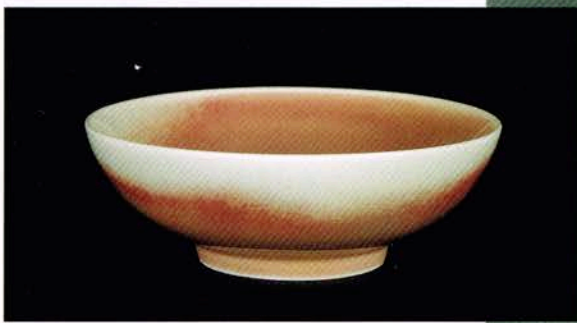
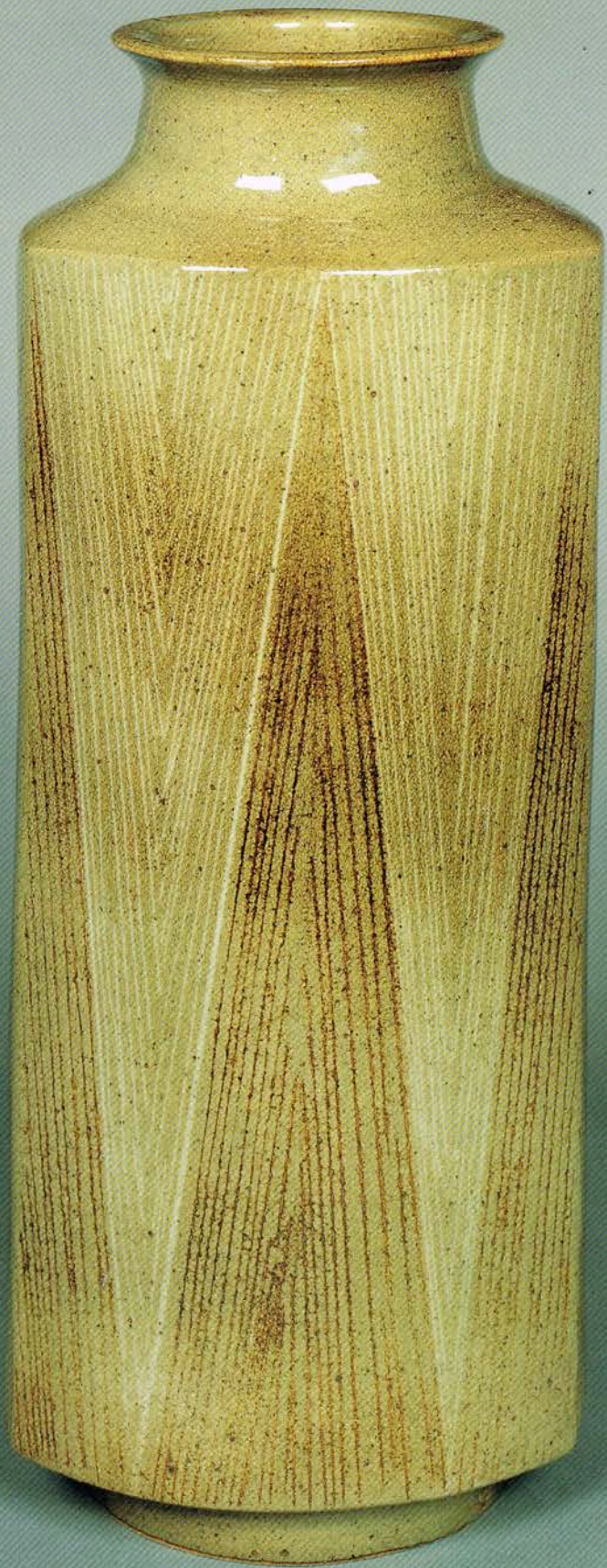
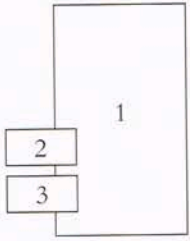


The Poetry
of Nature

Fance Franck



PUCKER GALLERY



FRONT COVER:

1. *Tall Triangular Vase*
 $16\frac{1}{8} \times 6\frac{5}{16}$ "
 Stoneware with gray feldspathic glaze
PG1
2. *Bowl*
 $1\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ "
 Earthenware with ochre and tin glaze
PG10
3. *Bowl*
 $2 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ "
 Porcelain with underglaze copper rose,
 gray and green
PG12



4. *Four Lobed Plaque*
 Porcelain with fresh red copper glaze

$\frac{3}{8} \times 8\frac{3}{8} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$ "
PG45

Fance Franck

Pucker Gallery

5. *Bowl*

2 x 8³/₈"

