

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release



The League of NH Craftsmen Gallery 205 Hosts the Lifetime Achievement Awards Exhibition, featuring the work of Vivika & Otto Heino and Mary & Edwin Scheier

May 15 – August 12, 2009

Opening Reception: May 15, 4 pm – 8 pm

Gallery 205, Concord, NH

CONCORD, NH – The League of NH Craftsmen bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award to **Vivika & Otto Heino** and **Mary & Edwin Scheier** – two creative partnerships that transformed the world of pottery beginning in the early 1900s. The League's Gallery 205 is pleased to present a special exhibition of the Heinos and Scheiers pottery from May 15 through August 12, 2009. An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 15, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. **Otto Heino** will make a special guest appearance. Gallery 205 is located in the League of NH Craftsmen's headquarters at 205 North Main Street in Concord, NH and is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturdays, during the exhibition, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** is a special honor conferred on a juried craftsman who represents the highest achievement in his or her medium and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the League of NH Craftsmen. The award is recommended by the League of NH Craftsmen Standards Committee and is only given when a qualified candidate of extraordinary talent and commitment is identified. The candidate(s) must then be approved by the League of NH Craftsmen Board of Trustees to receive the award. To be considered for the Lifetime Achievement Award, a candidate must:

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- Be a current or former juried member of the League of NH Craftsmen
- Demonstrate excellence in his or her craft
- Demonstrate commitment to the League
- Have earned local, regional, or national recognition in his or her craft
- Be a current or former mentor to other craftspeople

“Before they achieved worldwide recognition for their pottery, the Heinos and Scheiers were active members of the League during its formative years. They were specifically recruited by David Campbell (Executive Director, 1932-1968) to teach their skills to New Hampshire craftsmen,” said League Executive Director Susie Lowe-Stockwell. “Throughout their careers, they continued to explore new aspects of their craft and helped inspire countless ceramic artists around the world with their passion and creativity.”

Two creative partnerships that transformed the world of pottery



Otto (born 1915) and **Vivika** (1910-1995) **Heino** collaborated as a husband-and-wife pottery partnership for thirty-five years, signing their pots *Vivika + Otto*, regardless of who actually made them. Their work is prized by craft collectors around the world because of their classic techniques and use of glazes, specifically a buttery yellow glaze that was revered in early Chinese ceramics. The formula for this glaze was lost for centuries, and the Heinos spent 15 years re-creating it. Working from their home and studio in Ojai, California, they helped transform California crafts into a national design movement in the 1950s to 1970s. As teachers and mentors, they nurtured the skills and careers of countless ceramic artists. Otto survives his wife, and at 94, continues to throw pots and explore new aspects of his craft.

Edwin (1911–2008) and **Mary** (1908–2007) **Scheier** met as struggling Depression-era artists. Essentially self taught, they made functional pottery and small sculptures out of local clays that they found and dug themselves. Together, they nurtured the mid-century evolution of studio pottery from everyday craft to fine art. For close to 25 years, they lived, worked, and taught in New Hampshire, contributing to the state’s rich craft heritage. Well into their 90s, they generated an impressive body of work. Mary did most of the throwing, producing traditional thin-walled, elegant vessels with simple, luminescent glazes. Ed’s emphasis was on imaginative surface decoration, such as imagery of fertility goddesses or creation stories. Like the Heinos, their work is coveted by major collectors around the country and the world.



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The League of NH Craftsmen would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following sponsors: Lead Sponsor: Josiah E. Fernald Trust, Citizens Bank as Trustee; and Gallery Sponsors: Davis & Towle Insurance Group; Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, P.C.; Otto Heino; and Sullivan Creative. Flower arrangements for the exhibition were donated by Pellettieri Associates Inc. (Warner, NH).

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to encourage, nurture, and promote the creation, use, and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.



The League of NH Craftsmen is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information about the *Lifetime Achievement Award* exhibition, Gallery 205, or the League of NH Craftsmen, call 603-224-3375 or visit www.nhcrafts.org.

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