Checklist

Dimensions are in inches, unless noted;
height precedes width and depth.

Rudy Autio
The Mad Woman of Sulfur Springs, 1982-1983
Stoneware
21 x 14 ½ x 13

Ralph Bacerra
Untitled Platter/Yellow, 1988
Ceramic
3 x 22 diam.

Bennett Bean
Vessel, n.d.
Ceramic
13 ¾ x 6 ½ diam.

Vessel, n.d.
Ceramic
12 x 14 diam.

Lidya Buzio
Soho Roofscape Vessel, 1982
Earthenware
7 ½ x 12 x 8 ¾

Claudi Cassonvas
Teabowl, ca. 1996
Ceramic
8 ½ x 15 ½

Roseline Delisle
Quadruple 8, 1990
Porcelain
23 ½ x 6 ½ diam.
Lid: 6 ½ x 2 diam.
Base: 1 x 13 ½ x 11 ¾

Ken Ferguson
Hare Handle Basket, 1990
Black stoneware, green slip
21 x 16 diam.

Viola Frey
Motorcycle Mama, 1973
Earthenware
11 x 19 ½ x 13 ½

Michael Frimkess
Club Vase, 1977
Stoneware
30 ½ x 10 diam.

Temple Vase, 1977
Stoneware
29 x 9 ¼ diam.

Ali Baba, 1975
Stoneware
25 ½ x 17 ½ diam.

Ali Baba, 1975
Stoneware
25 x 17 diam.

Peyote Bowl, 1975
Stoneware
16 x 17 diam.

Michael and Magdalena Frimkess
People, 1984
Stoneware
15 ¾ x 8 ½ diam.

Four Pounder, 1983
Stoneware
16 x 7 diam.

Leaves and Flowers, 1975
Stoneware
13 ½ x 6 diam.

Ewen Henderson
Vessel, n.d.
Stoneware
15 x 12 ½ x 7 3/16

Vessel, n.d.
Stoneware
25 5/8 x 18 x 11 ½

Anne Kraus
Shard Teapot, Claude Seeks a Revolution, 1989
Whiteware
10 ¼ x 10 ¼ x 5 ½ (with lid)
Lid: 4 x 3 diam.

Melba Langman
Vessel, n.d.
Porcelain
8 ½ x 6 ⅛ diam.

Vessel, n.d.
Porcelain
8 x 10 diam.

Vessel, n.d.
Porcelain
12 x 10 ½ x 5

Vessel
Porcelain
3 ½ x 9 ½ diam.

Vessel, n.d.
Porcelain
6 ½ x 9 diam.

Marilyn Levine
Bag #2, 1989
Ceramic and leather
5 x 5 diam.

Phillip Maberry
Untitled, 1989
Earthenware
vase: 16 ½ x 16 x 5
pedestal: (1992),
30 x 12 ½ diam.

Paul Mathieu
The Universal History of Infamy, 1987
Porcelain (stacking plates)
6 x 18 x 20

Lynda Pleet
Pamina (Poodle), n.d.
Ceramic
20 ¼ x 10 x 6

Elsa Rady
Conjunction
(two vessel set with base), n.d.
Porcelain
A: 7 x 10 diam. (pink)
B: 6 x 10 diam. (black)
1 x 20 ½ x 10 ¾ (base)

David Regan
Potato Eaters (Tureen), 1991
Ceramic
14 x 20 x 16
Lid: 6 x 13 ¼ x 8 ½

Adrian Saxe
Untitled Vessel (Antelope Jar), 1986
Porcelain, stoneware
17 ½ x 8 ½
Lid: 5 x 6 ¼ diam.

Alev Siesbye
Bowl, n.d.
Porcelain
4 ½ x 21 diam.

Anna Silver
Vessel, n.d. (red/black)
Ceramic
23 x 16 x 13

Vessel,n.d.
Ceramic
24 x 15 x 13

Leonard Skuro
Stepped Vase (gray), n.d.
Sculpture, ceramic
23 ½ x 17 ½ x 11 ¾
Base: 12 ¾ x 13 diam.

