



News Release

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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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Pewabic: A Century of Michigan's Art Pottery at Kresge Art Museum October 23- December 17, 2005

In honor of Michigan State University's Sesquicentennial in 2005, Kresge Art Museum presents *Pewabic: A Century of Michigan's Art Pottery*, an exhibition of approximately 100 pieces of Pewabic Pottery from October 23 through December 17, 2005. The 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 explore the 100 years of Pewabic's history, focusing specifically on the early years and innovative developments of the pottery.

Though little known, MSU played a critical role in Pewabic's history. In 1966, when the pottery was near insolvency, ownership was transferred to the university, which operated it as part of MSU's outreach mission until 1979 when a private, nonprofit Pewabic Society was established to oversee the pottery's operations. Without MSU's support, the wonderful 1907 Tudor Revival building, now a landmark in Detroit, would have been razed, and the pottery's legacy would have been lost. In 2003 Pewabic celebrated its 100th anniversary and thrives today as an educational institution and the Midwest's only historic pottery, creating tiles and vessels, showcasing ceramic artists from around the country, and taking on large commissions such as the tile work at Detroit's Comerica Park.

Pewabic: A Century of Michigan's Art Pottery will show some of the finest pieces produced at Pewabic, including works from the Pottery's collection, Cranbrook Art Museum, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, Albion College, and several private collections. Mary Chase Stratton's early china painting and rare "Revelation" pots will offer examples and perspective on her development as an artist as well as the formation of the Pottery.

The encouragement of collector Charles Freer and his influence on Mary Chase Stratton's experiments in iridescent glazes will also be explored. William Buck Stratton, her husband and an architect, was active at the Pottery as well. *Pewabic: A Century of Michigan's Art Pottery* will bring together for the first time a large selection of his pieces. Whereas Mary focused on glazes, frequently using pots thrown by others, Buck was more attuned to working on the potter's wheel and producing his own pots. The Pottery's commissions in residences, churches and commercial buildings will also be discussed through a walking tour of East Lansing and an online tour of Detroit installations.

An audio tour will be available in the exhibition. Additional education programs are being planned. A website for the exhibition will be available online at www.artmuseum.msu.edu

Kresge Art Museum is located in East Lansing, Mich. on the campus of Michigan State University. For additional information call 517/355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu

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