Stoneware with pale iron blue glaze
decor: character "fu (wind)" in copper

PG48



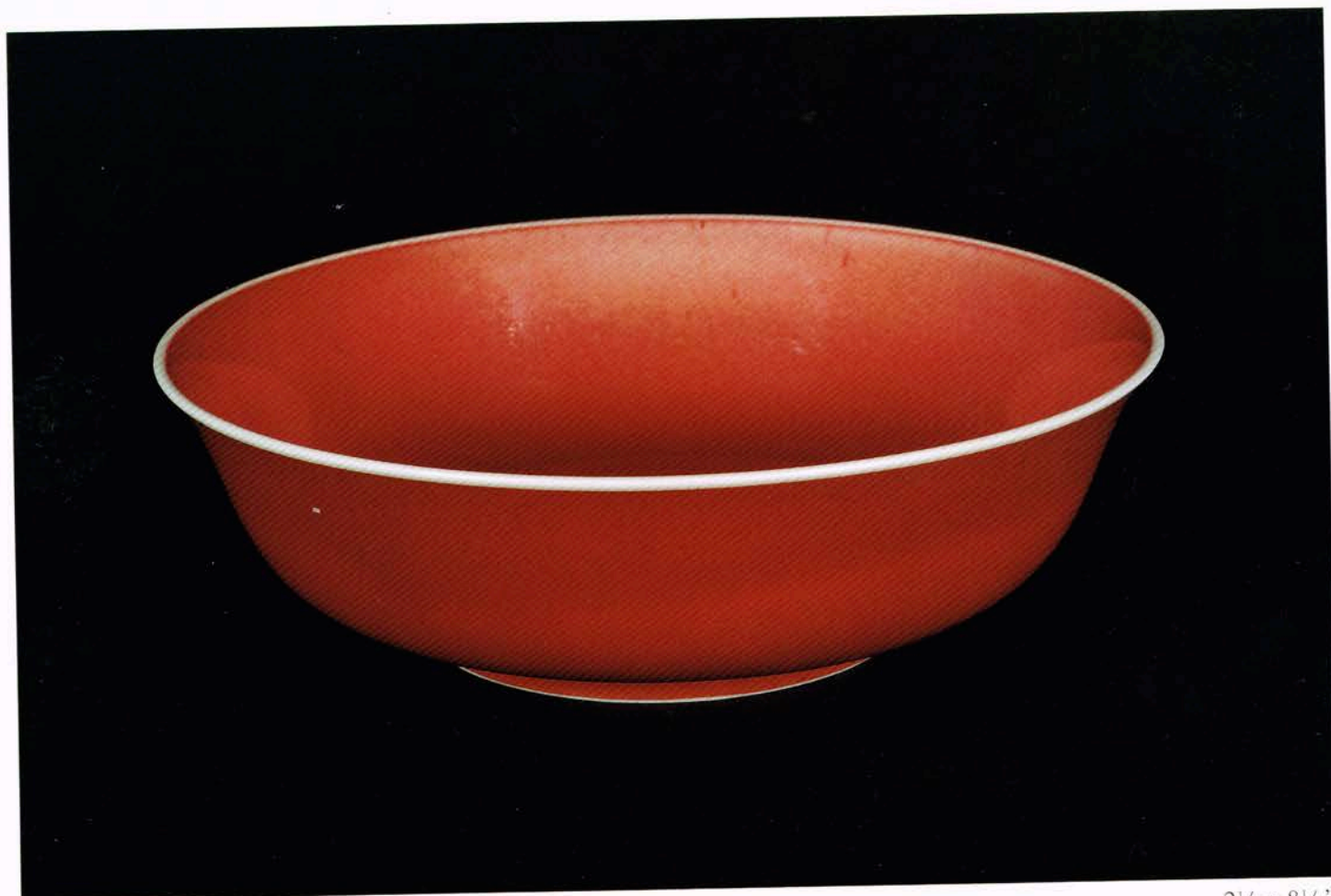
6. *Bowl: "eclipse"*

1¹/₄ x 7³/₄"

Stoneware with brown and black glaze
decor: circle noir

PG49





7. *Bowl*
Porcelain with copper red glaze

2 1/2 x 8 1/4"
PG51

The Poetry of Nature



8. *Bowl*
2 x 5 1/2"
Porcelain with fresh red copper glaze
PG11



9. *Bowl: "excentric"*
2 5/8 x 7 1/4"
Porcelain with pale celadon glaze
decor: circles
PG35



10. *Bowl*
3 1/2 x 7 3/4"
Stoneware with pale iron blue glaze
decor: incised circles and commas
PG47

Fance Franck's works are awash in the delicate physicality of nature. Many of her elegant ceramic forms refer visually to objects such as stones or seeds, while others recreate nature in their glazing. But even in works with no specific reference to nature, Franck nonetheless evokes sensations that ultimately refer to our experience in the natural world. In her *Rectangular Vase* (PG4), we feel the pattern of the bark of a rain-soaked tree; in her series of small bowls (PG10, 11, 12), we have small petals, perfectly shaped. In other works, such as *Large Oval Vase* (PG19), we experience stone, strength, and graceful solidity.

Viewing Franck's work, one is reminded of the directness with which ancient art forms drew from their sources in nature. The works exude a great energy even in their stillness, and express both a delicateness and a refined, compact strength. The glazes vary from the intense reds Franck has spent so many years researching and developing, to the rich array of browns found on a forest floor, to impossibly light blues. With a combination of pure color, painted and stenciled pattern, and incised surface texture, Franck allows us small glimpses of the natural world. In her decorative stenciled glazes on *Rectangular Vase* (PG27) and *Small "Pitcher" Vase* (PG36), flowers emerge from the surfaces, silhouetted as if against a summer sky. In her series of *Oval Boxes* (PG57, 58, 59) the abstract designs evoke rain, sky, earth. Each step of her work is painstakingly executed, with a high awareness of traditional Eastern glazing techniques, and an exhaustive understanding of her materials.

