

BIOGRAPHY

February 2, 2021

EXHIBITIONS, GALLERIES, MUSEUM DISPLAYS,
PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, RESIDENCIES.



Swanica Ligtenberg

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/swanica/>

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=SWANICA

Introduction:

Swanica Ligtenberg became immersed full time in the ceramic art world in 1981 at the “L’Ecole des Arts Decoratifs” in Geneva, Switzerland, where she was educated in the art of drawing, throwing, forming, decorating and glazing ceramics.

In all her travels she always had a ceramic workshop at her home: in Switzerland from 1983-1984, in New Jersey USA from 1985-1989, in California USA from 1990-2014 and for seven years in Kamakura, Japan with a gallery from 2006-2013. In 2016 she returned to live in the Netherlands and has her new ceramic workshop and Swan Ceramics Art gallery.

Swanica finds a connection with Mother Nature, meaning of life and wants to contribute to the restoration, balance and harmony of our earth through the creation of ceramic art.

She expresses herself mainly in round thrown clay forms. They center her and represent the cycle of life, especially the persistence of life, family and creativity. She loves to work with colors and is attracted by the warmth of red earthenware clay. She has previously produced an important body of work that features yellow and brown tones produced by the use of ferric chloride color on her signature Horsehair Raku works.

She has also developed a body of 2D wall-art that incorporates slabs. Cutting and/or folding transforms pieces. Her love for geometric shapes and lines is apparent in her forms and decorations. Her slabs combined with other natural materials create a harmonious work of art. Through design, assembly and interplay between form, line and surface she enhances the form, lifts them up and ensures a balance in her ceramic pieces.

Birth and Education:

1955 Born in Rheden, Netherlands.

1981 – 1983 Ceramic education “Ecole des Arts Decoratifs”, Geneva, Switzerland.

1986 Brookdale College, Drawing courses, New Jersey, USA.

1995 Foothill College, Sumi Brush Painting courses, California, USA.

1996 - 2008 Numerous workshops: Paul Soldner, Robin Hopper, Simon Leach, Kusakabe-san, Steve Tootell, Ken Matsuzaki-san, Hamada Tomoo-san, Lee Love, Euan Craig, Fujiwara-san, Jeff Oestrich, Andy Ruble.

Europe:

2020 Oct Exposition “Clay in Motion” in city Den Bosch; competition from “KLEI” magazine; 1 of the winners with “In-Motion” Horsehair Raku Bowl, Netherlands.

2020 Sept “Ode to Nature” NVK (Dutch organization of Ceramicists) in the National Tree Museum “Arboretum” in Doorn, with outdoor exposition “Spread your Wings”, Netherlands.

2019 Nederlandse Vakgroep Keramisten NVK (Dutch organization of Ceramicists) 45th Anniversary in VASIM halls in Nijmegen, Netherlands.

2019 June “Water” Exposition at National Park Plitvice Lakes, Croatia.

2018 “Ode to Nature” NVK (Dutch organization of Ceramicists) in the National Tree Museum “Arboretum” in Doorn, with outdoor exposition “Gingko’s”, Netherlands.

2017 World Contemporary Ceramic Craft & Art Biennale; Bottles and Vases, Sept., Belgium.

2017 International Ceramic Tea Ware Expo, June and Nov., Belgium and the Netherlands.

2017 March, Astronomical and Meteorological Spring in De Grand de Paul Gallery in Den Bosch, Netherlands.

2017 ‘t Jagershuis Exposition in Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, 18 + 19 Maart, Netherlands.

2010 Exhibition with goldsmith family in Museum "Het Valkhof" in Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Juried Group Exhibitions:

2020 March, Horsehair Raku Mishima Teapot Set accepted in “Short & Stout” teapot exhibition at the NCECA (The National Council on Education of the Ceramic Arts) conference, USA.