Akio Takamori
Head Vase, n.d.
Ceramic
24 ⅛ x 20 ½ x 6 ⅜

Unknown
Black Ewer, n.d.
Ceramic
24 x 9 diam.
Lid: 4 x 1 ¾ diam.

Beatrice Wood
Don Quixote, n.d.
Ceramic
14 ½ x 13 x 6

Betty Woodman
Pillow-Pitcher, 1981
Earthenware
21 x 25 x 14

All works have been given to the Long Beach Museum of Art by Melba and Al Langman.

The Melba and Al Langman Collection

In February of 1999, I received a telephone call from Wayne Kuwada of the Frank Lloyd Gallery in Santa Monica telling me that he had been speaking with the family of Melba and Al Langman, passionate collectors of modern and contemporary ceramics. Wayne mentioned to them that the Long Beach Museum of Art had a long history of collecting and exhibiting work in clay and that we had recently presented a highly successful exhibition entitled *Function and Narrative: Fifty Years of Southern California Ceramics*, which surveyed California ceramics from the 1940s to the 1990s and included a particularly strong concentration of work by Ralph Bacerra, Roseline Delisle, Cindy Kolodziejski, Tony Marsh, and Rodney Tsukashima.

Wayne also told me in our conversation that, over their lifetimes, Al and Melba Langman had gathered a stunning collection of works by many of this country's most significant ceramists with a particular interest in works by California artists. He told me that the Langmans' three sons — Malcolm, Richard and Michael — were looking for a "home" for this collection and urged me to contact Richard. I called him the following day and arranged a visit. At this time I had the great pleasure of meeting Al Langman, shortly before his passing, and I know that he would be very pleased at his family's decision to keep this important collection together as a gift to the Long Beach Museum of Art.

In her early life, Melba was an opera singer. Those who knew her remember her stunning voice, her brilliant red hair, and her effervescent personality. When she retired from singing, she became passionately interested in ceramics, both as a collector and as a ceramist and the Langman Collection includes several beautiful works by her. The delicacy of these thin-walled vessels combined with their lush, opulent color, are a direct reflection of Melba's vibrant spirit.

The collection includes works by many of the most significant figures in late-twentieth century ceramics — Rudy Autio, Ralph Bacerra, Bennett Bean, Roseline Delisle, Ewen Henderson, Elsa Rady, Adrian Saxe, Beatrice Wood, and Betty Woodman. While most of the works in the collection relate to functional, utilitarian traditions and forms, some, such as the Viola Frey, the Marilyn Levine, the Lynda Pleet, and the Akio Takamori emerge from the traditions of clay sculpture.

The gift of the Melba and Al Langman Collection to the Long Beach Museum of Art is all-the-more significant in that it beautifully complements the existing strengths in the Museum's ceramics collection which includes works by mid-century California modernist ceramists Harrison McIntosh, Rupert Deese, Laura Andreson, Getrud and Otto Natzler, Vivika and Otto Heino, Polia Pillin, and others.

We are extremely grateful to Melba and Al's three sons — Richard Langman, Malcolm Langman, and Michael Arden — for arranging this extremely generous gift in honor of their parents. Through this gift, they have insured that Melba and Al's passionate commitments will live on, benefitting future generations of Southern California residents and visitors to our community.

Harold B. Nelson
Director



Melba Langman, *Vessel*, n.d.

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Conjunction:

The Melba and Al Langman Collection



Adrian Saxe, *Antelope Jar*, 1986



Akio Takamori, *Head Vase*, n.d.



Betty Woodman, *Pillow-pitcher*, 1981



Beatrice Wood, *Don Quixote*, n.d.



Ralph Bacerra, *Untitled Platter/Yellow*, 1988



Bennett Bean, *Vessel*, n.d.