

Biography

I was born in Santiago de Chile in 1966, where I had my first approach to ceramics. I grew up with the clay and the sculptural modeling work of my grandmother and mother, this materiality was part of my daily environment, education and games.

Instead of going to the University, I decided to be a ceramist and study the trade in a self-taught way. Guided by my mother, I inherited her "recipe book" and bibliographies. I started by knowing and empirically understanding the raw materials and their properties, focusing at the same time on mastering hand modeling techniques, in order to improve my results and generate marketable products to invest and consolidate my own workshop. In my constant learning process, I have practiced the different cooking techniques: wood oven, electric oven, gas oven and primitive in hole, experiencing different conductions of atmospheres and temperatures. Concluding with the great mile stone of building my own high temperature gas oven. The last verdict is always given by the fire, so I do the cooking meticulously and personally.

Since 2000, I've settled in San Pedro de Atacama and set up my workshop, the first of its kind in town. The pre-Columbian Andean desert, its rock art, textiles and ceramics is consolidated as the main influence in my work. I am interested in interpreting the universe of ancient Amerindia and the importance of ceramics in the story of these cultures, their construction techniques and forms. My practice of the trade is linked to artistic crafts, of limited production and for family support.

Through ceramics I have understood what we were as a continent, our own identity, where the natural and the supernatural are part of the same universe, a worldview where humans participate in harmony with their environment and other beings. I deeply observe and admire pre-Columbian ceramics, but the superficial imitation of their forms would be meaningless if a new life did not spring from them. I make post-Columbian pottery in a place where the vestiges of their footprints are still present. In this way, this old identity became the axis of my inspiration.

I define my work in three lines that I develop constantly and together, in all of them I make a link between the pre-Columbian world and the Flora and Fauna of America. It is a design process in which I start with the creation of sculptural ceramic pieces, where the initial idea or inspiration becomes a non-naturalistic figurative interpretation. From these figures, I develop my differential line, which from the artistic sculpture moves towards a craft object with identity, closer to the aesthetic, utilitarian and commercial, but maintaining a strong artistic component and the conceptual story. Finally, a line of basic ceramics, which are utilitarian and decorative pieces that follow a reproducible design, with a strong artisan component. These are my classic creations, icons of local crafts. These three lines follow a constant process of quality improvement (weight, resistance, color, decoration) with a refinement of techniques and processes. My projection is to link the ceramic work with a representative authorial component with the development of national crafts.

I've developed my own teaching methodology with which several potters have been trained in my workshop. Based on my self-taught learning and my personal understanding of the trade and the skills it requires, without disconnecting from traditional construction techniques. The main objective of my courses is to teach how to conceive pots, through different techniques of hand modeling and green decoration, including knowledge about materials and cooking. The base line of my methodology is to facilitate the knowledge of the trade and its techniques to be used as a tool for the expression of the people who learn it.

Curriculum Vitae

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- 1966 Born in Santiago de Chile
- 2000 Moves to San Pedro de Atacama and opens personal workshop

Galleries and shops

- 2003-2006. "La Mano Arte" collective shop, sale and exhibition.
- 2009-2011. "La Mano Arte y Cultura", in partnership with Joyas Cristina Sagredo, sale and exhibition.
- 2017. "Imagen Desierto", in partnership with Carmen Gloria Lopez, sale and exhibition.

Exhibitions

- 2003. Collective exhibition "Segunda Muestra de Arte" at Instituto de Investigaciones Arqueológicas y Museo "R.P. Gustavo Le Paige", San Pedro de Atacama.
- 2004. Collective exhibition "Tercera Muestra de Arte" at Instituto de Investigaciones Arqueológicas y Museo "R.P. Gustavo Le Paige", San Pedro de Atacama.
- 2005-To the present. Restaurant Adobe Murals, San Pedro de Atacama.
- 2015. "Creación y Muestra Itinerante de Cerámica Contemporánea en la Provincia del Loa". Traveling exhibition in El Loa province, on FONDART Regional de fomento a la artesanía.

Fairs

- 2010. International Traditional Crafts Fair "Arte Orginario", Santa Cruz, Chile.
- 2011. International Traditional Crafts Fair "Arte Orginario", Santiago de Chile.
- 2012. International Traditional Crafts Fair "Arte Orginario", Santiago de Chile.
- 2013. Pura Cerámica Fair, Santiago de Chile
- 2014. Pura Cerámica Fair, Santiago de Chile
- 2019. Pura Cerámica Fair, Santiago de Chile.

Teaching, experience and presentations

- 1997-1998. Pottery classes at Colegio Ruben Dario La Florida, Santiago de Chile.
- 2001- present. Pottery and ceramics classes and workshops in personal workshop.
- 2004-2006. Pottery clases at Colegio Particular Saire Cabur San Pedro de Atacama.
- 2005. Presentation at Departamento de Arte de la Universidad Católica de Chile.
- 2005. Presentation at Corporación Cultural de las Condes
- 2005. Presentation at Taller Huara Huara.
- 2009. Pottery clases at Escuela municipal E-26, San Pedro de Atacama.
- 2017. Participation in "Mesa de Artesanía Nacional", in El Loa Province.
- **Education**
- 2012. Laura Novic's Workshop by ONA Foundation and Fundación Minera Escondida: "Arquitectura de un Producto Artesanal"

Awards and Recognitions

- 2013. Awarded as "Artesana de la Comuna" (Artisan of the District) by the Ilustre Municipalidad de San Pedro de Atacama.
- 2019. Awarded with "Sello de Excelencia a la Artesania Chile 2019" from Ministerio de las Culturas, las Artes y el Patrimonio with Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and UNESCO, for the sculptoric series "Protectores del Desierto".

Press and media

- 2002. El Mercurio's VD Magazine, "Arte Genuino".
- 2003. La tercera Magazine, "En Provincia 8 mujeres destacadas".
- 2004. La Segunda Newspaper, "Al alcance de la mano".
- 2004. Ya Magazine, "Creamos piezas únicas".
- 2007. Interview for O Globo Cable, Brasil.
- 2007. Interview for A channel, Francia
- 2008. El Mercurio's VD Magazine, "La mano de un oficio ancestral".
- 2008. Tell Magazine, "Mi trabajo es algo sagrado".
- 2008. Esteka magazine, "Cerámica postcolombina en San Pedro de Atacama".

- 2010. Placeres magazine, "un placer culpable"
- 2011. ED magazine, "Lo mejor de lo nuestro".
- 2012. Ceramics pieces on set and movie "Romance Policial". Chilean-brazilian coproduction.
- 2013. Interview "Frutos del Pais" for TVN.
- 2013. Casas Magazine, "Pura Cerámica".
- 2019. Sztukio i Ceramika Magazine, "Ceramika na pustyni Atacama".