In the way of the earliest artists, Franck integrates an evocative and sensual understanding of nature's many shapes, colors, and surfaces, and an intense and precise vision of how nature impregnates its forms with geometry and order. She returns to the same forms again and again, as in her series of works entitled *Low Rectangular Vase: "hammer"* (PG30-32). In these pieces, as in others, she revisits the thin walls of the form, the playful curve of the body, and explores variations through pattern and glaze. Her method of hand-coiling many of her pieces also lends a sense of rootedness to the work despite its lightness, the pieces growing out of their bases like young trees. In her *Stem Bowl* works (PG52-54), the thin walls of the bowls open up like buds on a flowering tree, substantial yet delicate. Her works disclose that which we somehow know in our deepest memory, an experience of floating through nature's many sensations. Franck, who as a young woman explored poetry as well as pottery, realized upon viewing an Iroquois ritual vase the potential expressive power of ceramics: "I saw immediately in these abstract forms the means to express states of the spirit... the syntax which would permit me to begin to discover a language where the doors between thought and the world turned on hinges other than words."¹

Franck was able through pottery to discover a wordless communication. In her visual metaphors, she brings her considerable experience with the technical and her deep understanding of tradition to highly sophisticated works that delve into our most basic, and perhaps our oldest, questions. As the point of fusion between her thought and the world around her, her ceramic creations speak silent volumes, and are meditations on physical nature, and the spiritual.

RTW, 1997



11. *Stem Bowl*
Porcelain with clear glaze
decor: row of persimmons in underglaze blue

4¹/₂ x 5⁷/₈"
PG54

12. *Stem Bowl*
4⁵/₈ x 5³/₄"
Porcelain with black, fine blue
crystal glaze
PG52



13. *Stem Bowl*
4¹/₂ x 5⁷/₈"
Porcelain with clear glaze
decor: incised leaves
PG53

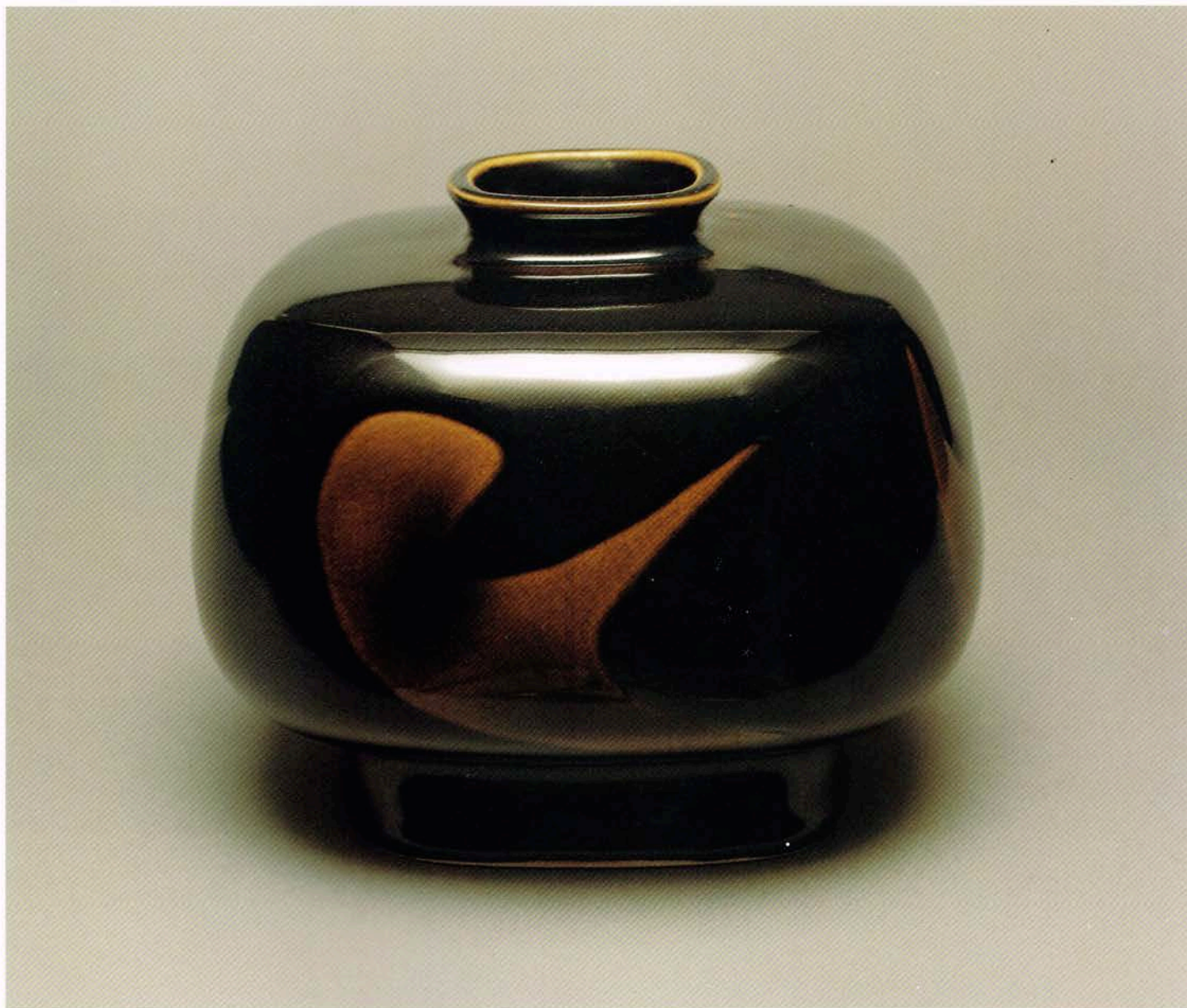


14. *Low Rectangular Vase: "hammer"*
 $4\frac{3}{4} \times 6 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ "
 Porcelain with blue-black glaze
 decor: yellow-brown motif,
 "devil's tail"
PG30



