

CLAY TIMES  
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Harvest Urn II by Paul McCoy. 13" x 10". Stoneware.

# Ashes to Art



Hunebedden Family by Karen Aumann. Among 130 works recently featured in the third international Ashes to Art® exhibition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## Fifty original funerary urns and artworks from the third international Ashes to Art® exhibition come to rest in Sonoma County, California following the Philadelphia east coast debut.

In an interesting twist that acknowledges the role of those we love and think of during the holidays, the Sonoma County Museum in Santa Rosa, CA, recently showcased a group of 50 original artist-made urns, vessels, and personal memorial objects during an annual holiday event and sale. The artwork arrived directly from Philadelphia's 5,000-sq.-ft. ICE BOX gallery at Crane Arts. The works had been selected from a group of 130 pieces from 26 states and 6 foreign countries that comprised the east coast debut of Ashes to Art®—an international exhibition that has been leading the emerging

genre of unique, contemporary funerary artwork.

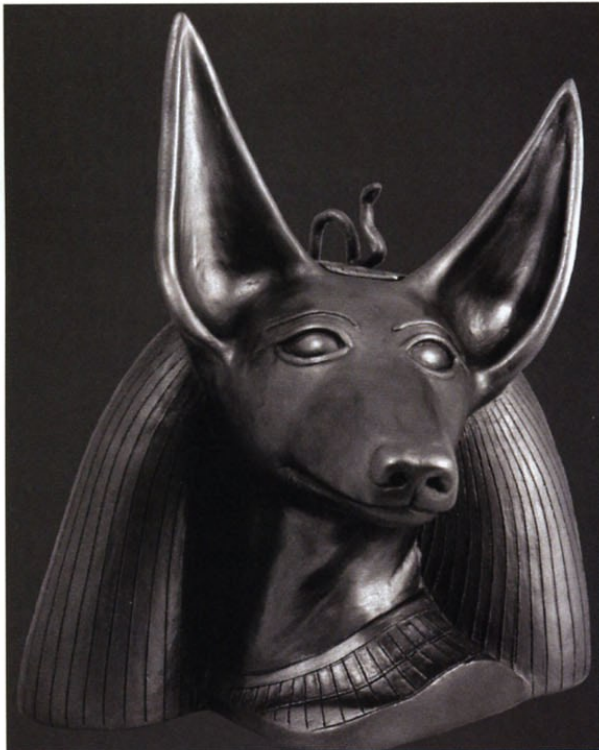
Ashes to Art® is organized by FUNERIA—an arts agency based in Northern California's Sonoma County town of Graton. FUNERIA is also in the process of transforming an 1800-sq.-ft. space previously occupied by a martial arts studio into a fine craft and art gallery. Following the installation at the Sonoma County Museum, several pieces will remain in the museum's gift shop while the balance will move to FUNERIA's new gallery in Graton.

"arthonorslife@funeria," as the gallery will be called, is the first of its kind, focusing primarily on original contemporary funerary art. The gallery intends to expand the concept in future exhibitions to include work that reflects on the art honors life™ theme FUNERIA has been advancing since 2001, with its first exhibition at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center.

arthonorslife@funeria is scheduled to open as early as the end of January 2007 at 2860 Bowen Street, in Graton, CA.



*Red Green*, carved and sandblasted lidded jar by Jim Connell. 11" x 11". Stoneware. Recipient of the "Excellence in Clay" award at the third international Ashes to Art® exhibition.



*Anubis* (detail) by Jack Thompson. 16" x 13" x 14". Painted ceramic. Recipient of the "People's Choice" award at the third international Ashes to Art® exhibition.

## East Coast Award Winners

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Working artists who are also long-time respected educators took top honors at the east coast debut of the recent Ashes to Art® exhibition.

"Best of Show" was awarded to Baylor University Professor of Art and Ceramist-in-Residence, Paul McCoy, for his large bell-shaped stoneware *Creation Urn III* (pictured on page 8). "Excellence in Clay" was awarded to Winthrop University's Professor of Ceramics, Jim Connell, for *Red Green*, his carved and sandblasted lidded jar (pictured at left).

The "People's Choice" award was based on popular vote throughout the show and was won by Jack Thompson, Professor of Fine Art/3-D at Moore College of Art and Design. Thompson's clay *Anubis* (pictured, lower left), the jackal-headed guide to the underworld in ancient Egyptian lore, figured prominently in all promotional materials for the exhibition.

Jurors for the 130-piece Philadelphia exhibition included lead juror Michael W. Monroe, Director of the Bellevue Arts Museum and former chief curator of the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, and artist jurors Carol Green and Christiane Michaela Vincent. Green, Vincent, and FUNERIA's arts counsel Adela Akers gathered in Philadelphia to select the award-winning works prior to the October 21st opening reception. Akers had also served as lead juror when Ashes to Art® debuted at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center in 2001.

To learn more about FUNERIA and its Ashes to Art® exhibitions, visit [www.funeria.com](http://www.funeria.com) or e-mail [arthonorslife@funeria.com](mailto:arthonorslife@funeria.com).

What memorial object  
will stand in for you when  
you're no longer here  
to speak for yourself?

—FUNERIA