New Ceramics Gift on Display at Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

NORMAN, OKLA. - Works from a recent gift of one of the finest private collections of contemporary antiquities, ceramics and glass from the Mark Landrum Estate are now on display at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. Paired with works from the museum’s existing ceramics collection, the installation of works from the Landrum gift showcases some of the most influential ceramicists from the past 70 years.

Landrum (1939-2012) was born in Ardmore and grew up in Tishomingo and Hobbs, N.M. He earned degrees from Yale University and Harvard Law School. Landrum and University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren met while attending Yale, and their fathers were classmates at the OU Law School. The Landrum family’s century-old banking enterprise has twin roots in Tishomingo and Mountain View, Mo. Today, more than 40 family-owned banks are located across Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

“The University of Oklahoma is proud to showcase the collection of the late Mark Landrum and to memorialize his generosity to the people of our state,” Boren said.

Over the years, Landrum donated artwork to the communities served by his banks. His personal collection, as well as acquisitions he made for the bank, comprises one of the finest private collections of contemporary ceramics, glass, wood and other formed objects, as well as very fine pieces by Midwest artists,
Italian paintings and a noteworthy collection of antiquities.

“Art must be attracting and mesmerizing; it must stand out and encourage a flow between viewer and the artist,” Landrum said in a quote provided by his family. “It must have beauty to be uplifting, and I believe all art must be uplifting.”

The new rotation of contemporary studio ceramics is displayed on the first floor of the museum, just outside the education offices. Future Landrum installations include modern Italian painting in January 2014, contemporary glass in February, and important antiquities from China and Southeast Asia in March.

“Mark Landrum collected many of the renowned ceramicists of the last 30 years, and the gift of his collection to the museum expands significantly on our extensive holdings of studio ceramics,” said Mark White, interim director at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “The quality of the pieces in the gift prompted the installation of a permanent gallery devoted to the history of studio ceramics, and we are very fortunate to have been selected as one of the recipients of this amazing collection.”

The university has a long history of involvement with studio ceramics, beginning with the arrival of Roger Corsaw, who served as professor of ceramics at OU from 1936 to 1976 and who made several large gifts to the museum from his collection in the 1970s and 1980s.

Additional information and images are available on the museum’s website at www.ou.edu/fjjma.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to the generosity of the OU Office of the President and the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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**IMAGE CREDIT**

The Mark Landrum Estate recently gave the University of Oklahoma a gift of contemporary ceramics, antiquities, glass and more from the private collector. Selected works of ceramics, such as *Lead* by Adrian Arleo, now are on display at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.
Adrian Arleo (U.S., b. 1960)
*Lead (Woman with Two Horseheads)*, 2002
Ceramic
Gift of Mark Landrum, 2013
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, The University of Oklahoma, Norman