

Edith Franklin (born Toledo, Ohio 1922)

Toledo native Edith Franklin attended Ohio State University (1940-1942) and moved to Boston in 1942 to study occupational therapy. She began at Simmons College and then studied at the Boston School of Occupational Therapy; she took classes at the Boston Museum of Fine Art School (1943-44), where she discovered she enjoyed working with clay. She studied at The Toledo Museum of Art School of Design over the course of forty years (1945-1986), with classes in jewelry, papermaking and other media.

As a ceramic artist, she had been a student of Harvey Littleton's (1950-1951) when he taught at the Museum; in 1962 she participated in the first glassblowing workshop at the Museum and discovered a new art form. During those workshops, she was deeply affected by the curator tours of the Museum's collections that allowed the participants to handle ancient glass and pottery artifacts.

She attended summer workshops at Bowling Green State University in 1975 and in the 1980's, directed the Pottery Studio Program there. Since the 1960s she has taught ceramics workshops at local schools and at Wooster, Adrian and Findlay Colleges. She received a B.A. degree in pottery in 1986 from the University of Toledo.

In 1987 she was the first artist hired by Toledo benefactor Virginia Secor Stranahan to teach at her Perrysburg estate which later turned to the 577 Foundation. This opportunity gave Franklin broad freedom and introduced her to new audiences. She set up the pottery studio and for ten years taught adult ceramics classes that helped form artists who later became well known.

Recognized for her commissioned commemorative pieces, Franklin's functional ceramic vessels often carry printed

messages. Her artwork has been featured in solo exhibitions at the Toledo Museum of Art (1958), in 1978 at the Columbus (Ohio) Museum of Art and the University of Toledo, and in Midwestern group exhibitions. Notable among her numerous awards are the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Ohio Designer Craftsmen in 1983 and the 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Toledo Federation of Art Societies.