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George Ohr Rising: The Emergence of an American Master
March 7 – August 1, 2010

Baton Rouge, LA - George Ohr twisted and folded clay into shapes as idiosyncratic as his famous moustache. His brilliantly glazed, sensational ceramics look surprisingly modern despite having been made more than a century ago. On Sunday, March 7, 2010, the LSU Museum of Art will open “*George Ohr Rising: The Emergence of an American Master*”.

This remarkable exhibition, *George Ohr Rising: The Emergence of an American Master*, features works by one of the Gulf Coast’s most eccentric and talented artists. The 40 works included in the exhibition date from Ohr’s most productive period between the fire which destroyed his studio in 1894 and the end of his potting career in 1910.

The self-proclaimed “Mad Potter of Biloxi” George Edgar Ohr (1857 – 1918) was a pioneer whose pottery stands out for its sculptural forms, bold colors and playfulness. Ohr created a body of work from Mississippi clay which defied the aesthetic conventions of late 19th century America. He was largely unappreciated in his own lifetime and his work was “rediscovered” in the late 1960s when an antiques dealer came across a large cache of his work that had been stored in his former studio. His extraordinary cultural legacy is now recognized for its power and integrity and for its important influence on 20th and 21st century art. As Ohr had often predicted, his genius has at long last been recognized by the world.

The Biloxi based Ohr-O’Keefe Museum mounted this exhibition in an effort to provide access to the unparalleled collection of George Ohr ceramics during the museum’s period of recovery after Hurricane Katrina. The LSU Museum of Art will be the last venue for the exhibition before the collection returns to the Gulf Coast for the opening of the museum’s new building.

Photo credit (left to right): George Ohr, *Pitcher*, circa 1895 – 1900, on loan from a Private Collection; George Ohr with a Long Moustache, circa 1900; George Ohr, *Petticoat Vase*, 1898 – 1905, Collection of the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art.