the greater part, women acted merely as decorators, not full-fledged ceramists. They did not prepare the clay, nor did they throw the vases or fire them. Much of the physical labor was turned over to men. In fact, most women’s involvement with ceramics was generally confined just to china decoration. Rather than being a minor current, china decoration was a mainstream activity. The women were organized into local groups and there was, as well, a national organization. There were local and national exhibitions; they even exhibited in Paris at the Exposition universelle. Only after 1900, and due largely to the efforts of Robineau, women were encouraged to work directly with the clay, to throw on the wheel, to glaze and fire their works. Not until about 1910, and more so after World War I, did this male-centered domain open its doors to women. Gradually and not without great difficulty, women sought and finally achieved parity.

Martin Eidelberg is Professor emeritus of Art History at Rutgers University.

One of his fields of specialization is French eighteenth-century art, especially that of Antoine Watteau and his school. His other field of study is decorative arts from c. 1875 to 1960. He was one of the organizers of the historic 19.. exhibition on the American Arts & Crafts Movement. Since then he has written extensively on Tiffany and American ceramists such as Adelaide Alsop Robineau, Mary Chase Perry, Newcomb Pottery, George Ohr, Maija Grotell, Leza McVey,



3:30 PM | Presented By Ulysses Grant Dietz  
**THAT BELONGS IN A MUSEUM: WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?**

Chief Curator Emeritus, The Newark Museum of Art

The Venn diagram of what is museum quality for the Detroit Institute of Arts and The Newark Museum (of art) are not identical. There would be overlap, but not congruence. That will be the thought behind my seminar. In spite of studying art pottery for most of my 37 years at the Newark Museum, and in spite of two books on the topic; I still count myself an amateur. The idea of “museum quality” has intrigued and bothered me for all 37 of those years—and well past through the joys of online pottery groups. The Newark Museum of Art was founded on idea that “museum quality” was not about the cost or value or rarity of an object; but about its craft and design. The driving idea behind the museum’s early collecting of ceramics was the notion of “the art of the everyday.” Pottery was not painting, not sculpture, not “fine.” But it was art, and it was art for everyone. I’ll look at some pottery, and discuss what is good, maybe not so good, and what is interesting about it.

Ulysses Grant Dietz was Curator of Decorative Arts and Chief Curator at The Newark Museum for 37 years. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Yale in 1977, and his master of arts in American Material Culture from the University of Delaware’s Winterthur Program in 1980.

The curator of 114 exhibitions during his tenure, Mr. Dietz is particularly proud of his work on The Newark Museum’s 1885 Ballantine House, which was re-interpreted and restored in 1994. His first ceramics exhibition was The Newark Museum Collection of American Art Pottery of 1984. A quarter-century later he produced Masterpieces of Art Pottery, 1880-1930 for the museum’s centennial. In 1997, Mr. Dietz was the project director for The Glitter & The Gold: Fashioning America’s Jewelry, the first-ever exhibition and book on Newark’s once-vast jewelry industry. In 2003, Mr. Dietz published Great Pots: Contemporary Ceramics from Function to Fantasy, the first catalogue of the Museum’s studio pottery collection, which accompanied an exhibition of the same title. Additionally, Mr. Dietz has published numerous articles on decorative arts, as well as books on the Museum’s ceramics, 19th-century furniture, and jewelry collections

Non Dealer

# Convention Registration

TUES. – SAT., APRIL 22nd to 26th | BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI

AAPA

P.O. Box 264

Hillsboro, MO 63050

**This form is for non dealers only. Exhibitors/dealers should use the Exhibitor/Dealer Registration form.**

**Return with your check made payable to the AAPA to: Jean Oberkirsch, P.O. Box 264, Hillsboro, MO 63050**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**All monies must be paid in full by April 12, 2025**

## Section A: **Join Us!**

If you are not currently an AAPA member, but would like to join, you may do so now.

2024 Membership Dues (Household or Single) \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If household membership, provide 2nd name here \_\_\_\_\_

## Section B: **Members Only Convention Package**

This section applies ONLY to Members wishing to register for a convention package.

\_\_\_\_\_ Member **Full Package** @ \$295 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes Welcome Reception, Wednesday and Thursday Tours, Seminars, Early Admission to Show)

\_\_\_\_\_ Member **Five Friday seminars only** @ \$75 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  Welcome Reception, (check if attending)

**SUBTOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if the total enclosed includes a new membership.

## Volunteer Activities:

I can help with:  Registration  Auction  Show Ticket Sales  Other

### OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

# AAPA Pottery Donations

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Additional forms  
are available at  
[www.AAPA.info](http://www.AAPA.info)

Contact Riley Humler at 513-432-5769 or via email at: [rileyhumler@gmail.com](mailto:rileyhumler@gmail.com)

Donation proceeds support the Convention and *Journal* expenses.

Description (Please note any damage, repair, restoration, etc.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
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10. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_