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**BOWERS
MUSEUM**

Bowers Museum Receives Historic Gift: One of the World's Largest Teapot Collections and A Major Endowment

The landmark donation from the Kamm Teapot Foundation includes approximately 20,000 objects and endows a new curatorial position for American and contemporary art.



From top left, clockwise: Unidentified Manufacturer (Staffordshire, England), *No Stamp Act* Teapot, c. 1766. Earthenware, 4 x 6.25 x 3.63 in. Photo: Laszlo Bodo. Ron Nagle, *Untitled Teapot #1*, 1999. Earthenware, glazes, 4.75 x 7 x 4.75 in. Photo: Tony Cunha. KéKé Cribbs, *Phoenix Rising*, 2011. Reverse-fired enamels on slumped glass, gold leaf, fired enamel mosaics, stoneware, glaze, gold luster, steel base. 15.5 x 21 x 6 in. Photo: David H. Ramsey. David Chatt, *Karilyn's Tea Service* 1998. Bead weaving, 7.13 x 8.75 x 5.5 in. (teapot). Photo: Tony Cunha. Kazimir Malevich / State Porcelain Factory, *Suprematist Teapot*, c. 1930. Porcelain, 6.25 x 9.25 x 4 in. Photo: Kevin O'Dwyer. Meissen Porcelain Factory, *Böttger Hexagonal Teapot*, c. 1715. Stoneware, 4.38 x 5.25 x 3.5 in. Photo: Kevin O'Dwyer.

SANTA ANA, CA – October 13, 2026 — Bowers Museum is proud to announce a transformative donation from the Kamm Teapot Foundation, marking the largest gift in the museum's history. The historic acquisition brings the one of the world's largest and most comprehensive teapot collections to Bowers, supported by a significant donation of \$9 million to cover logistical expenses and create an endowment that ensures not only the long-term preservation and presentation of the collection but also funds key staffing needs, including a new curatorial position for American and contemporary art.

Assembled over 40 years by Los Angeles collectors Gloria and Sonny Kamm, the extraordinary collection features approximately 20,000 items spanning historical decorative arts, industrial design, and contemporary art. It also highlights custom commissions from renowned artists, along with an extensive archive of tea-related ephemera, including rare photographs, vintage advertising, animation cels, jewelry, and postage stamps.

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“This agreement marks an exciting milestone for the museum, using tea as a creative through-line that connects our global collection,” said Dr. Séan O’Harrow, President and CEO of Bowers Museum. “We are profoundly grateful to the Kamms for their incredible generosity and for entrusting their priceless collection to Bowers so it can inspire generations to come.”

A Passion for Preservation

The Kamms began collecting teapots as an offshoot of their contemporary art collection, establishing the Kamm Teapot Foundation in 2004 to preserve and share their holdings. Crafted from virtually every medium imaginable, teapots offer a unique entry point into global trade, culture, and social history, making the collection a rich educational resource for art enthusiasts, scholars, and families alike. Learn more at kammteapotfoundation.org.



Sonny and Gloria Kamm at their home in 1996 with the Michael Lucero sculpture *Female Roman Statue* 1996.

A Proven Cultural Phenomenon

Selections from the Kamm Collection have already demonstrated massive public appeal. *The Artful Teapot*, a major touring exhibition curated by ceramics scholar Garth Clark, traveled across North America, breaking attendance records at six of its nine venues and earning national coverage on *CBS Sunday Morning*.

Bowers Museum looks forward to debuting a new exhibition devoted to the collection in 2027, with further details to be announced as planning progresses.



From L to R: Margaret Wharton, *Tee Pot* 2009. Ball leather, wood, paint, 12 x 18 x 8 in. Photo: David H. Ramsey. Richard Marquis, *Retro Stuff: Stars and Stripes*, 1997. Blown glass, 5.5 x 7.63 x 4.63 in. Photo: Tony Cunha. Peter Shire, *Scorpion Float*, 1983. Earthenware, 12.9 x 22.25 x 11.75 in. Photo: Tony Cunha.

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About Bowers Museum

Located in the heart of Orange County, Bowers Museum has been enriching lives through the world's finest arts and cultures for 90 years. Voted "Best Museum in Orange County" by readers of the *OC Register* for 33 consecutive years, Bowers is a cultural destination and educational hub committed to bringing global treasures to Southern California.

- **Address:** 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706
- **Opening Hours:** Tuesday–Sunday, 10 AM–4 PM; closed Mondays, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Early closure at 2 PM on Christmas Eve.
- **Admission:** General Admission is \$18 for adults, \$15 seniors (age 62+) and students (age 12+). Admission is always free for members and children under 12. Tickets for featured exhibitions are \$11 with purchase of general admission.
- **Website:** bowers.org
- **Email:** info@bowers.org
- **Phone:** 714.567.3600
- **Programs:** bowers.org/programs
- **Dining:** Visitors can enjoy a meal at our full-service restaurant, Ada's Table, Tuesday–Sunday, 11 AM–3 PM. Reservations can be made by calling 714.567.3651.

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