

Juliane Shibata

Artist Statement

My botanical installations reflect on relationships between humans and the natural world. Flowers and plants have a defined lifespan – they grow, bloom, fade, and decompose. Ceramics are durable – they can last millennia. I am interested in the contrast between the transience of nature and the relative stability of fired ceramics, in beauty that can be both ephemeral and enduring.

The color, finish, design, and placement of individual ceramic pieces are essential in my ability to evoke quiet and introspective narratives. As I position some sculptural pieces post-firing, I take a more open-ended and intuitive approach when installing the components. The story behind my work is allowed to evolve until I decide on the particular conversation the pieces share with each other.

Process

Juliane's sculptures and installations involve the repetition of individual ceramic components. Some works are quite large and are composed of hundreds of small porcelain elements, while others hang on the wall and are more contained. Although it takes time to create a large number of thrown or handmade items out of clay, she is attracted to the rhythm that is generated when they repeat and begin to energize the space around them.

All porcelain pieces are fired in a reduction atmosphere to 2345 degrees Fahrenheit in a local kiln that she loads and fires with a group of Northfield potters. When appropriate, Shibata completes the firing cycle by applying gold luster to accentuate various aspects of the work.

Artist Bio

Juliane received her MFA in Ceramics from Bowling Green State University in 2006, having previously graduated from Carleton College with a BA in Studio Art. She has been an artist in residence at Ox-Bow, the Appalachian Center for Craft in Tennessee, and The Pottery Workshop in Jingdezhen, China. Juliane received 2018 and 2014 Artist Initiative grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and her work belongs to the permanent collection of Northern Arizona University's Art Museum and the Brown-Forman Collection.

Juliane's sculptural wall installations are represented by Veronique Wantz Gallery in Minneapolis. Her functional pieces can be found at Kopplin's Coffee in St. Paul. Juliane's work has also been included in exhibitions at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, The Perlman Teaching Museum at Carleton College, Raymond Avenue Gallery, Invers Hills Community College, KOBO Gallery in Seattle, and Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, California.