

Sapana Gandharb

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Biography

Sapana Gandharb was born on June 29, 1977 near Kathmandu, in the Kingdom of Nepal. Even as a girl, she came into contact and became acquainted with ceramics in Nepalese pottery workshops. She came to Slovenia in 2000 and learned the Slovenian language at language courses. Then she graduated from technical high school. In 2007 she was awarded by the Andragogic Center of the Republic of Slovenia as the best student. She acquired Slovenian citizenship in 2012.

From the very beginning, since her arrival to Slovenia, she was employed in the ceramic workshop of her stepfather Igor Krmpotič, where she learned the basics of production of ceramic products – by manual clay shaping or by pouring liquid clay into plaster molds.

She gained additional knowledge about ceramics and pottery by attending a pottery course held by Ines Kovačič in Ljubljana, then at the V-ogljje Institute, as well as participating in an international symposium and ceramic workshop led by Heide Nonnemacher (Germany), organized by the Croatian Ceramic Association Kerameikon in Varaždin.

Sapana is a member of the Association of Ceramists and Potters of Slovenia, Kerameikon – the Croatian Ceramic Association and ULUPUH – the Croatian Association of Artists of Applied Arts.

In 2005 she was positively evaluated by the expert commission of DUO and OZS (Trade and Business Chamber) of Slovenia, and since 2007 she has been working as a freelance artist. In 2015 she got recognition from the Regional Chamber of Crafts and Entrepreneurs – OOOZ PIRAN.

Sapana shapes her ceramic works by hand, or on a potter's wheel. Her most significant works, with which she is often presented at exhibitions, are mythical birds (Birds of salvation and Birds of the dead). They are symbols that live in the tradition of her country of origin, Nepal. They are especially important as part of the traditional "heavenly funeral" ceremony, symbolizing human transience, but also indicating the possibility of reincarnation and rebirth.

Sapana exhibits her works at national and international exhibitions, where she, till now, received a number of awards and recognitions: 2014 Piran (Slovenia) – Honorable mention from the jury and the

First award of the audience at Extempore Piran; 2014. Zagreb (Croatia), Silver plaque at Ex tempore Zagreb, CLAY FEST; 2020 Krško (Slovenia), Second prize at Ex-terra Krško; 2022 Krško (Slovenia), Grand Prix at Ex-terra Krško.

In 2018 she participated as a representative of the V-ogljje Institute from Slovenia at the 48th Congress and General Assembly of the International Academy of Ceramics (AIC-IAC) in New Taipei, Taiwan.

In 2019 the expert commission of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia granted Sapaná the status of an independent cultural employee.

In addition to her artistic and exhibition activities, she is also involved in ceramics education, running clay modeling workshops for adults in Koper – at the National University Koper, in the Youth Friends Society and in the Cultural and Educational Association PiNA