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Aileen Castañeda was born in New York, June 24, 1962 and has lived in Puerto Rico since 1970. In 1983 she graduated from Drew University in New Jersey, USA with a Bachelors degree in art. The following year she continued art studies at the Studio Art Centers International in Florence, Italy. Once back on the island, Aileen picked-up ceramics in Casa Candina, a ceramic school and exhibition space in San Juan, PR.

In 1992, Castañeda became a member of the board of directors of Casa Candina, where she had the opportunity to take part of the organization of multiple local and international exhibitions, including the *Premio Casa Candina: Biennial of Puerto Rican Contemporary Ceramics* exhibition. (1992-2004) and *Intercambio 3 and Intercambio 3+2, Mexico Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Cuba and Dominican Republic* (1995-2001), *Congelado por el fuego, Casa Candina y la cerámica contemporánea* at the Museo de Arte de Ponce at Plaza Las Américas, San Juan in 2008, among other exhibitions. Furthermore, in 2008-09, as part of Casa Candina she worked on a public art project : *Colección de Cerámica Contemporánea Puertorriqueña* at the Parque Nacional de la Laguna del Condado Jaime Benítez, which consists of thirty-three small murals (11" x 24") of different ceramic artist of Puerto Rico placed on a long wall as a open air permanent art gallery.

Since 1988 Aileen has been teaching ceramics in different levels and places, yet in the past 9 years mainly at I her studio.

As a ceramic artist, Castañeda has worked out of her studio for over 30 years. She has had several solo exhibitions in PR, as well as, in Italy, USA and México. Additionally, she has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Puerto Rico and abroad. Castañeda has participated in artist residencies at Fabbrica Ceramiche Giuseppe Mazzotti, Albisola, Italy, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA, and the Gruber Jez Foundation in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. Her work is in museum collections such as: Museo della Ceramica, Assemini, Sardinia, Italy, Museo de la Ceramica, Zagreb, Croatia, Istituto Statale D'Arte, Teramo, Castelli, Italy, Colección Casa Candina de Cerámica Contemporánea at the Museo de Arte de Ponce, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, Banco Popular of Puerto Rico, Museo y Centro de Estudios Humanísticos, Dra. Josefina Camacho de la Nuez of the Universidad of Turabo, Gurabo, Puerto Rico, among others.