15. *Low Rectangular Vase: "hammer"*
 $4\frac{5}{8} \times 6\frac{1}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ "
 Porcelain with blue-black glaze
 decor: large cross-hatching
PG32





16. *Oval Square Vase: "ceremonial blades"*
Porcelain with blue-black glaze
decor: yellow brown motifs

5⁷/₈ x 6³/₄ x 6¹/₂"

PG18

18. *Flat Oval Vase* $6\frac{1}{8} \times 5\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ "

Porcelain with white crackle glaze

PG819. *Flat Oval Vase* $6\frac{1}{8} \times 5\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$ "

Porcelain with blue-black glaze

PG9



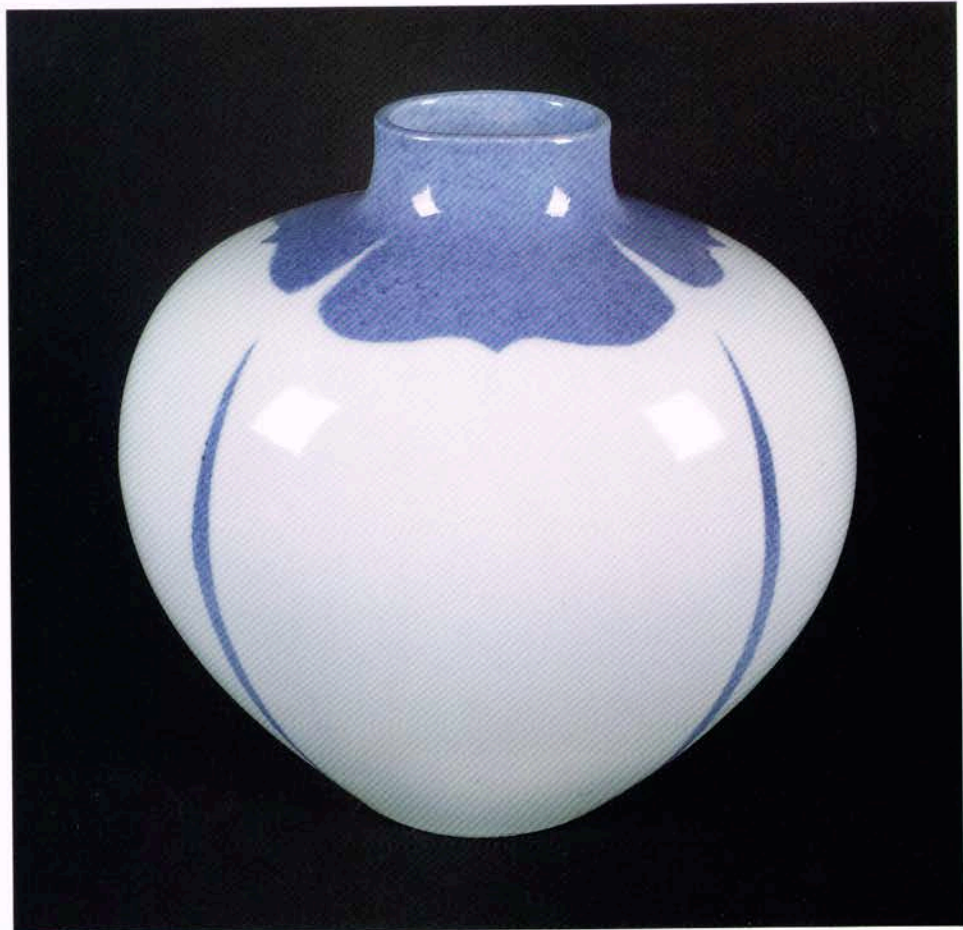
22. *Large Oval Vase*
Stoneware with brown and black iron glaze
decor: 8 vertical ribs

11³/₄ x 11¹/₂ x 6"
PG19

23. *Small Round Vase: "excentric"*
4¹/₂ x 4³/₄"
Porcelain with pale celadon glaze
decor: circles
PG34



24. *Oval Vase*
8 x 8 x 5³/₄"
Blue and white porcelain with
transparent glaze
decor: quatrefoil motif in
underglaze blue
PG29



25. *Oval Vase: scalloped cross-section*
4¹/₂ x 4³/₄ x 3¹/₂"
Porcelain with brown and black glaze
PG6



26. *Small Oval Fluted Vase*
4⁵/₈ x 4⁵/₈ x 3¹/₂"
Porcelain with pale celadon glaze
PG28



27. *Round Vase* $4\frac{1}{8} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ "

