

Focus on the Masters  
Arts Archive & Library

Join us for a monumental exhibition by two FOTM Documented Artists at  
the American Museum of Ceramic Arts



*A Benefit Event for Focus on the Masters Educational Programming*

**Zoom Panel Discussion with  
Cheryl Ann Thomas, Michael Rohde  
and Curator Jo Lauria**  
Moderated by Donna Granata

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022  
6 to 7:30 pm**

**Suggested FOTM donation \$25  
Click [HERE](#) to register.**

To learn more about the exhibition visit  
**[AMOCA HERE](#)**  
Exhibition closes August 21, 2022

**Gallery Walk with  
Cheryl Ann Thomas and  
Michael Rohde**

**Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 11 am  
American Museum of Ceramic Arts  
399 N Garey Ave., Pomona  
Museum entry fee \$9.**

Limited to 40 participants  
Car pooling encouraged.  
**Click [HERE](#) to register.**

#### **About the Curator**

**Jo Lauria** is one of Southern California's foremost curators of ceramic arts. A former curator of decorative arts at LACMA where she organized the seminal exhibition *Color and Fire: Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950-2000*, Lauria's past curatorial projects at AMOCA include *Common Ground: Ceramics in Southern California (1945-1975)*, *Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future: AMOCA's 10th Anniversary*, *Discovering Saar Ceramics*, and *Silver Splendor: The Art of Anna Silver*.  
Learn more at [JoLauria.com](http://JoLauria.com) or follow her on Instagram.



**From Curator Jo Lauria:**

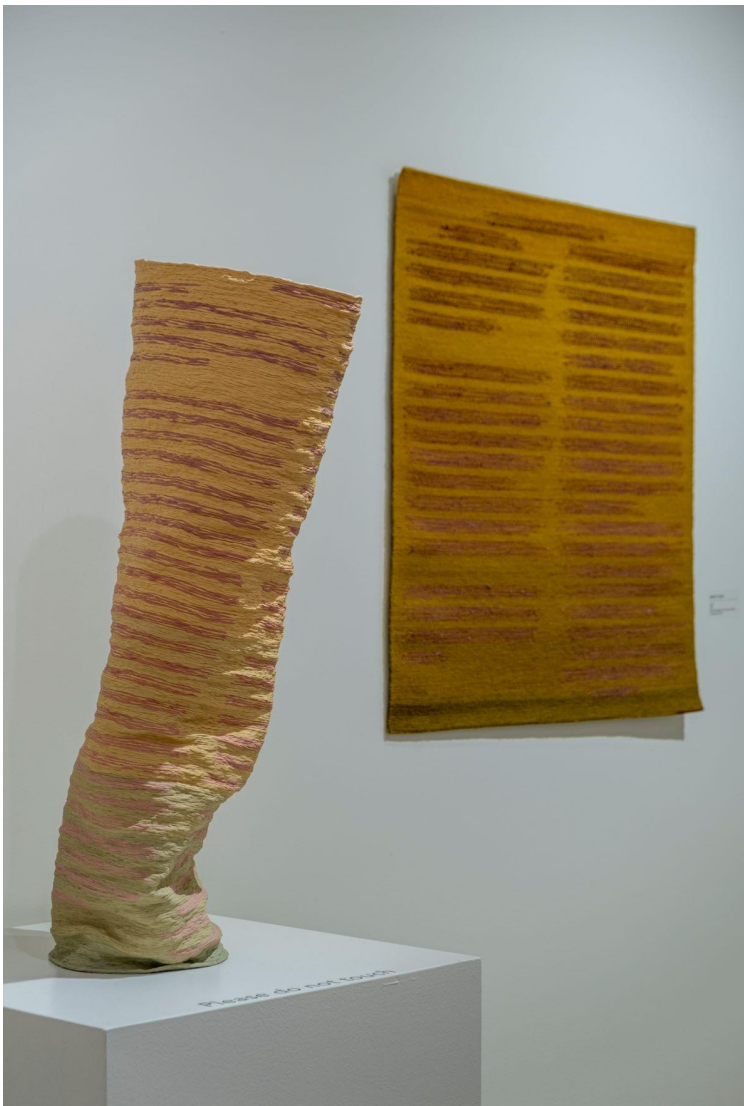
*(Source: AMOCA Website)*

*"Michael Rohde and Cheryl Ann Thomas are longtime friends whose art practices were markedly different: Rohde, a weaver, worked with threads and loom; Thomas, a ceramist, utilized clay and kiln. The exhibition's genesis developed from the concept of interchange: the act of mutually giving and receiving and the exchange of ideas. The artists first identified the common ground in their art practices from this launching site and asked critical questions about their motivations and commitments."*



**Cheryl Ann Thomas:** *"Friendships enhance individuals through an interchange of ideas. Something new emerges that might not have been imagined. What would happen if we agreed to create a new body of work based on a consideration of how fiber and clay could speak to each other? How would collaboration lead us to a new direction in our separate disciplines? We have agreed to commit ourselves to this investigation."* Learn more about Cheryl Ann Thomas on [her website](#).

**Michael Rohde:** *"There are so many commonalities between how Cheryl and I approach our own artmaking... We both chose to break the rules of our craft and make something new. Taking the approach further, we decided to embark on this joint project, breaking out of our isolated practices and entering into an interchange of ideas, forms, and the expression of both."* Learn more about Michael Rohde on his website and follow him on Instagram.



**Jo Lauria continued:**

"During the exchange period, Cheryl changed to a different clay body for a distinctive series of vessels, shifting from her studio porcelain that produced an opaque finish to one formulated to produce translucency when fired. Michael reacted to this shift by varying the materials and scale of the tapestries that represent this distinct series. Responding to the reflective qualities of the new pieces, Michael selected silk yarns to weave the vessel profiles, as silk is a more lustrous material than the wool he had been using to execute the previous tapestries. Further, since the vessels in this series were of a smaller scale, Michael reduced the size of the weavings to better correspond to the more diminutive proportions. In the design of the exhibition, the plan is to separate this group of translucent vessels and silk weavings to amplify their connection – just one of several revelations to be savored in Connected Spaces."

