

New Acquisitions

from Julianne and David Armstrong

[Introduction](#)

[Visual Thinking Strategies](#)

[Principles of Design Vocabulary](#)

[Elements of Art Vocabulary](#)

[Wood Fire Art](#)

[Peter Voulkos](#)

[Peter Callas](#)

[Al Tennant](#)

[Trompe L'oeil](#)

[Victor Spinski](#)

[Margaret Keelan](#)

[Sylvia Hyman](#)

[Nerikomi](#)

[Thomas Hoadley](#)

[Helpful Links](#)

[New Acquisitions Playlist](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

1

2

3

4

5

To Get Started, select the links above (underlined) to read more about the subject listed. The links are in the suggested order, but you are welcome to jump around if you would like.

Links in grey will take you to other pages within this presentation.

Links in purple will take you to supplemental material outside of this presentation.

Looking at Art: The Basics

Today we are going to be spending some time thinking and learning about artwork from the exhibition, "New Acquisitions from Julianne and David Armstrong".

Sometimes, looking at art can be intimidating, and it can be difficult trying to figure out what the artist is saying through their work. So we're going to start our tour by learning how to critically look at and interpret art using visual thinking strategies.

On the right side of this page, you will notice a flow chart. Each time we encounter a new work of art, we are going to follow the steps of this flow chart to help us think about, and interpret what we are seeing. Take some time to familiarize yourself with these steps, and when you are ready, click the link below to return to the tour navigation page.

[Navigation Page](#)



" Art is a conversation we are all invited to and are all worthy to participate in. Yes, great works can be intimidating, but no one else in the world has what you have—your voice, your eyes, your feeling and perspective." - Rachel Hartman

What do you see?

1

What is going on in this art object?

2

What makes you say that?

3

What else can you find?

4

What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

5

Visual Thinking Strategies

1

What do you see?

- Spend 30 seconds looking at the artwork and describe what you see.
- Do not attempt to interpret what you are seeing, or guess why the artist made the decisions they did.
- It can be helpful to list how the artist is using the principles of design during this step.



- Now think about the meaning of what you see.
- What can you infer about what this artwork is saying?
- Don't be afraid to be wrong. Art is a conversation, and you as the viewer get to bring your own experience to this conversation.

Visual Thinking Strategies



What is going on in this art object?

2

3

- Now is the time to explain where your thoughts came from.
- Support your inferences with evidence from the artwork, or from your past experiences.



What makes you say that?

What else can you find?

- Take another 30 seconds to look at the work, and see what else you can find.
- Do you notice anything new?
- Remember you are not trying to find “the right answer.”



What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

5

- What more can you find about this artist?
- How does their personal art history relate to what they are creating?
- How does culture influence art?
 - How is this work impacted by the artist's culture?



Wood Fire

What makes wood firing so unique?

When a wood kiln is fired, the wood releases ash into the kiln. The superheated ash settles on to the the ceramic work inside the kiln and turns into a glass like substance. This interaction helps to create many of the colors and surface textures unique to wood firing.

What does it mean to wood fire?

When someone says a piece is wood fired, it means the fuel used to heat the kiln is wood rather than gas or electricity. Wood firing is one of the oldest known firing methods. Wood firing is incredibly labor intensive, but produces unique results that can't be replicated via electric or gas kiln.

For more information on the subject, check out [This article](#) from the Ceramic Arts Network!





Peter Voulkos
X-Neck, 1990
Stoneware

1. What do you see?

2. What is going on in this art object?

3. What makes you say that?

4. What else can you find?

5. What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

[Click here](#) for more information about Peter Voulkos.





Peter Callas
Cardinal, 1991
Stoneware

1. What do you see?
2. What is going on in this art object?
3. What makes you say that?
4. What else can you find?
5. What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

[Click here](#) for more information about Peter Callas.





Al Tennant
Untitled Platter, c. 2000
Wood fired stoneware

1. What do you see?

2. What is going on in this art object?

3. What makes you say that?

4. What else can you find?

5. What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

[Click here](#) for more information about Al Tennant.



Trompe L'oeil

How is Trompe L'oeil used in art?

