



Steven Branfman, Clay Artist • The Potters Shop • 31 Thorpe Road • Needham, MA • 02494
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BIO

Steven Branfman (DOB 03/05/1953, L.A. California) grew up in N.Y.C. Though a topflight athlete with aspirations to make a career in sports, it was an upbringing rich in culture and heritage, and a dynamic high school sculpture teacher that led him to an art career. Branfman studied studio art and art history at Cortland State University, NY with Gerald Diguisto (sculpture) George Dugan (drawing) and John Jessiman (pottery). He received his graduate degree at Rhode Island School Of Design working under Norm Schulman and Jun Kaneko. Branfman has been a studio potter since 1975. In 1977 he founded The Potters Shop & School which has become an internationally known studio, school, and artists workspace. He is the author of *Mastering Raku: Making Ware-Glazes-Building Kilns-Firing*, *Raku: A Practical Approach first and second editions*, and *The Potters Professional Handbook*. Steven's devotion to, and love of teaching, has involved him in numerous venues that serve the ceramics community. It has brought him all over the USA, Canada, Virgin Islands, and Europe as a popular workshop presenter. He is a Founding Board Member of the National K12 Ceramics Exhibition Foundation, Founding Board Member, and Past Chair of the Potters Council Of The American Ceramic Society, Past Vice President and Board Of Trustees of the Studio Potter Organization, Founding Member and First President of the Rhode Island School Of Design Boston Area Alumni Chapter, and Past Member of the Rhode Island School Of Design Alumni Executive Council. He is an eight-time NCECA Conference Presenter. Steven has taught at the college level and is now in his 45th year teaching pottery at Thayer Academy in Braintree MA. Steven, his wife Ellen, and their dog Bruno live in Newton Massachusetts.

EDUCATION

Rhode Island School Of Design, M.A.T. 1975, Ceramics/Education. Teaching Assistant, Graduate Honors
Cortland State University B.A. 1974, Triple major: Ceramics, Sculpture, Art History

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Plinth Gallery, Denver CO
L'Attitude Gallery, Boston MA
Creiger Group Art Consultants, Boston MA
Artani Gallery, Stuttgart Germany

EXHIBITIONS

 Partial list, over 100 group and solo exhibitions including;

Maine Jewish Museum, Portland ME *A Father's Kaddish* 2023
Plinth Gallery, Denver CO *One Person Exhibition* 2022
Museum Of Art, Rhode Island School Of Design, *On The Surface; Contemporary Ceramics* 2021
Leach Pottery Museum, St Ives, UK *The Teabowl: Past & Present Group Exhibition* 2018
Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton MA *The State Of Clay; Pushing Boundaries, Group Show* 2015
Thayer Academy Gallery, Braintree MA *A Father's Kaddish: A Father's Tribute To His Son*, 2015
Ngee Ann Cultural Centre, Singapore, *141 Famous International Chawan Makers* 2014
Concordia Gallery, St Paul MN, *5th Biennial Concordia Continental Ceramics Competition* 2014
Vessels Gallery, Boston MA *New Work In Raku. One Person Show*, 2013
Le Centre Ceramique Contemporaine La Borne France *Chawan*, 2013
Gallery Yusai, Nara Japan, *Chawan International Exhibition*, 2012
National Earthenware Museum, Torhout Belgium, *International Chawan Exhibition*, 2009
American Museum Of Ceramic Art, Pomona CA, *Raku Origins, Impact, And Contemporary Expression*, 2006
New Hampshire Institute Of Art, Manchester NH. *National Ceramics Biennial* 2004
Arts Festival Gallery, Lancaster PA, *Pacific Tides: The Influence of the Pacific Rim on Contemporary American Ceramics* 1999
Colorado Mountain College Gallery, Glenwood Springs, *Ceramics At The Millennium* 1999
Starr Gallery, Newton MA. *Great American Crafts Invitational Exhibition*, 1990
Brockton Art Museum, Brockton MA. *Rhode Island School Of Design Alumni Invitational Exhibition*, 1989

COLLECTIONS

 partial list

American Museum Of Ceramic Art, Pomona CA.
Museum Of Art, Rhode Island School Of Design
Mungyeong Ceramic Museum, Mungyeong South Korea
Alfred University International Museum Of Ceramic Art, Alfred University NY.
Crocker Art Museum, Sidney R Swidler Collection, Sacramento CA.
Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton MA.
Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum. Minneapolis MN.
Yunomi, The David A. Glück Collection, Israel

ARTICLES/ESSAYS (author of) partial list

Raku Glazing: An Alternative Look, Pottery Making Illustrated, June 2007
Lineal Identity: Passing It On, Studio Potter Journal, June 2004
Hal Riegger, Teacher And Friend, Ceramics Monthly, October 2004
Teaching Ceramics; The Essentials Of A Program, Studio Potter Journal, June 2002
Raku, A Western Perspective, Journal of the International Raku Symposium Korea, Biseul Art Center 2001
Studio Options: Finding A Space Of Your Own Clay Times Magazine, March/April 1997
Is Craft Education Relevant To The Prep School Curriculum, Assoc. of Art Teachers of N.E. Prep Schools, 1994
Are Handmade Objects Important In Our Lives, Lecture, Osgood Lecture Series, Thayer Academy, March, 1993

