

HOSTLER BURROWS

KRISTINA RISKKA

b. 1960, Finland

Kristina Riska is one of Scandinavia's foremost contemporary ceramic artists and a senior member of the Arabia Art Department Society in Helsinki. Riska has been exploring, defying, and redefining the traditional tenets of ceramic sculpture since the 1980s. Her unorthodox, large-scale works, inspired by nature and the properties of light and shadow, embody her rigorous and physical approach.

Riska begins the conceptualization of her works on paper; her designs ultimately coming to fruition spontaneously as she works. Her process is a foray into the unknown; with each unplanned, instinctive manipulation of the clay, she establishes a non-physical, internal space. She describes this space as a repository for qualities of quietude, serenity, and concentration. Her unique ceramic sculptures are astounding in their technical prowess; their impressive scale is matched with equal delicacy. The artist creates forms that seemingly defy gravity and the constraints of the ceramic process. Her craftsmanship is evident as well in the beauty of her glazes, given the limitations of firing such monumental objects in the kiln.

Riska's 1986 exhibition at the Gallery Bronda included a series of vessels so large that even their installation proved difficult, impressing the State Art Collection, which purchased two works from the show; this began a career in which she has been well-recognized in her home country and abroad and has exhibited in many contexts and venues, including in 1991 in a joint exhibition with the architect Kimmo Friman. Riska's curvaceous, imbricated, porous forms have been recognized with prestigious accolades including the State's Suomi Prize in 1995 and a silver medal at the International Ceramic Contest in Mino, Japan in 2002.

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EDUCATION

- 1986–1987 Guest artist at Arabia Factory, Helsinki, Finland
- 1985 Trainee at Studio Bente Hansen, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1985 Assistant for Minni Lukander at Arabia, Helsinki, Finland
- 1984 Trainee at Arabia Factory, Helsinki, Finland
- 1979–1984 Helsinki University of Art and Design, Helsinki, Finland

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Hidden*, HB381, New York, NY
- 2021 *Kristina Riska: Canopic*, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
- 2020 *Fysis*, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
- 2019 Collect Fair, Hostler Burrows, London, UK
- 2018 *Kristina Riska: New Works*, Galleri Format, Oslo, Norway
Kristina Riska, Hostler Burrows, New York, NY
- 2015 *Kristina Riska: New Work*, Hostler Burrows, New York, NY
- 2010 Gallery Inger Molin, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2007 Gallery Inger Molin, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2006 *Kristina Riska*, Helsinki Design Museum, Finland
- 1996 *Kristina Riska*, Arabia Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 1987 *Kristina Riska: Fragile Time*, Arabia Gallery, Helsinki, Finland

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Narrative Threads*, Scandinavia House, New York, NY
Northern Latitude 60.20890: Arabia Art Department Society's 20th Anniversary Exhibition, Iittala & Arabia Design Centre, Helsinki, Finland
Atelier Life, Hvitträsk National Museum of Finland, Kirkkonummi, Finland
- 2022 *Collection Kakkonen*, Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo, Finland
- 2019 *The Secret of the Paradise*, Arabia Design Centre, Helsinki
Opening Exhibition, Ceramic Museum Kwum, Fiskars Village, Finland
- 2018 *Verynice, Bloodygood*, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
- 2017 Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden

