

Leah Kaplan

Artist Statement

Leah Kaplan explores movement, texture and translucency through sculptural vessels. Working exclusively in porcelain, employing only clear glaze or no glaze at all, Leah probes and pushes the material's unique properties by experimenting with different hand-building methods. Each process -- pressing, rolling, draping, layering -- has its own particular rhythm and feel, altering how she experiences and interacts with a piece. Some methods require meticulousness; others are fast and loose. Some techniques demand concentration, like a high wire act; others allow her mind to drift and her hands to take over. In the end, it is this iterative process — driven by intent and intuition — from which Leah's work emerges. Each piece is a material expression of tension and balance amidst competing impulses.

Bio

Leah Kaplan has been working in clay for 30 years, honing her skills in studios and schools in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. In 2018, Leah renovated a studio in Old City Philadelphia from which she launched her full time practice. Her eclectic career path to ceramics included promoting New York City designers, as well as safeguarding indigenous craft traditions. In the latter job, Leah was fortunate to meet gifted artisans, engaged in every conceivable medium, whose work continues to inform her own. Leah's vessels have been shown in internationally juried shows across the United States.

Juried Group Exhibitions

2019

Materials: Hard + Soft International Contemporary Craft Competition, Greater Denton Arts Council, Denton, TX

Small Favors, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Particle & Wave - Paperclay Illuminated, Arizona State University (ASU) Art Museum, Tempe, AZ

Clay International, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA

Craft Forms, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA

2018

Craft Forms, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA

Vitreous, The Clay Center of New Orleans, LA

Small Works, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

The Clay Studio National, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Small Favors, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Clayworks, Blue Door Art Center, Yonkers, NY

2017

Small Favors, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Crafting Contexts, Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, Philadelphia, PA

Publications

Masthead Magazine, <https://www.mastheadmagazine.com/op-ed/leah-kaplan>

Creative Quarterly Journal, issue 52, 2018, page 18.

Through-Objects, <https://through-objects.com/blog/ceramics-by-leah-kaplan/>

Private Collections

Phil and Marge Kalodner

Education

Brown University, Providence, RI, BA

Related Professional Experience

Board Member, The Clay Studio, 2018 to Present

Executive Director, The Crafts Center, Washington, D.C., 2000-2002
Development Director, 1997-2000

Board Member, The Renwick Alliance, Washington, D.C., 1999-2002

Freelance Writer, *Ceramics Monthly*, *Fiberarts*, *Natural Home*, *Hand/Eye*

Affiliations

Associate Artist, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA, 2015-Present

International Ceramic Artist Network (ICAN); National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) and Center for Visual and Emerging Artists (CFEVA)