When artists use Trompe L'oeil, they often choose to create hyper realistic objects that help to tell a story.

What is Trompe L'oeil?

Trompe L'oeil is French for deception of the eye. It is an art term used to describe an object that creates the illusion of realism.

In Ceramic art. It's most often used to describe art that is made of clay, but has been made to look like it's made from a different substance, wood, metal, etc.

For more history on the subject, Check out [This article!](#)



Victor Spinski
Box of Nails, c. 2000
Ceramic lusters, and decals

1. What do you see?

2. What is going on in this art object?

3. What makes you say that?

4. What else can you find?

5. What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

[Click here](#) for more information about Victor Spinski.





Margaret Keelan
Girl with Goose, 2007
Clay, Stains

1. What do you see?

2. What is going on in this art object?

3. What makes you say that?

4. What else can you find?

5. What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

[Click here](#) for more information about Margaret Keelan.





Sylvia Hyman
Buzzards Bay, 2005
porcelain, stoneware, glazes and decals

1. What do you see?
2. What is going on in this art object?
3. What makes you say that?
4. What else can you find?
5. What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

[Click here](#) for more information about Sylvia Hyman.

Free Supplement on request. See p. 4

Tide and Current Tables in Summer Daylight Time

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH YEAR

ELDRIDGE TIDE AND PILOT BOOK 2004

TIDES AND CURRENTS	pages 12 - 17
Daily High and Low Water at BOSTON	pages 18 - 26
Tidal Differences, High and Low Water, Ports from NOVA SCOTIA to KEY WEST	pages 50 - 61
Charts of Currents, BUZZARDS BAY, VINEYARD and NANTUCKET SOUNDS	pages 30 - 39
Daily Current Tables, CAPE COD CANAL, WOODS HOLE and POLLOCK RIP	pages 64 - 70
Daily High and Low Water at NEWPORT	pages 71 - 72
Daily Current Table, THE RACE	pages 73 - 74
Charts of Currents, BLOCK I, LONG I Sounds	pages 75 - 76
Daily High and Low Water at BRIDGEPORT	pages 77 - 78
Daily High and Low Water at KINGS POINT	pages 79 - 80
Daily High and Low Water at THE BATTERY	pages 81 - 82
NEW YORK BAY Current Charts	pages 83 - 84
Daily High and Low Water at SANDY HOOK	pages 85 - 86
Daily DELAWARE BAY ENTR. and CHESAPEAKE & DELAWARE CANAL Current Tables	pages 87 - 88
Daily High Water at BALTIMORE	pages 89 - 90
Daily High Water at MIAMI HARBOR ENTR.	pages 91 - 92
Current Differences from MAINE to FLORIDA	pages 93 - 94
LIGHTS & FOG SIGNALS - COURSES & DISTANCES	pages 95 - 96
DISTRESS CALLS	pages 97 - 98
RADIOTELEPHONE INFORMATION	pages 99 - 100
GPS/DGPS STATIONS - RACONS	pages 101 - 102
SEE DETAILED LIST OF ASTRONOMICAL DATA	pages 103 - 104
WEATHER AND OTHER NAVIGATIONAL DATA	pages 105 - 106

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Publishers
MARION JEWETT WHITE - ROBERT ELDRIDGE WHITE, Jr. - LINDA T. F. F.
711 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02111

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RHODE ISLAND
RAGANSETT BAY



SPRING HARBOR



Nerikomi

What does Nerikomi do that coloring post build does not?

When an artist uses Nerikomi, the patterns created in the clay will be visible on both the inside and outside of the work.

[For a good example, check out this work by Thomas Hoadley.](#)

What is Nerikomi?

Nerikomi is a Japanese technique that uses slabs of stained or colored clay which are assembled into a large loaf. The loaf is cut into slices to reveal the marbled clay patterned which are used to form his elegant vessels.

For more information on the subject, check out [This article](#) from the Ceramic Arts Network!





