The Vase Project: Made in China—Landscape in Blue is a conceptual work consisting of 101 porcelain vases painted by Qing Hua (blue-and-white) artists in Jingdezhen, China. The exhibition results from the unusual collaboration of the curator, Barbara Diduk, with the artists. Working with Zhao Yu (a ceramic-sculpture student at the time, now an assistant professor at the Hunan Normal University, in Changsha, China), Professor Diduk explored Jingdezhen, China’s “porcelain capital,” looking for vase painters who would participate in this project. Although all the vases depict the subject matter—landscape—traditionally found on vases, Diduk played a special role in the creation of the works. She asked the first artist to paint the vase with a landscape incorporating the ubiquitous kiln stacks of the city. The second painter was given a blank green-ware vase and asked to use the first piece for inspiration. Painted and fired one at a time, subsequent painters referred to the immediately previous artist’s work. The result is a “chain letter” of 101 vases in differentiated painting styles, capturing the interpretive liberties taken by individual vase painters in response to the landscape subject.

The installation examines contemporary industrial-landscape imagery in the context of the traditional, idealized landscape. The pieces taken together constitute a statement about the relationship between traditional and contemporary artifacts, with each piece deserving recognition in its own right. Displayed serially, in the order completed, the full aesthetic value of “Made in China—Landscape in Blue” emerges with the experience of the works viewed as an ensemble. Part visual narrative, part sociological study, and part archival document, it is a tribute to the largely unacknowledged artists and artisans caught working in a time of profound economic transformation.

Barbara Diduk is Charles A. Dana Professor of Art at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Funding support for the exhibition and catalogue were provided by Lafayette College Art Galleries, Dickinson College, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Henry Luce Foundation.
1. example of use of red-and-gold boxes
2. St. Olaf College installation.
3. blank vase
4. Vase number 1
5. “Practice” vase
6. Vase 1 on single shelf, vases 2-6 on shelf
7. Lafayette College installation
8. 4 of the blue-and-white pitchers that became the impetus for the Vase Project.
9 & 10 Installation views at the Gardiner Museum, Toronto.
11 Lafayette College installation view with entrance text panel and vases 1-6.

12 Left & Right above: North Dakota Museum of Art with “kiln stack” created from red vase storage boxes,
The exhibition is shipped in 5 museum crates which can be moved with palette jacks. The crates must NOT be dropped.

4 crates: L 50.5 x W 34.5 x H 32 inches
- Crate 1 = 430 lbs
- Crate 2 = 415 lbs
- Crate 3 = 400 lbs
- Crate 4 = 438 lbs

1 crate: L 34.5 x W 26.5 x H 32.5 inches
- Crate 5 = 231 lbs

CONTENTS
Exhibition requires a minimum of 90-100 running feet of display space.

1. 101 vases. Each vase is approximately H 16 x 4.5 inches diameter and is packed individually in red-and-gold silk-lined boxes with removable front and back for optional framing or display possibilities.
   - Each vase: approximately H 16 x 4.5 inches diameter
   - Each box: 19.5 x 8.5 x 5.5 inches
   - (see illus. 1; and illus. 2 and 12 for examples of use of red boxes)

2. 20-wood, wall mounted shelves, painted white: (see illus. 1, 2, 6, & 7)
   - Each shelf: W 42 x D 8 x H 3 inches; with cleats for easy wall installation each supports 5 vases.

3. 1 wall shelf for vase number 1. (illus. 6, 4)

4. 4-small porcelain pitchers, each: H 4 x 3.5 x 3.5 inches
   - and 4 pocket shelves each: W 6 x D 6 x H 3 inches (see illus. 8)

5. 1 studio “practice” vessel: H 10 x 5 inches diameter for optional display (illus. 5)

6. 1 vase, unpainted, prototype: H 16 x 4.5 inches diameter for optional display (illus. 3)

7. A looped CD including 300 factory images by Barbara Diduk.

8. 50 copies of 60-page, illustrated exhibition catalogue, The Vase Project: Made in China—Landscape in Blue, with introduction and three scholarly essays, recommended sale price $12.95 Additional copies available @ $8.00 each.

“Broken Pots and Broken Dreams,” a 2009 film by Maris Boyd Gillette about what China’s transition to a market economy meant for porcelain industry workers in Jingdezhen, a center of ceramic production for over 500 years.

For more information: Michiko Okaya, artgallery@lafayette.edu, 610 330 5361
http://thevaseproject.com/
Vase Project exhibition schedule

2015
1. Not available fall semester 2015 through February 2016.

2016
1. Available

2017
1. Available

The pick up location at Dickinson is:

The person at Facilities Management at Dickinson, who oversees shipments is Jake Lock. He can be reached at 1-717-245-1224.
General Contact at Receiving is: 1-717-245-1212

5 North Orange Street
Carlisle PA 17013

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