**Imbibe**, an exhibition on drinking and culture, comes to the Fleming this winter

**BURLINGTON, VT** - While the word “drinking” describes an act of consumption, a biological necessity for all and a pastime for many, “imbibe” is a word that invites us into the complex social, physical, and aesthetic experience of consumption. Drinks—whether water, alcohol, coffee, or tea—are consumed not only to sustain life, but to reinforce social status, promote camaraderie, ease inhibitions, or simply pass the time.

From carafes and bowls to cups and bottles, *Imbibe* offers visitors a fresh perspective on drinking vessels from many different cultures. Used for drinking or for serving, these museum collection objects were designed to give the liquids inside them shape, color, and even feel and flavor as they keep drinks warm or chilled. A tightly woven beer basket communicates as much about the technologies of carrying, storing and serving liquids as a delicately blown wine glass or a cast metal pitcher. The contours of a pouring spout change the stream of liquid in ways that are both practical and beautiful.

Alongside these drinking vessels, *Imbibe* also showcases historical and cultural materials that illuminate the social experiences of drinking, from treatises on the properties of mineral water, to temperance tracts and objects that embody traditional practices of sharing coffee, tea or kava. Strictures, traditions, expectations and the sensual and social pleasures of imbibing are all on display in this exhibit about how people shape their drinks, from inception to consumption.

An exciting schedule of [programs and events](www.flemingmuseum.org) accompanies the exhibitions featured at the Museum this spring including a festive opening reception hosted by UVM President Thomas Sullivan and Fleming Director Janie Cohen on Wednesday, February 8, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

*The University of Vermont’s Fleming Museum of Art serves as a gateway for active cultural exchange and critical thinking and has presented diverse artistic traditions for over 80 years. The Museum is Vermont’s premier public showplace for exhibitions, education, and scholarship about local and world cultures, both historical and contemporary. For more information regarding the Fleming Museum’s exhibitions, programs, and location call (802) 656-0750 or go to the Fleming Museum website at [www.flemingmuseum.org](http://www.flemingmuseum.org).*

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