

Maria Soledad Christie
Ceramic Artist
San Pedro de Atacama
Chile

I was born in 1962 in Viña del Mar, Chile.

I have lived in San Pedro de Atacama for almost 30 years. Surrounded by a vast and amazing landscape I connect with the strength of an ancient local language; pre-Columbian pottery. Specially monochrome, black and red burnished ritual vessels.

My work is deeply rooted in the ancestral local pre-columbian pottery tradition and its ancient shaping, burnishing and firing processes. It is in the slowness of the process of building each piece where I found a sort of rhythm between volume and form, stillness and movement, balance and tension.

I make one-of-a-kind handbuilt sculptural vessels using the traditional techniques of pinching, coiling and paddling. Each piece is burnished with a small river stone several times during the drying process, in order to achieve a particular tactile surface.

I make two firings, depending on the color I am looking for, a previous low temperature gas kiln firing and then a traditional open sky firing, using lama and goat dung as fuel.

Through an on-going relation with clay, my work is meant to express intuitions and sensations that are constantly present when inhabiting this vast Atacama Desert and Altiplano territory and its outstanding atmosphere. The territory has become part of my own identity; silence, solitude and vastness have shaped me and my work immensely.

Personal information

Date of birth: November 23, 1962.

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Education

1980 -1984 Graphic Design at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile.

1994 - 2000 Traditional pottery techniques, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.

Awards

Craft Seal of Excellence 2013.
Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Chile.

Unesco Recognition of Excellence for Mercosur Handicrafts 2014.

Craft Seal of Excellence 2015.
Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Chile.

Craft Seal of Excellence 2020.
Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Chile.

Exhibitions

2013. Sello de Excelencia a la Artesanía
MAPA, Museo de Arte Popular, GAM, Santiago, Chile.

2015. Sello de Excelencia a la Artesanía.
MAPA, Museo de Arte Popular, GAM, Santiago, Chile.

2016. Huellas, Memoria y Arcilla en el Desierto de Atacama.
Plaza, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile. Solo Exhibition.

2018. Gestos de una Ausencia.
Fundación Minera Escondida, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile. Solo Exhibition.

2018. Negro & Blanco Esteka.
Centro Cultural Casas de Lo Matta, Santiago, Chile.

2018. Sello de Excelencia, 10 Años de creación.
MAPA, Museo de Arte Popular, GAM, Santiago, Chile.

2019. Huellas, Gestos Caligráficos.
Pura Cerámica 2019, Santiago, Chile.

2020. Mujeres Creadoras.
MAPA, Museo de Arte Popular American, Tomás Lago. GAM, Santiago, Chile.

2020. Chilean Craft, Human Natures.
London Craft Week 2020, London.

2020, Mujeres, Ecos del pasado, voces del presente.
Museo Precolombino, Santiago, Chile.

2021, London Art Fair 2021, London.
Presented by Cavaliero Finn London Gallery.

2021, Revelations Paris 2021, International Biennial of Craft and Creation. Postponed to 2022.

Public Collections

MAPA, Museo de Arte Popular Americano, Santiago, Chile.