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Exhibition website: willamette.edu/go/kypriaka

Exhibition explores ancient ceramics from Cyprus with many tales to tell

SALEM, Ore. — The Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University (HFMA) is pleased to present “Kypriaka Chronika: Tales of Ancient Cypriote Ceramics in West Coast Collections” opening February 9 and continuing through April 28, 2019 in the Study Gallery.

The exhibition has been organized by Willamette University professor and faculty curator Ann M. Nicgorski, and co-curated with Willamette University students Devne't DeGrandmont '18, Sarah Diamond '21, Holly Piper '21, and George Z. Wing '19. “Kypriaka Chronika” features 26 ceramic vessels and figurines that have survived from the Early Bronze and Early Iron Ages (ca. 2500 to 475 BCE). As carefully crafted artifacts, each ceramic reveals a story about daily life in

Cyprus, an ancient crossroads of civilizations where artistic and cultural ideas from the East and the West merged.

Equally fascinating are the stories of how these objects were acquired and came to be in museum collections found in Washington, Oregon and California—an area that is surprisingly rich with artifacts from ancient Cyprus. Their remarkable journeys were facilitated by many colorful characters including Luigi Palma di Cesnola, the first director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Jane and Leland Stanford, founders of Stanford University; railroad tycoon Samuel Hill; San Francisco philanthropists Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alma de Bretteville Spreckels; Queen Marie of Romania and her eldest daughter, Elisabeth, Queen Consort of the Hellenes; and Harvey Seeley Mudd.

Nicgorski says, "This exhibition was inspired by two ceramic vessels from Cyprus that were gifted to the museum by Kenneth H. Torp and Ellen Sollod. These are the first pieces from this ancient 'crossroads of civilizations' to enter the HFMA's collection, and apparently the only Cypriote artifacts in any public art museum in the state of Oregon. I am pleased to welcome the art of ancient Cyprus to the museum, Salem, and the state!"

Additional artifacts in the exhibition have been drawn from the the Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, Washington; the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Washington in Seattle; the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley; the Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University in Palo Alto; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu.

Nicgorski will give a complimentary illustrated lecture entitled "Kypriaka Chronika: Tales of Ancient Cypriote Ceramics in West Coast Collections" on February 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Paulus Lecture Hall at the Willamette University College of Law.

The exhibition has been supported by an endowment gift from the Hallie Ford Exhibition Fund of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art; by an endowment gift from the Verda Karen McCracken Young Fund of the Department of Art History; and by general operating support grants from the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the Oregon Arts Commission.

FURTHER IN DEPTH STORY EXPLORING ONE OBJECT

An artifact's tale: a journey from an ancient tomb into the hands of the wealthy Hearst family



Bichrome Ware Horse and Rider, Cypro-Archaic, ca. 700-600 BCE, ceramic, 5.94 x 4.41 in., Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, collected by Dr. Alfred Emerson, gift of Phoebe A. Hearst, 8-107. Photo: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

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Approximately 2700 to 2600 years ago an artisan sat down to create this animated Bichrome ware horse and rider. Most likely, it was created for a tomb where it represented the high status of the deceased. Hidden away for centuries it was eventually purchased at an auction in Paris in 1901-1902 by a former classics professor named Alfred Emerson (1859-1943). Emerson had been sent to acquire ancient artifacts by Phoebe Apperson Hearst (1842-1919), the mother of William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951). Inspired by her interest in anthropology and archaeology, Emerson helped her acquire a diverse array of artifacts for her personal collection which later resulted in the formation of the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California in Berkeley. This object was carefully packed and crated and has now continued its travels to be on view at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, along with 25 other ancient Cypriote objects with more stories to tell.

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About the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University

Oregon's third largest art museum features works by Pacific Northwest and Native American artists, and includes a diverse collection of traditional European, American and Asian art, as well as artifacts that date from antiquity. Frequently changing exhibitions include lectures, special events, tours, artist demonstrations and educational opportunities for children and adults.

The museum is located at 700 State St. in Salem. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The galleries are closed on Monday. General admission is \$6, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students 18 and older. Students 17 and under and children are admitted free. Admission is free for everyone on Tuesdays. For more information call 503-370-6855 or visitwillamette.edu/go/hfma.

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES AND ARTIST INFORMATION

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Base-Ring Ware Askos in the Shape of a Bull, Late Bronze Age, ca. 1400-1230 BCE, ceramic, length: 7 1/2 in., Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of Harvey Mudd, M.49.14.12. Photo: Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



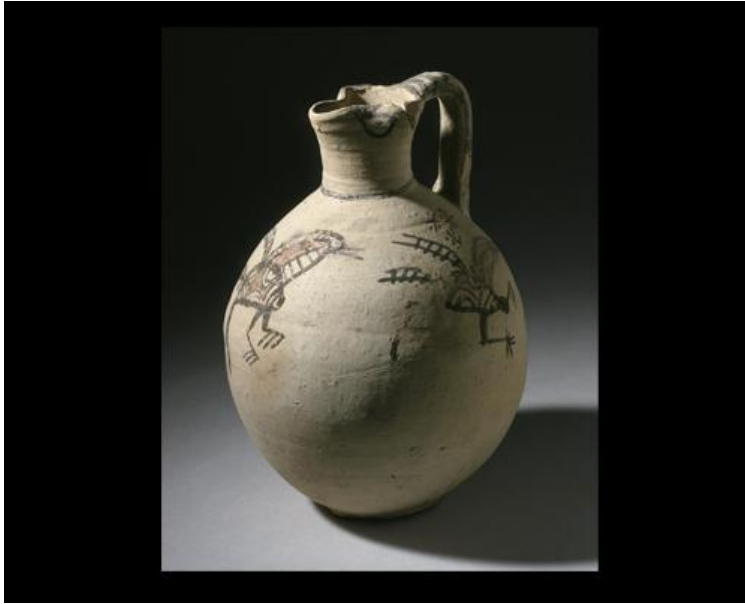
Hemispherical Bowl, Early to Middle Bronze Age, ca. 2000-1750 BCE, ceramic, 2.09 x 3.66 in., Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, collected by Dr. Alfred Emerson, gift of Phoebe A. Hearst, 8-7975. Photo: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.



Base-Ring Ware Female Figurine with Birdlike Face, Late Bronze Age, ca. 1450-1200 BCE, ceramic, 8.23 x 1.61 in., Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, collected by Dr. Alfred Emerson, gift of Phoebe A. Hearst, 8-3281. Photo: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.



White-Painted Ware Amphora, Late Bronze Age to Cypro-Geometric, ca. 1200-950 BCE, ceramic, 17 x 15 x 15 in., Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, gift of Kenneth H. Torp and Ellen Sollod, 2015.060.001. Photo: Hallie Ford Museum of Art.



Bichrome Ware (Free-field Style) Jug, Cypro-Archaic, ca. 700-600 BCE, ceramic, 9 in., Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Gift of Harvey Mudd, M.49.14.25. Photo: Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



Bichrome Ware Horse and Rider, Cypro-Archaic, ca. 700-600 BCE, ceramic, 5.94 x 4.41 in., Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, collected by Dr. Alfred Emerson, gift of Phoebe A. Hearst, 8-107. Photo: Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

Interviews can be arranged with Ann M. Nicgorski by calling [503-370-6867](tel:503-370-6867)

EXHIBITION WEBSITE

willamette.edu/go/kypriaka