BIBLIOGRAPHY partial list

The Teabowl: East and West, Bonnie Kemske, Herbert Press, 2017
Yunomi, Jeffrey Spahn, David A Gluck Publishers, 2010
The Vase And Beyond; The Sidney Swidler Collection Of The Contemporary Vessel Diana Daniels, et al, Crocker Art Museum, 2010
Fired Up With Raku, Irene Poulton, Crowood Press, 2006
Raku, Second Edition, Tim Andrews, Krause Publications, 2005
500 Raku. Lark Books, 2011
Ceramics: Mastering The Craft, 2nd Edition, Richard Zakin, Krause Publications, 2001
Raku At Amatlan, Hilda San Vicente, Ceramics Monthly, January 2000
The Craft And Art Of Clay, 3rd Edition, Susan Peterson, Prentice Hall Publishers, 1999
Steven Branfman Leads Raku Weekend, Clay Times Magazine, January/February 1997
Potter Adds New Twists Using An Old Technique, Boston Sunday Globe, September 10, 1995
Search For Art Ends At Potters Wheel, Boston Sunday Globe, March 20, 1994
The Japanese Influence In American Crafts, At Home Section, Boston Globe, May 16, 1986 feature story
Service And Solvency: The Potters Shop, The Crafts Report, Jan. 1983 feature story
Raku Pottery, Second Edition, Robert Piepenburg Press, 1991

WORKSHOPS/ GUEST LECTURES (partial list); Honolulu Academy Of Art, Munson Williams Proctor Institute NY; Colorado Mt. College Steamboat Springs; Medina Arts Center MN, Wesleyan Potters CT; NYS College Of Ceramics, Alfred NY; El Camino College CA; Vermont Clay Studio VT; El Olvido Ceramica Mexico City; Guilford Handcrafts Center CT; Triangle Potters Guild NC; Hofstra University NY; Boston Architectural Center MA; Fitchburg Art Museum MA; Rhode Island School Of Design RI; California Association Of Clay Artists; Oak Ridge Art Center TN; Walnut Creek Civic Arts Center CA; Ceramic Designers Association Of Virginia Beach; Fusion: Ontario Clay And Glass Association Toronto; Syracuse Ceramics Guild NY; Lee Arts Center VA; Kalkspatz: German Potters Association Munich and Doerentrup Germany; Lehmuus AG Basel Switzerland.; Atelier Cirkel Brasschaat Belgium; Keramikos Haarlem Netherlands; Vrije Ateliers, Sint Niklass Belgium; Keramik Kraft, Nurmberg Germany; Armbruster Porzellan, Nurtigen Germany; Beim Storchennest, Lutzmannsburg Austria; Toepferhus Albinen Switzerland; Goggleworks Center For The Arts PA.

PANELS/SYMPOSIA partial list

ClayStories National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts 2015, 16, 17, 18, 19
The Necessity Of Community National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts, Panelist, Houston TX 2013
Bridging The Gap, Making the Transition From High School To College NCECA Conference, Panelist, Philadelphia, PA 2010
Teaching High School Ceramics National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts, Panelist, Pittsburgh, PA 2008
Raku Origins, Impact, And Contemporary Expression American Museum Of Ceramic Art, Presenter and Panelist, Pomona CA 2006
All Fired Up Potters Council Regional Conference, Presenter, Garden City NY 2006
Getting Published National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts, Panelist, Baltimore MD 2005
Throwing Techniques Potters Council Regional Workshop, Presenter, Mendocino CA 2005
Ceramic Arts Roadshow & Symposium Panelist and Presenter, Riverside California 2004
Goshogawara International Wood Fire Festival Invited Panelist and Presenter, Aomori Japan 2003
Firing Practices Potters Council Regional Conference: Invited Panelist and Presenter, La Crosse WI 2003
Raku Refire Madness X Presenter, Luverne MN 2003
Teaching Ceramics In The Secondary School National Council on Education in the Ceramic Arts Topical Discussions, Moderator 2001
The Artists Life And Lifestyle Arts First Young Artists Symposium, Panelist, Boston MA 2001
Ceramics At The Millenium Steamboat Colorado Arts Center, Presenter and Panelist Steamboat Springs CO 1999
Balancing The Act-How To Make A Life In Ceramics National Council on Education in the Ceramic Topical Discussions, Moderator 1999
The Business Of Crafts Rhode Island School Of Design Panelist, Providence RI 1998
A Career In Crafts Massachusetts College Of Art, Panelist, Boston MA 1994.
Career and Lifestyle Strategies For The Fine Arts Graduate Rhode Island School Of Design Seminar Presentation 1993
Life After RISD Rhode Island School Of Design, Panelist 1993