

## EXHIBITION ADVISORY

For immediate release. For additional comment or to request images, contact:  
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Exhibition: ***Peter Callas: An Enduring Legacy***  
On View: February 12–July 24, 2022  
Reception: February 12, 3–5 PM • Talk by the artist at 4 PM  
Location: Julianne and David Armstrong Gallery, American Museum of Ceramic Art



Image: Peter Callas, Vase, 2016. 11.5 x 11 x 11 inches, wood fired stoneware. Collection of the artist.

(Pomona, Calif.—December 6, 2021) Regarded as one of the preeminent ceramic artists in the American Studio Ceramics tradition to work with anagama kilns, Peter Callas (1951– ) influenced an entire generation of ceramic artists. Opening February 12, 2022 at the American Museum of Ceramic Art, *Peter Callas: An Enduring Legacy* is a comprehensive career retrospective featuring 50 works spanning nearly 30 years of creative production. Among the 50 works featured are Callas's stately coiled vases and organically formed expressionist sculptures, masterworks that are some of the most important American works created in the wood-fired, anagama kiln tradition. Other works on display include intimate tea bowls, selected works on paper, and the premier of an original film about the artist.

Beth Ann Gerstein, Executive Director of the American Museum of Ceramic Art, commented, “We are grateful to the Windgate Foundation and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation for their critical support in making this exhibition possible. Peter Callas is a pivotal figure in the American Studio Ceramics movement, and exhibitions like this play a vital role in preserving and documenting the history of this uniquely American artistic movement.”

Jo Lauria, curator of the exhibition, remarked, “Peter Callas is internationally recognized for his mastery of the wood-firing process using an anagama kiln. Callas’s career has focused on perfecting vertical torqued sculptural forms and abstracted container shapes that function as visual records of the transformative forces of fire. The artist is a skilled strategist who creates captivating imagery through intuitive control and mastery of his medium on forms as varied as intimate tea bowls, stately coiled vases, and large-scale imposing sculptures.”

David Armstrong, Founder of the Museum and a member of AMOCA’s Board of Director, said, “Peter Callas is one of the great ceramic artists of our time. He was the first to build an anagama kiln here in the United States, where he embarked on an adventure with flame as his companion. He has mastered the firing technique for his magnificent abstract sculptures which now reside in museums and famous collections all over the world.”

## EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

Early in his career, Callas travelled to Japan, where he was introduced to the aesthetic philosophies and wood-fired glazing techniques that motivated his future work. Inspired to construct his own anagama kiln in 1975—the first used in North America—Callas later set up a studio in New Jersey, where he continued to experiment with tunnel kilns. In his own words, kilns became Callas’s “engines for creative innovation,” and his works often bear the distinctive scorch marks of ash glazing. His innovations in wood-fired ceramics inspired countless others, including acclaimed ceramic artist Peter Voulkos, who collaborated with Callas for 23 years.

The exhibition brings together a comprehensive collection of Callas’s works, revealing the evolution of his technique from the early 1990’s to the present. The pieces gathered, ranging from abstract sculptures to expressionistic containers, highlight what curator Jo Lauria calls “the compelling results of heat, flame, and fly ash deposits.” Walking among the works included in *An Enduring Legacy*, viewers will be able to closely observe the nuances of creative “exchange” that occur between the artist, the clay, and the kiln.

Callas has exhibited extensively, including exhibitions at the Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art (Japan), the Powerhouse Museum (Australia), and at the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art. His works are held in many museum collections nationally as well as in Asia, Europe, Australia, and South America. This comprehensive retrospective is Callas’s first solo exhibition at the American Museum of Ceramic Art.

## EXHIBITION CREDITS

***An Enduring Legacy*** is curated by Jo Lauria, Adjunct Curator, AMOCA, and organized by the American Museum of Ceramic Art / AMOCA.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog, featuring new essays by Jo Lauria, Glen R. Brown, and Glenn Adamson, alongside more than 20 pages of autobiographical reflections by the author himself.

The exhibition and catalog is supported, in part, by Julianne and David Armstrong and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. Special support comes from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Windgate Foundation.

The exhibition will be featured on the Museum’s [website](#), as well on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) using the hashtag #petercallaselegacy.

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## CALENDAR LISTING

The opening reception for ***Peter Callas: An Enduring Legacy*** takes place at the American Museum of Ceramic Art, 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA 91767 on February 12, 2022 from 3–5 PM with a talk by the artist at 4 PM. The exhibition runs from February 12 through July 24, 2022. The museum is open Friday to Sunday, 11 AM–4 PM. For more information: <https://www.amoca.org/upcoming-exhibitions/an-enduring-legacy/> or (909) 865-3146 or [info@amoca.org](mailto:info@amoca.org).

## ABOUT AMOCA

The American Museum of Ceramic Art was founded in 2003, in Pomona, California. Its mission is to champion the art, history, creation, and technology of ceramics through exhibitions, collections, outreach, and studio programming.

### Museum Hours

Friday through Sunday, 11 AM–4 PM

### Admission

General \$7, Student/Senior \$5, Members & under 12 Free

### Location

American Museum of Ceramic Art  
399 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767  
(909) 865-3146 • [www.amoca.org](http://www.amoca.org)

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