



Art Lecture

Art Within Reach

Ezra Shales '91

Monday, May 4, 2026

4:30pm

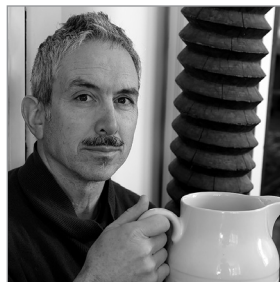
Boger Hall, Room 112

41 Wyllys Avenue

Free and open to the public

This event is sponsored by the Samuel Silipo '85 Distinguished Visitors Fund of the Department of Art and Art History and the American Studies Department.

Spouted wine jar, earthenware, attrib. Tepe Sialk (Iran), c. 900–700 BCE (MMA #39.60.9); IKEA "Vållö" watering can; engraving from Pierre d'Hancarville, *Antiquités étrusques, grecques, et romaines tirées du cabinet du M. William Hamilton* (1766).



Professor in the History of Art department at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, **Ezra Shales** will discuss his newest book, *Pitchers of American Life: Art*

Within Reach, which condenses forty years of learning (and ten years of teaching ceramics history at The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred) along with the existential tailspins of being a devotee of material culture in an era of hyper affluence. In *Pitchers of American Life*, he discusses vessels for drinks in ancient cultures and in modern family relationships. Each chapter interprets a single object as a revealing time capsule. His vision of design/craft/art intersecting provides a deliberately provocative strategy to move beyond inherited limitations and prejudices by exploring tactile pleasures and tacit knowledge, as well as the agency of artifacts.



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