Thomas Hoadley
TH651, 2004
Colored Porcelain

1. What do you see?

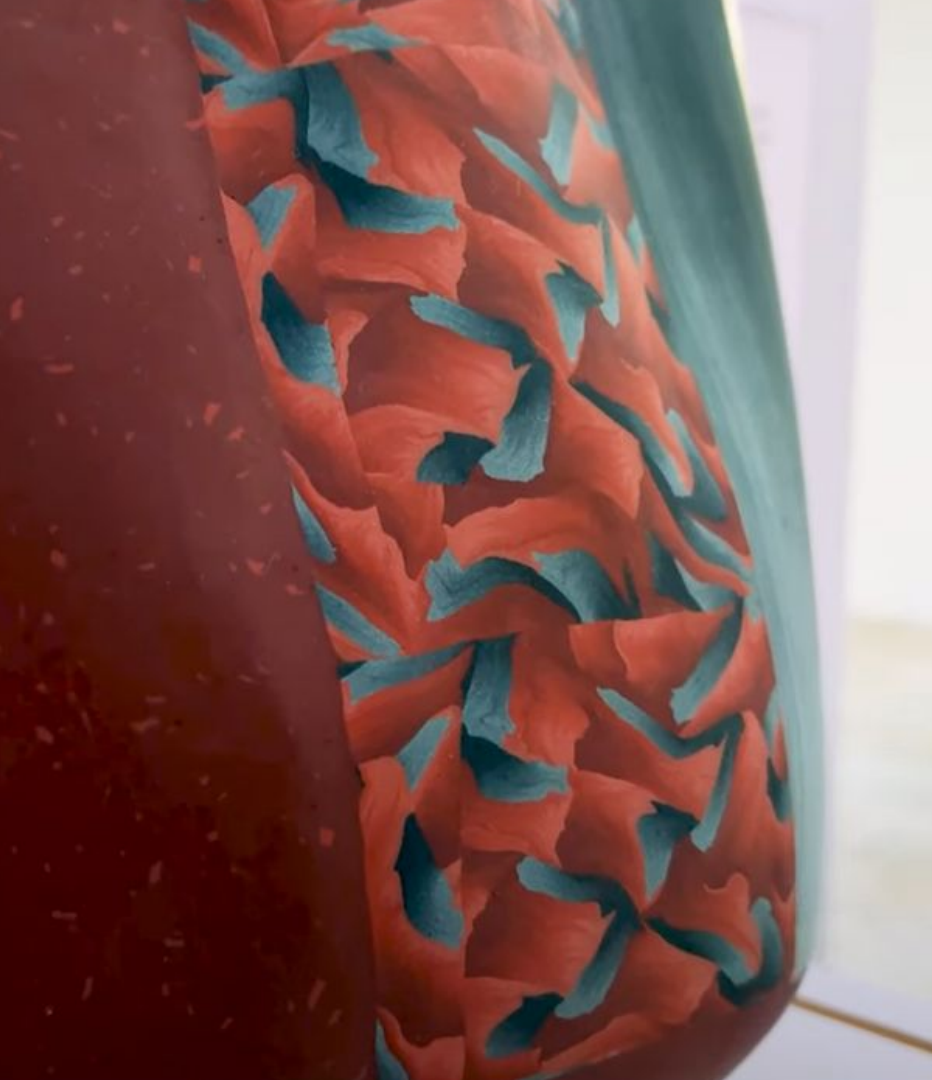
2. What is going on in this art object?

3. What makes you say that?

4. What else can you find?

5. What do you think motivated the artist to make this art object?

[Click here](#) for more information about Thomas Hoadley.



Helpful Links

To see the full playlist of art pieces from New Acquisitions from Julianne and David Armstrong, click [here](#).

To learn more about the principles of design, click [here](#).

To learn more about the elements of art, click [here](#)



New Acquisitions from Julianne and David Armstrong celebrates the donation of 40 extraordinary works to AMOCA's Permanent collection and presents rarely-seen, career defining artworks from leading ceramic artists in the field. These works exemplify the colorful and flashy style of Los Angeles-influenced artists, spontaneity in clay inspired by the Abstract Expressionist movement, significant works in the trompe-l'oeil style, and the diverse narratives used in the figurative tradition. Taken together, this is a remarkable collection of works from the past 80 years.

This gift reflects Julianne and David Armstrong's passion for preserving and sharing significant ceramic art with the public.

