



## The Kamm Teapot Collection

**LOS ANGELES RESIDENTS** Sonny and Gloria Kamm have collected teapots for over thirty-five years. What began as an adjunct to their existing collection of contemporary glass, ceramics, and paintings led to a passion that has resulted in the world's largest and most comprehensive teapot collection. The Kamm Teapot Collection numbers over 10,000 items and runs the gamut from historical decorative arts to industrial design icons to unique works of contemporary art.

The collection is noteworthy for its representation of seminal art movements and major artists within the fields of ceramics, design, fiber art, glass, metals, and wood. There are teapots from the Arts and Crafts Movement, Modernism, postwar Studio Craft, Postmodernism, and beyond. Teapots by virtuosos and avant-garde artists include sculptor Albert Paley, jewelry artist Helen Shirk, and ceramicists Peter Voulkos and Betty Woodman. Teapots by design pioneers

include Christopher Dresser, Michael Graves, Ettore Sottsass, and Eva Zeisel.

The novel and diverse fiber art in the collection numbers around 300 pieces. Traditional techniques from basketry, beadwork, felting, and sewing are paired with found materials such as repurposed fabrics, plastic cable ties, and tea bags. Recent acquisitions include Elfleda Russell's intricately beaded *Garden of Eden Teapot* (2009) and Polly Adams Sutton's woven and twined *Dragonwell Green Teapot* (2009). Imagery ranges from the pop culture and high art references of Kate Anderson's knotted *Warhol-Haring Teapot/Mickey Mouse II* (2004) to the abstract form and refined color of Jóh Ricci's hand-dyed vessel *Daybreak Subtle-tea* (2010). There is an emphasis on contemporary works that expand the field, including Jennifer Falck Linssen's cut paper *Nymphaea: The Water Lily Tea Set* (2009), Jan Hopkins's *Too Blue Teapot* (2004) made from stitched grapefruit peels, and Les-

*ABOVE, TOP:* Jennifer Falck-Linssen, *Nymphaea: The Water Lily Tea Set*, 2009; paper, aluminum, thread, wire, paint, beads; katagami-style handcarved paper with stitching; set: 6½" x 19" x 16". *Courtesy of Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Photo by the artist.* *ABOVE, BOTTOM LEFT:* Jóh Ricci, *Daybreak Subtle-tea*; 2010; nylon; knotted, hand-dyed; 7" x 7¼" x 4". *Courtesy of Katie Gingrass Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Photo by the artist.* *ABOVE, BOTTOM RIGHT:* Kate Anderson; *Warhol-Haring Teapot/Mickey Mouse II (front)*, 2004; waxed linen, stainless steel; knotted; 9" x 13½" x 2". *Courtesy of Jane Sauer Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Photo: Jon Koch.*

ley Richmond's mixed-media cloth *Tree Pot* (2009).

In addition to the art, the collection contains items from everyday life that include clothing, furniture, games, housewares, and toys. Novelty teapots and children's tea sets are specialty areas of the collection. These objects all share the form, image, or subject of a teapot and



come from myriad sources: flea markets, antique shops, art galleries, auction houses, and private sales. The Kamms have been assisted by several art dealers, including Garth Clark, Libby Cooper, and Leslie Ferrin. Jane Sauer Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Katie Gingrass Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Mobilia Gallery, Cambridge, Massachusetts, have been sources for exceptional fiber art.

The Kamms share their collection via loans to museums and other public institutions. During 2001–2006, the collection was on view in *The Artful Teapot*, a touring museum exhibition that included 250 teapots drawn exclusively from the Kamm Collection. The exhibit was extremely popular, drawing record attendance at six of the nine museums. In 2004, Sonny and Gloria founded the Kamm Teapot Foundation to administer their collection, which is housed and being cataloged in a storage facility in North Carolina. Many artworks remain displayed in their California residence where private tours are conducted. The



Kamms are currently in discussion with several museums to find the best museum partner to be the permanent home of their teapot collection. 📧

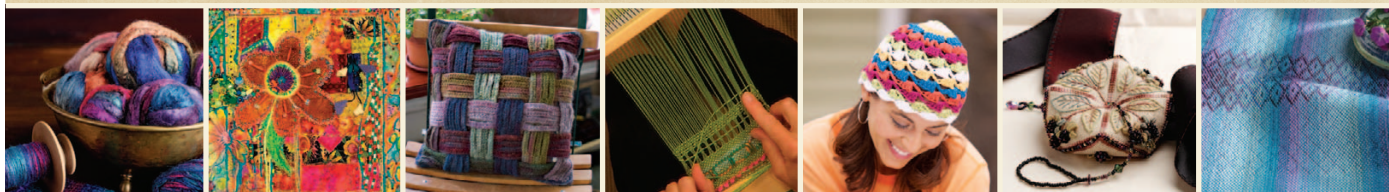
ABOVE: Sonny and Gloria Kamm with pieces from their teapot collection at their home in California.

For information about the collection, Sonny and Gloria Kamm may be contacted via e-mail at [kammartinfo@gmail.com](mailto:kammartinfo@gmail.com).



To see more fiber teapots from the Kamm's collection, visit [fiberarts.com](http://fiberarts.com).

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