



News Release

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Kresge Art Museum Awarded Michigan Humanities Council Grant

Recently the Michigan Humanities Council announced that Kresge Art Museum is the recipient of a grant for an upcoming exhibition focusing on Pewabic Pottery. This exhibit is part of the MSU Sesquicentennial celebration and will be on view at Kresge Art Museum October 23- December 16, 2005.

Pewabic Pottery, the Midwest's only historic pottery, was founded in 1903 by Mary Chase Perry (later Stratton) and her partner, Horace Caulkins, at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement. The exhibition will feature some of Pewabic's finest pieces drawn from the Pottery's collection, other Michigan public museums, and several private collections across the United States. It will also explore Michigan State University's critical role in Pewabic's history.

Michigan Humanities Council was founded in 1974 as the state's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering intellectual and cultural life in Michigan communities by: encouraging the exploration and conservation of cultural traditions; encouraging and supporting the participation of institutions and organizations in sponsorship of public humanities activities; and engaging Michiganders of all ages in the challenges to mind and spirit presented by the humanities.

In 1966, when the pottery was near insolvency, ownership was transferred to MSU, which operated it as part of MSU's outreach mission until 1979 when the private, nonprofit Pewabic Society was established to oversee the Pottery's operations. Without MSU's support, the wonderful 1907 Tudor Revival building, now a national historic landmark in Detroit, would have been razed, and the Pottery's legacy would have been lost. In 2003 Pewabic Pottery celebrated its 100th anniversary and thrives today as an educational, exhibiting, production, and ceramic arts residency institution.

Director Susan J. Bandes says "This exhibition, with a focus on earlier works from 1900 through the 1940s, will expose viewers to what was unique about Pewabic Pottery. Never a commercial enterprise, its output was small, and the range of iridescent glazes was its hallmark. The exhibit, scholarly publication, programming, and walking tours, supported by the Michigan Humanities Council grant will, for the first time, tell the full story of Pewabic's history."

Kresge Art Museum provides education and aesthetic enjoyment for its diverse audiences. Through collections and exhibitions of art, it offers opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural interpretations of current and historical thought. By researching, presenting and preserving art from various times and cultures, the museum serves the Michigan State University community, general public of mid-Michigan and beyond. For additional information about Kresge Art Museum please visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu or call 517/355-7631.

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