

PLEASE INCLUDE THIS EXHIBITION IN YOUR LISTINGS AND REVIEWS

VENETIAN VESSELS & COPTIC TEXTILES

May 24 – July 11, 2008

Brad Cooper Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of *VENETIAN VESSELS & COPTIC TEXTILES*. On view will be a new ceramic series by **Leland Shaw**, inspired by his travels to Italy over the past 15 years. Shaw's work is elegantly coupled with a rare grouping of so-called *COPTIC TEXTILES* created in Egypt from the 3rd / 4th century AD. This extraordinary combination of vessels and textiles will be on view May 24 through July 11, 2008. A reception will be held on Saturday, June 7, from 7- 9 p.m. Egyptologist, Dr Robert Bianchi, the curator of *COPTIC TEXTILES* will discuss *The History of Textiles in Coptic Egypt* on June 28, from 4 to 5pm. The Brad Cooper Gallery is located at 1712 E. 7th Ave in YBOR CITY. Gallery hours are Wed. through Sat. 11am until 5pm. Call for occasional evening hrs: 813-248-6098.

VENETIAN VESSELS: Leland Shaw is a seasoned artist who studied ceramic sculpture with Peter Voukos and Ken Price at the University of California, Berkley, while at the same time, he studied architecture and received his masters in 1963. Shaw went on to teach at the University of Florida for 37 years and in 2003, he retired as Professor Emeritus from the School of Architecture.

Shaw's Italian Series of Vessels have continued to evolve throughout his many educational trips to Northern Italy, from Venice and Verona to Rome. His vessels are constructed of numerous elements: including Italian sayings stamped on the thrown pottery surface such as, "*Che esperienza indimenticabile!*" [What an unforgettable experience!], "*Il tempo aspetta nessuno*" [Time waits for no one], and "*La speranza e l'ultima a morire*" [Hope springs eternal: literally, hope is the last to die.] The truthful phrases fit the world they inhabit of imaginary oceans with great waves, encircled with graffiti-like surfaces with press molded sea creatures, towers, Vespas, and Italian Renaissance paintings floating on the clay-etched surfaces like the bas-relief on historic buildings. These ceramic elements are often deconstructed or recombined with the various parts, to create new combinations that form his satirical iconography.



COPTIC TEXTILES from Egypt at the beginning of the Christian era: These remarkable objects were assembled from private collections by Dr. Robert Bianchi, an Egyptologist who served as an assistant in the Egyptian Dept. of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and as curator in the Dept. of Egyptian, Classical and Ancient Middle-eastern Art at the Brooklyn Museum. Currently Dr. Bianchi is advisor to the Chief curator for the Museum of Ancient Egyptian Art in Tokyo, Japan, as well as, special projects coordinator for the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem.

Coptic textiles are the woven products of the Egyptians, who may or may not have been Christian, and who lived in the beginning of the Christian era. It is very rare for ancient textiles to survive in the archaeological record because fabrics decompose easily. Many Coptic textiles have survived; because of the burial practices of the Copts they were preserved in the dry desert tombs of Egypt.



The Coptic period of Egypt is often overlooked in favor of the more studied periods of the ancient pharaohs. Textiles of this nature were used both in public and church buildings as decorative curtains and hangings and in households as clothing, belts, cloaks, and shawls as well as for burial garments. When mummification was outlawed in the fourth century, the Copt's stopped wrapping the bodies in linen strips and began using regular clothing in which to bury their dead. The development of pattern weaving is one of the important achievements of the Coptic weavers that distinguishes their textiles from those of the ancient Egyptians. Patterned textiles were brought into the mainstream around the time of Alexander the Great's conquest of Egypt in the fourth century, and they became the most valued to the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans because their production was the more labor intensive and indicative of the person's economic status. The large number of Coptic textiles in museums and collections throughout the world make the Coptic period one of the most fully documented areas in textile history.

This exhibition will be on view during the Handweavers Guild of America, International Fiber Arts Conference: CONVERGENCE 2008 TAMPA BAY June 25-28. www.weavespindyed.org

Gallery Exhibition: **VENETIAN VESSELS by Leland Shaw & COPTIC TEXTILES from Ancient Egypt**
Artist Reception: **Saturday evening, June 7, from 7- 9 p.m.**
LECTURE: **Dr. Robert Bianchi will discuss *The History of Textiles in Coptic Egypt*: Sat. June 28, from 4 to 5pm.**
Exhibit Dates: **May 24– July 11, 2008 * suggested donation \$ 2.00**
Where: **Brad Cooper Gallery / 1712 E 7th Ave. YBOR CITY (between 17th & 18th St)**
Gallery Hours: **11am - 5 pm / Wed – Sat & by appointment.**
Further Information: **Call 813-248-6098 for information or visit our website– www.bradcoopergallery.com**

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BRAD COOPER GALLERY / ELLE LESAVETTE • 1712 E 7th Ave. Tampa, FL 33605

813.248.6098

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