Porcelain with brown and black glaze

PG728. *Round Vase* $9\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{5}{8} \times 2\frac{5}{8}$ "Porcelain with pale yellow-brown
iron glaze

decor: carved millstone motifs

PG23



29. *Oval Vase: "metaphor of bronze"*
Stoneware with gray feldspathic glaze

$6\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{5}{8} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ "
PG2



30. *Triangular Vase*
Stoneware with gray feldspathic glaze

$11\frac{7}{8} \times 16\frac{3}{4} \times 16\frac{3}{4}$ "
PG13



31. *Triangular Vessel*
Stoneware with gray feldspathic glaze

$4\frac{1}{4} \times 17\frac{1}{2} \times 17\frac{1}{2}$ "
PG14

32. 1st of pair of Rectangular vases:

*"inverse variation"*7³/₄ x 6 x 4"

Stoneware with gray feldspathic glaze

decor: dark gray triangular motifs

PG15

33. 2nd of pair of Rectangular vases:
"inverse variation"
 $9\frac{7}{8} \times 7\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{7}{8}$ "
Stoneware with gray feldspathic glaze
decor: dark gray triangular motifs
PG16



34. *Small Square Vase*(a) $9\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{5}{8}$ "**PG22** (*left*)*Tall Square Vase*(b) $11 \times 3\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ "Stoneware with brown and black
iron glaze

decor: sea shell impressions

PG21 (*right*)35. *Bowl* $4 \times 9\frac{3}{4}$ "Stoneware with gray feldspathic glaze
decor: branches in iron**PG50**

36. *Small "Pitcher" Vase*

(a) Porcelain with clear glaze
decor: branches reserved in underglaze blue

 $2\frac{7}{8} \times 5\frac{1}{8} \times 1\frac{7}{8}$ "

PG36 (left)

(b) *Small "Pitcher" Vase*

Porcelain with gray-green glaze
decor: positive and negative circles

 $2\frac{5}{8} \times 5\frac{1}{4} \times 2$ "

PG33 (right)

37. *Oval Box: "blue stone"*

(a) Porcelain with clear glaze
decor: clear lines reserved in underglaze blue

 $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{8}$ "

PG57 (left)

(b) *Oval Box: "gray stone"*

Porcelain with gray-green glaze
decor: clear lines

 $3\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ "

PG56 (middle)

(c) *Oval Box: "stone"*

Porcelain with opaque pale celadon glaze
decor: black veins

 $3\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ "

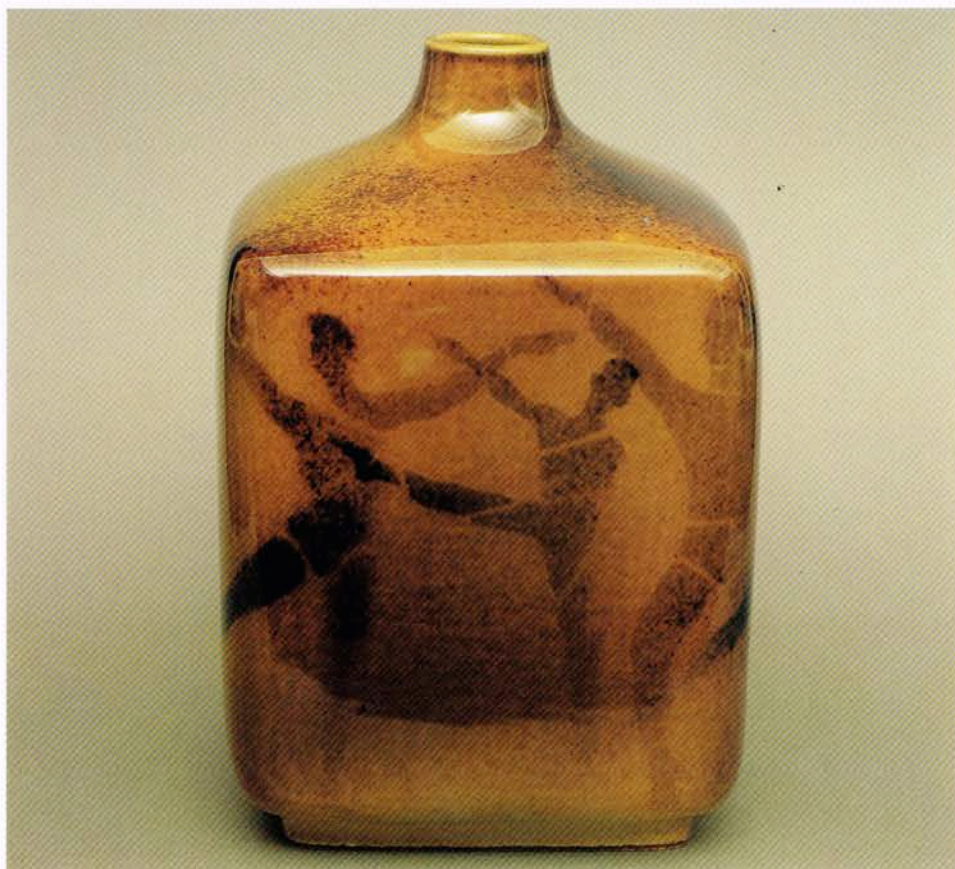
PG55 (right)