- 2016 *Summer Exhibition*, Fiskars Village, Finland
- 2015 Finnish Embassy, Washington, DC
- 2014 *Six Women*, Hostler Burrows, New York, NY
- 2010 Westerwald Ceramic Museum, Germany
Fire and Ice: Ceramic Art from Finland, Gallery Marianne Heller, Heidelberg, Germany
- 2009 *Collection Exhibition*, Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo, Finland
Ceramic Museum Grimmerhus, Denmark
- 2008 Gallery Kaj Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland
Musée Des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France
- 2007 Forum Box, Helsinki, Finland
4+ Arthall, Luxembourg
4+ Arthall, Brussels, Belgium
- 2006 *Transformations*, Canberra, Australia
- 2005 Shigaraaki Ceramic Park, Koka, Japan
- 2004 European Ceramics, Fiskars Village, Finland
Q-exhibition, Fiskars Village, Finland
Kristina Riska, Kati Tuominen-Niittylä, Erna Aaltonen, Gallery Philippe Denys, Brussels, Belgium
- 2003 *Nordic Cool*, The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC
Q-exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2002 *Poetics of Clay*, Design Museum, Helsinki, Finland
The International Ceramics Exhibition, Mino, Japan
- 2001 *Poetics of Clay*, Philadelphia, PA
Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Cheongju, South Korea
Kristina Riska and Dörte Behm, Rheine, Germany
- 2000 *Kristina Riska and Tiina Heiska*, Gallery Johan S., Helsinki, Finland
Retretti Art Center, Punkaharju, Finland
Blue, Scandinavian Exhibition, Grimmerhus Ceramic Museum, Denmark
Nordic Ceramic Triennale, Berlin, Germany
- 1997 *Five Women*, Design Forum, Helsinki, Finland
- 1995 Rauma Art Museum, Rauma, Finland
- 1993 *Ceramic Art*, Lappeenranta Art Museum, Finland
- 1992 *Art and Industry*, Design Museum, Finland
- 1991 *Ceramic Art*, Lappeenranta Art Museum, Finland
Kristina Riska and Kimmo Friman, Gallery Kluuvi, Helsinki, Finland
- 1990 Helsinki Design Museum, Helsinki, Finland
- 1989 *Thirteen Rooms*, Gallery Wanha Satama, Helsinki, Finland
- 1988 *The Touch*, Art Hall, Helsinki, Finland
- 1987 *Metaxis*, Design Museum, Helsinki
Light and Material, Helsinki Art Museum, Finland

1986 *Finnish Materials*, Gallery Bronda, Helsinki, Finland

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2010 Visiting professor at the School of Architecture, IL

1987–1997 Professor at University of Applied Arts, Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland

1987–1995 Part-Time Teacher at Helsinki Cultural Centre, Helsinki, Finland

1993 Visiting teacher at Konstfack, Stockholm, Sweden

PROJECTS AND RESIDENCIES

2018 Artist in Residence, Khio, Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Oslo, Norway

2016 Jury Member, Officine Saffi Award, Milan, Italy

2011 Jury Member, Competition for International Ceramic Festival, Mino, Japan

2010 Floorplan in Stone, Kuopio Prison, Kuopio, Finland

2005 Gekko, with Tuominen-Niittylä and Paikkari, Kamppi Metro Station, Helsinki, Finland
KoKo Set of Dishes, with Kati Tuominen-Niittylä, Arabia Factory, Helsinki, Finland

2004 Public Commission: Northern Latitude, Olympic-Park of Ceramic and Sculpture,
Athens, Greece

AWARDS

2008 Honorary Award, International Competition for Ceramics, Mino, Japan

2007 Finish Cultural Foundation

2002 Silver Medal, International Competition for Ceramics, Mino, Japan

1998 Honorary Award, Finnish Design 10 Exhibition

1995 Gold Medal, Faenza, Italy

GRANTS

2021 Artist Pension, Finnish Government

2018 Traveling Grant, Finnish Government

2016 Working Grant, 5 years, Finnish Government

2006 Working Grant, 5 years, Finnish Government

2003 Working Grant, 3 years, Finland's Cultural Fund

1997 Working Grant, 5 years, Finnish Government

1994 Working Grant, 1 year, Finnish Government

1992 Finland's Cultural Fund

1991 Working Grant, 6 months, Finnish Government

1989 Finland's Cultural Fund

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Finland's State Collection

Sweden's State Collection
City of Helsinki, Finland
Aalto University, Finland
Foundation Saastamoinen, Finland
Foundation Wihuri, Finland
Kakkonen Collection, Finland
Design Museum, Finland
Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan
Ulster Museum, Belfast, Ireland
Private Collections

MEMBERSHIPS

The Association of Finnish Sculptors
Ornamo/Finnish Designers
AIC-IAC International Academy of Ceramics
Arabia Art Department Society