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This month: 32pp  
of exhibitions,  
auctions and fairs



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## **Hungarian Ceramics from the Zsolnay Manufactory 1853-2001 The Bard Graduate Center**

**T**he Zsolnay Manufactory is a study in endurance. Founded by Ignac Zsolnay in Pecs in 1852, it blossomed under Ignac's brother, the celebrated Hungarian potter Vilmos Zsolnay, and still exists today. Through the prism of the objects created by the factory over the years—ceramics for urns and fountains, mirrors and small sculptures, tiles for furniture, and countless decorative and utilitarian objects—it is possible to trace not only an evolution in styles, but also the cultural, economic and political developments of the region. The 200 chronologically arranged objects on view (17 July-13 October) make up the first show to tell the story of the factory: under Vilmos, it became the largest ceramics manufacturing complex in Austria-Hungary, attracting skilled workers from abroad, while also training local potters, and it became a hotbed of experimentation with techniques like the porcelain faience method and the iridescent eosin glaze. It also exported its styles of decoration, influenced by everything from ancient Greece to Asian ceramics, as well as traditional Hungarian folk ceramics. By the early 20th century, the factory, having been passed from Vilmos's son Miklos and adopted Art Nouveau and nascent Art Deco styles, was in top form, producing the vases, wall plates, lamps and jewellery that were hallmarks of the well-appointed interior. (Above, a plate with portrait of Vilmos's daughter, Julia.)

S.D.