38. *Rectangular Vase* $8\frac{5}{8} \times 5\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$ "Porcelain with blue-black glaze
decor: yellow-brown cross hatching**PG17**39. *Rectangular Vase: "falcon feathers"* $8\frac{7}{8} \times 6\frac{5}{16} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ "

Porcelain with blue black glaze

PG5

40. *Square Vase*
9¹/₄ x 6 x 6"
Porcelain with pale brown iron glaze
decor: dancers in homage to
Merce Cunningham
PG24



41. *Rectangular Vase*
8⁵/₈ x 6⁵/₁₆ x 5¹/₂"
Stoneware with brown and black glaze
PG4



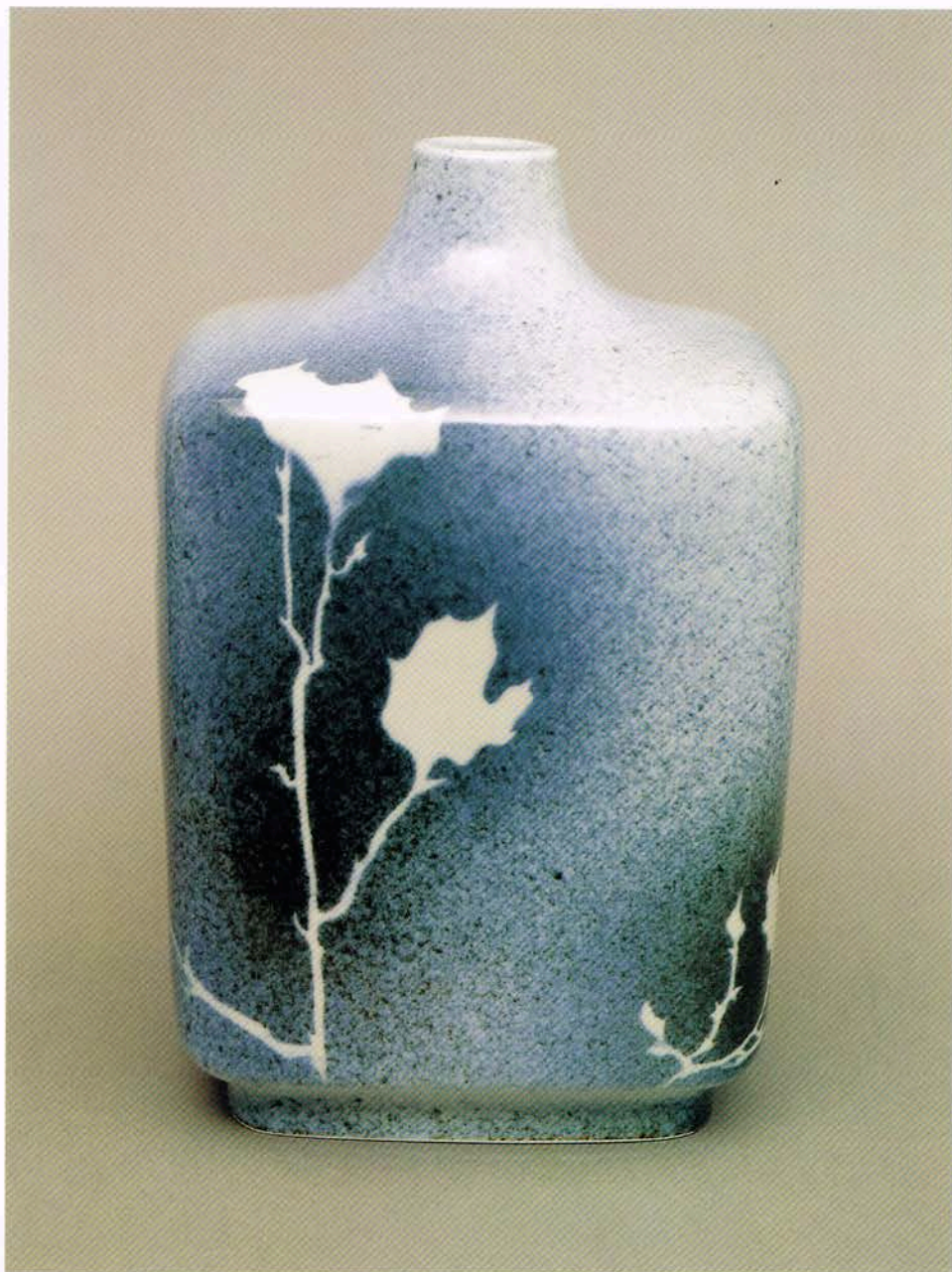
42. *Square Vase*
8³/₄ x 6 x 6"
Porcelain with pale celadon glaze
decor: incised bands
PG25