2019 Oct 1st Taiwan International Chawan Festival with 4 chawans, Taiwan.

2013 Palo Alto Clay and Glass Festival, in Palo Alto, CA, July, USA.

2013 Three Kamakura-Red Artworks in the Second Jakarta Contemporary Ceramic Biennale in the Museum Seni Rupa dan Keramik in Jakarta, Indonesia.

2010 Shanghai International Modern Teapot Biennale Exhibition, China.

2009 The Kamakura-Red Peony Vase at the Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair, Nov., China.

2009 Koyasan Exhibition, Happymaker Group, Koyasan, Japan.

2009 International Contemporary Teapot Exhibition, Scottsdale, Arizona USA.
2009 San Diego Art Institute: 50th International Juried Awards Exhibition USA.
2008 California Clay 08 Exhibition from ACGA, Fresno, CA, USA.
2006 + 2007 Groups Show in Mitsukoshi Store in Tokyo, Japan.
2004 Olive Hyde Gallery, Fremont, CA, USA.
2004 The Artery in Davis, CA, USA.
2004 + 2005 Star artist in San Jose Art Museum, CA USA.
2004 Los Gatos Art Museum, Los Gatos, CA, USA.
2003 Hakone Gardens, Saratoga, CA, USA.
1987 Monmouth festival of the Arts, New Jersey, USA.
1983 Chateau d'Echandens Expositie, Switzerland.

Solo Exhibitions:

2020 Exposition in "Amstelland Museum" with "Spread your Wings" and "Repair your soul Kintsugi"
Horsehair Raku work, Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, Netherlands.
2020 Exposition in "Gallery Time for Art", Horsehair and Kamakura-Red Art in Oegstgeest, Netherlands.
2017 -2019 National Open Studios of SwanCeramics Art Gallery, Netherlands.
2014 Open Studio in May in Los Altos CA, USA.
2013 Yu Gallery, SwanCeramics Art Exhibition, Kamakura, Japan.
2012 Ginsuzu Gallery, "Kamakura-Red Sakura" Exhibition, Kamakura, Japan.
2010 *Feature Exhibition*: "Wings: Love is a bird, she needs to fly" Horsehair and Kamakura-Red
Exhibition in Toko Gallery in Mashiko, Japan.
2009 Ginsuzu Gallery, "Horsehair + Kamakura Red", Kamakura, Japan.
2007 Toko Gallery, "Horsehair" Show, Mashiko, Japan.
2004 Gallery House, Feature Show: "Build Connections", Palo Alto, CA, USA.
2002 Gallery House, Feature Show: "As White as Snow", Palo Alto, CA, USA.
2000 Gallery House, Feature Show: "Cosmic Space", Palo Alto, CA, USA.
1999 La Galerie Internationale, "Blue and White" exhibit, Palo Alto, CA, USA.
1998 Gallery House, Feature Show: "Open Heart", Palo Alto, CA, USA.

Juried Galleries:

2008- Alexander Salazar Art Gallery, San Diego, USA.
2008-2013 Yufuku Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.
2010-2013 First Light Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.
2007- 2012 Toko Gallery, Mashiko, Japan.
2006- 2010 Pez Gordo Gallery, Los Cabos San Jose, Mexico.
2006- 2012 Coupa Cosas Gallery, Palo Alto, CA, USA.
2004-2006 SOBI Gallery, Burlingame, CA, USA.

1999-2001 Elemental Art Store, Los Gatos, CA, USA.
1997-2009 Gallery House Co-op, Palo Alto, CA, USA.
1997-1999 P.R.Coonley Art Store, Palo Alto, CA, USA.

