

Organized by The College of Wooster Art Museum (CWAM) in support of the *2012 Wooster Forum: The Middle East*, guest curators for *Middle Eastern Manuscripts, Ceramics, & Textiles* are Sarah Mirza, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, and Kara Morrow, Assistant Professor of Art History. The objects are from the CWAM's Permanent Collections, which are used for teaching, exhibitions, loans, and research.

Twelve of the seventeen ancient Iranian ceramics selected by Kara Morrow for this exhibition are associated with the Bronze Age (c. 3100–1200 BCE), and come from northern and northwestern Iran. Five additional ceramic vessels (located in the last case in the gallery to your right) were also produced in Northern Iran but date to the later Parthian period (c. 250 BCE to CE 224). From elegantly burnished vases to droll animal effigies, viewed together this collection demonstrates the extraordinary flexibility and ingenuity of the artists of ancient Iran according to Morrow. Moreover, this collection offers unique glimpses into the funerary rites and rituals of little studied communities, and—due to clandestine excavations—represents lost opportunities for archaeological discovery and historical understanding.