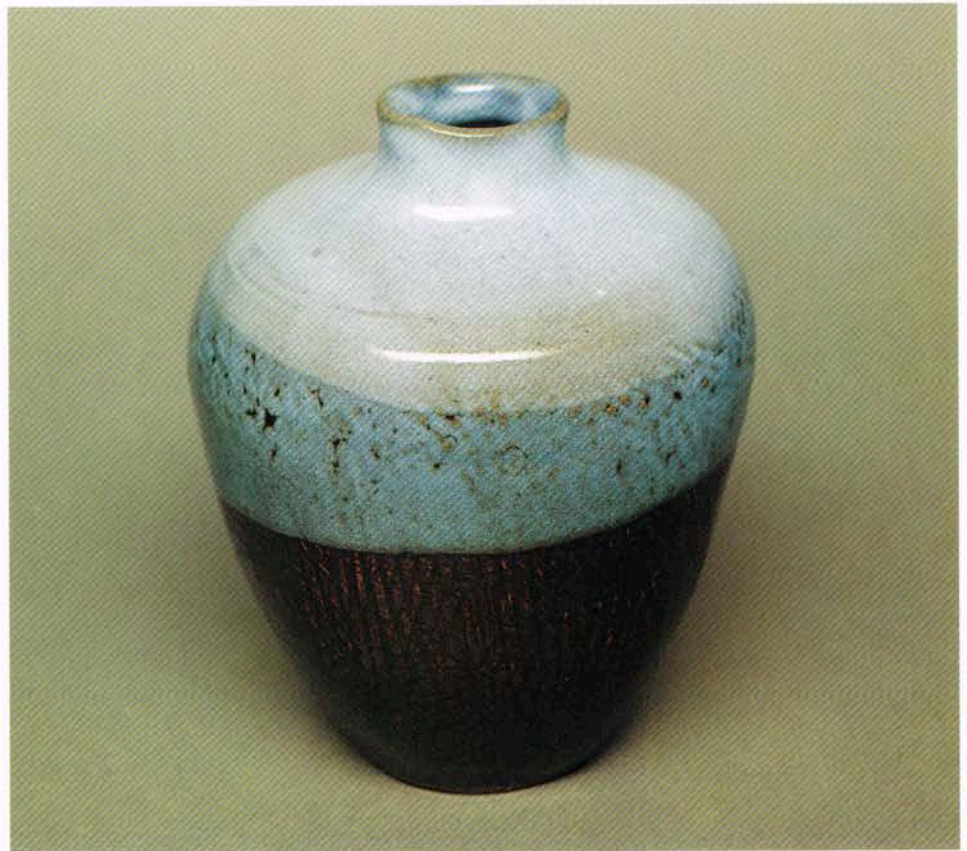


43. *Small Round Vase: concave shoulder*
4¹/₂ x 4"
Porcelain with pale blue glaze
decor: incised vertical lines
PG9



44. *Rectangular Vase*
8³/₄ x 5⁵/₈ x 5¹/₂"
Blue and white porcelain with
transparent glaze
decor: quatrefoil motif in
underglaze blue
PG27



45. *Round Vase* $6\frac{1}{8} \times 4\frac{1}{8}$ "Stoneware with pale iron blue glaze
decor: purple and red copper**PG42**46. *Oval Vase* $4\frac{3}{4} \times 4 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ "Stoneware with pale iron blue glaze
and black glaze**PG43**

47. *Round Vase*

5 1/2 x 4 1/4"

Stoneware with black glaze
decor: incised motif, "dark puzzle
for MM"**PG44**48. *Small Oval Vase: "la décollété"*

4 1/2 x 4 3/4 x 3 1/2"

Porcelain with blue-black glaze

PG37 (left)49. *Small Round Vase*

4 5/8 x 4 1/2 x 4 1/2"

Porcelain with brown crystal glaze

PG38 (right)

Fance Franck



50. *Flat Oval Dish: "stepping stones"*
 $1\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{7}{8} \times 10\frac{3}{8}$
 Porcelain with clear crackle glaze
 decor: black rectangular spots
PG26

University Studies

- Rice University, Houston, Texas: literature, philosophy, history of art.
- Université de Paris, la Sorbonne: French literature, philosophy, aesthetics.
- Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts: French and English poetry.

Training in Plastic Arts

- Boston Museum School, Boston, Massachusetts: sculpture and history of art.
- Greenwich House Pottery, New York City: apprenticeship in pottery.
- École des Métiers d'Art, Paris: pottery.
- Institute of Technology of Nagoya, Seto Division: ancient Japanese glazes.

Activities in the field of ceramics

1959

Founded the Rue Bonaparte Studio with the great French ceramicist, Francine del Pierre.

1969

Commissioned by the French Ministry of Culture to create works and do related research at the Manufacture Nationale de Porcelaine de Sèvres.

1979-1980

Fellow of the Japan Foundation: program of study in museums, archeological sites, laboratories, manufactures and potteries. Creation of seventy works at Fukugawa Porcelain Manufactory. Personal exhibitions in Kyoto Municipal Museum, Fukuoka Municipal Museum and Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo.

1981

Invitation to lecture during a personal exhibition in the Seattle Museum.

1983-1985

Six work periods in Japan to create porcelain for Dansk Designs.

1986

Project of research and creation of shapes for Fresh or Sacrificial copper red glazes, under the auspices of the Asian Cultural Council, New York.

1987, 1988, 1989

Trips to mainland China and Taipei. Invited to study the archaeology and technology of Ming copper red porcelain, to lecture and present slides of recent works at the Museum of Jingdezhen. Lecture at Guimet Museum on China trips and on personal copper red research for Le Jardin des Porcelaines exhibition.

1990

During the Ashmolean show of porcelain by Fance Franck, lectures at an International symposium on copper red porcelain; in the Ashmolean; in London at the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Percival David Foundation; and in Paris, to curators of these museums, the vice-director of the Shanghai Museum, scientists from laboratories of Shanghai, Tsukuba, Japan, Oxford University and the British Museum.

