



CALENDAR

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form. Because medalmakers were often highly skilled craftsmen, many Renaissance medals represent enduring works of history and artistic accomplishment as well. For information, call 212/288-0700.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS' STERLING AND FRANCINE CLARK ART INSTITUTE



English Silver: Masterpieces by Omar Ramsden from the Campbell Collection. May 14 through July 10. The English Arts and Crafts movement inspired stunning handmade work in many media, but those that came from metal- and silversmithing were some of the most innovative. This show of 51 objects spans the career of London-based Omar Ramsden (1873–1939), who came to fame during the 1890s as an Arts and Crafts silversmith. Ramsden, a versatile artist who skillfully and copiously decorated sterling silver with gems, woods, and enamel, was acclaimed for his elegant blending of eclectic aspects of British decorative history. The 1922 jewel casket *above*, in silver, enamel, leather, and velvet, illustrates Ramsden's distinctive style. Call 413/458-9545 for information.

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA'S MUSEUM OF ART

Josiah Wedgwood: Experimental Potter, through June 12. The Wedgwoods were a family of potters from Burslem, Staffordshire, in west-central England. And though they began production in the mid-1600s, it was Josiah Wedgwood (1730–1795) who revolutionized not only his family's business but that of the entire English pottery industry. He

invented the formula for the now legendary blue-and-white Wedgwood jasperware, and he made a difference in many other ways, too. Schooled in the Enlightenment tradition, Wedgwood operated his factory with real concern for the working conditions of his employees—in sharp contrast to other businessmen of his day. He also supported liberal and progressive causes, including education for women. A technical genius with exceptional taste, Wedgwood hoped that his company's reproductions of ancient vessels and new interpretations of classical objects would afford the middle class the opportunity to live with beautiful things. A fine example of his work in majolica is *below*. This show of 60 Wedgwood objects, spanning 200 years of production, will travel the country for three years. A fully illustrated catalog is available. For information, call Smith Kramer Art Services, 816/756-3777.

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