Japan:

2014 Museum of the Ceramics Park **Mino**, Tajimi City, HONORABLE MENTION for the “Duo Ferric Box Horsehair Set” at the 10th Mino International Ceramics Competition, Japan.
2013 Yu Gallery, SwanCeramics Art Exhibition, Kamakura Japan.
2012 Ginsuzu Gallery, “Kamakura-Red Sakura” Exhibition, Kamakura, Japan.
2010 *Feature Exhibition*: “Wings: Love is a bird, she needs to fly” Horsehair and Kamakura-Red Exhibition at the Toko Gallery in Mashiko, Japan.
2010 – 2013 Opening of “Swan Art Gallery” in Kamakura, Japan.
2009 Ginsuzu Gallery, “Horsehair + Kamakura Red” exhibition, Kamakura, Japan.
2009 Koyasan Exhibition in a temple with the Happymaker Group in Koyasan, Japan.
2008 Ceramic Art Museum in **Mashiko**, JUDGES' COMMENDATION AWARD for the “Circles-of-Life Horsehair” Plate at the International Ceramic Arts Competition of Mashiko 2008.
2008 Museum of the Ceramics Park **Mino**, Tajimi City, HONORABLE MENTION for the “Cosmos” Horsehair Plate at the 8th Mino International Ceramics Competition, Japan.
2008 Serving Ware+Food Exhibition with a Horsehair Plate at the Yufuku Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.
2007 “Box” Show in Gallery In The Blue, Utsunomiya, Japan.
2007 *Feature Exhibition*: “Horsehair” Show in Toko Gallery in Mashiko, Japan.
2006 + 2007 Groups Show in Mitsukoshi Store in Tokyo, Japan.
2006 Ceramic Art Museum in **Mashiko**, *SPECIAL-JUDGES AWARD* for the “Four Season” Horsehair Vase at the International Ceramic Arts Competition of Mashiko 2006, Japan.

Museums:

2013 Jakarta: “Kamakura-Red Sakura” Plate in General exhibition in the Museum Seni Rupa dan Keramik, Visual Art and Ceramic Museum, Indonesia.
2010 Yixing Ceramic Art Museum: Kamakura-Red “Bamboo Teapot” in International Hall of teapots, China.
2010 Shanghai Pot Museum: Kamakura-Red “Bamboo Teapot”, China.
2009 Jingdezhen Ceramic Art Museum: Kamakura-Red “Peony Vase”, China.

Publications:

2020 Poem written by Peter Schotman about my Horsehair Raku “Spread your Wings” from the National Tree Museum “Arboretum”, Netherlands
2020 Acceptance of my “In-Motion” Plate in the “Klei Gallery” in the Dutch KLEI magazine, Nederland.
2018 Written article in Dutch magazine “Kleine K” about the Horsehair Raku decoration, Netherlands.

2017 Artist in member guide of "Dutch Group Ceramic Artists": Nederlandse Vakgroep Keramisten, Netherlands.

2012 Artist in book of the **Association of Clay and Glass of California**: a compilation of members, USA.

2012 Artist in the book written by **Guangzhen Zhou**: The Appreciation and Collection of Modern and Contemporary Ceramic Art (Chinese version), China.

2011 Autobiographic booklet: Ceramic adventures in Japan II: "Kamakura-Red", Japan.

2011 My 2006 Mashiko Special Judges Award "Four Seasons" Horsehair Vase is published in this **500 Raku** book by Lark Crafts, USA.

2011 My 2006 Mashiko Special Judges Award "Four Seasons" **Horsehair in WIKEPEDIA** about the explanation of horsehair, computer.

2010 **Japan Times**: [An artist's love affair with ceramics](#), Japan.

2010 On **Japanese Television**: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceGiwcZzeLQ>, Japan.

2010 Autobiographic booklet: Ceramic adventures in Japan I: "Horsehair", Japan.

2009 In the Nagomi **Japanese Magazine** with my Horsehair Vessel as a "Mizusashi" for the tea ceremony, Japan.

Conference Presentations:

2010 Lecture at Kamakura YMCA, Japan, May 21.

2008 NOLA Fired-Up Conference in New Orleans with firing a sculptural paper-clay kiln, USA.

Residencies:

2020 "Rise" Ceramic Residency in Saint-Raphael organized and mentored by Wendy Gers, France.