1991

Red research data written for publication by the University of London.

1993

Inauguration of L'Oeuvre au Rouge - "Poterie de Grand Feu de Fance Franck", Baur Collection, Geneva. Lecture at the Baur Collection.

1993

Lecture at the symposium on Chinese porcelain, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., during the exhibition "Joined colors: Decoration and Meaning in Chinese Porcelain".

1994

Named *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* at a ceremony at the Manufacture de Sèvres where the insignia were awarded by Professor Bernard Frank, specialist of Buddhist philosophy and art, director of Japanese Studies at le Collège de France.

Lecture at Paris 7th Arrondissement City Hall entitled "Poterie et Porcelaine, Art actuel et de toujours."



51. *Round Vase*
6 1/2 x 4 1/4"
Stoneware with pale iron blue glaze
decor: incised motif, "light puzzle
for MM"
PG41



52. *Round Vase*
5 1/4 x 4"
Stoneware with pale iron blue glaze
decor: incised motif, "commas and
discs"
PG40

1995

Requested by the chief curator of the Idemitsu Museum of Art, Tokyo, to write one of the introductions to an exhibition of Tea Ceremony ceramics presented in Paris Cernuschi Museum. The exhibition was entitled "Japon, Saveurs et Sérénité" and the introduction entitled "Vide et Plenitude des Poteries pour le Thé".

Study of an agreement proposed by the Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia, for a personal exhibition to be presented by the museum in 1996.

Collaboration with the Hermitage curator in charge of the exhibition in Paris to choose works to be shown and to plan the catalogue of the show.

1996

Named one of the four "alumni of the year" of Rice University, Houston, Texas, for achievement in the domain of art.

Preparation for the trilingual Hermitage show catalogue with curator Tatiana Arapova, with Paris Guimet Museum collaborator, Maud Girard Geslan, and Washington, D.C. ceramics curator of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Louise Allison Cort.

1997

Video Film "Ceramics by Fance Franck at the Hermitage" in collaboration with Professor Mikhail Piotrosky, director, and Tatiana Arapova, curator, of the Hermitage Museum.

Principal Exhibitions

- 1971 Museo de Belles Artes, Caracas. Personal exhibition.
- 1973 "Peintures de Sergio de Castro, Poteries et Porcelaines de Sévres de Fance Franck", Château de Ville d'Avray.
- 1974 Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg. Personal exhibition.
- 1975 "Fance Franck, Pottery - Sergio de Castro, Small Paintings", French Cultural Center, Luxembourg.
- 1976 Fance Franck Ceramics, Hetjens Museum, Düsseldorf. Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Bordeaux. Personal exhibition.
- 1977 Musée Dobrée, Nantes. Personal exhibition. Musée Municipal, Cholet. Personal exhibition.
- 1980 "Sèvres Porcelain", Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Fukuoka Municipal Museum. Personal exhibition. Takashimaya Art Gallery, Nihonbashi, Tokyo. Personal exhibition. Métiers d'Art Show, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris.
- 1981 Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausaw, Wisconsin. Personal exhibition. Fine Arts Museum of the South, Mobile, Alabama. Personal exhibition. New Harmony Contemporary Art Athenaeum, Indiana. Personal exhibition. Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington. Personal exhibition.
- 1983 Chunichi Shimbun: International Ceramic Arts, Nagoya.
- 1985 "Designers-Creators", Seibu Gallery, Tokyo.
- 1986 "Porcelain by Fance Franck", Hetjens Museum, Düsseldorf. Personal exhibition.
- 1988 East-West: Contemporary Ceramics Exhibition, Seoul, Korea.
- 1989 "L'Europe des Céramistes", Abbaye Saint Germain, Auxerre.
- 1990 "Sacrificial Red Glazed Porcelain by Fance Franck", Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Personal exhibition.
- 1991 Exhibition Fina Gomez Collection, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. Presentation of 80 recent works, Paris, Atelier Francine del Pierre.
- 1992 Presentation of 110 recent works, Paris, Atelier Francine del Pierre.
- 1993 "L'Oeuvre au Rouge - Poterie de Grand Feu de Fance Franck", Baur Collection, Geneva. Personal exhibition. Presentation of new works (Sister Moon and Brother Sun) for the chapel of Francis of Assisi in New Harmony, Indiana. Personal exhibition. Exhibition of porcelain and stoneware works, "Les vases communicants", in collaboration with a Paris representative of the Sogetsu Ikebana School of Japan.
- 1996 "Ceramics by Fance Franck", The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg. Personal exhibition.
- 1998 "The Poetry of Nature", Pucker Gallery, Boston.

PUCKER GALLERY
171 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116

(617) 267-9473
FAX#: (617) 424-9759
email: puckergall@aol.com
<http://www.gallery-guide.com/gg/gallery/pucker>

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Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

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One hour free validated parking is available on the corner of Newbury and Dartmouth Streets

Forwarding order and address correction requested.

The Poetry of Nature: Fance Franck

4 April – 5 May 1998

Opening Reception: 4 April 1998; 3 to 6 PM

The public is invited to attend. The artist will be present.



53. *Low Oval Vase*
Stoneware with brown and black iron glaze
decor: 10 vertical ribs

4 x 18³/₄ x 6¹/₂"
PG20