

KALA STEIN

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Biography

Kala Stein is an artist and designer working at the intersection of craft, design, and sustainability. Her work explores notions of beauty and loss through efficient systems of making, intentional materials, and innovative approaches to making. She received her MFA in Ceramics from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, where she taught for five years following. Her work is shown internationally at numerous venues and she has received several awards including a National Endowment for the Arts Grant for collaborative research in ceramics, *Architectural Terracotta Co-Lab*. Stein lives and works in Sonoma, CA, teaching and showing her work throughout the USA and internationally. **Date of birth:** November 21, 1979.

Education

- 2007-2009 **Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics.** New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University.
2005-2007 **Apprentice to Donna Polseno and Richard Hensley.** Floyd, VA.
1997-2002 **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics.** State University of NY at New Paltz. NY.

Employment

- 2023 **Adjunct Professor in Ceramics,** Diablo Valley College. Pleasant Hill, CA.
2022-present **Kala Stein Studio LLC,** CEO and Founder.
2015-2022 **Director of Arts & Ceramics,** Sonoma Community Center. Sonoma, CA.
2017 **Adjunct Professor in Ceramics,** Diablo Valley College. Pleasant Hill, CA.
2015 **Adjunct Professor in Ceramics,** Genesee Community College. Dansville, NY.
2013- 2015 **Grants Manager, Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.** Mt. Morris, NY
2012- 2015 **Director, Cohen Gallery.** Alfred University, Alfred, NY.
2009-2015 **Visiting Ceramics Instructor,** New York State College of Ceramics. Alfred, NY.
2005- 2021 **Owner/Entrepreneur,** Spring Valley Clay Works. Canadice, NY.
2003-2005 **Ceramist.** Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Doylestown, PA.

Professional Experience & Service to the Field

- 2023 **Instructor: Mold Making Workshop** Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA.
Mentor: University of Cincinnati, DAAP Program.
- 2022 **Instructor: Mold Making Workshop.** Sonoma Ceramics, Sonoma, CA.
Instructor: Decal Transfers and Gold Luster. Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA.
Panelist: Fire Transforms Exhibition. Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA.
Presenter: Decal Transfers and Gold Luster. NCECA Conference, Sacramento, CA.
Instructor: Decal Transfers and Gold Luster. The Clay Room, San Francisco, CA.
NCECA Planning Committee Member. Sacramento, CA.
- 2021 **Lecture.** University of North Texas Ceramics Department.
Lecture. Concordia University Ceramics Department.
- 2020 **Instructor: Mold Making, Decals and Luster.** Zoom workshops through Sonoma Ceramics
- 2020-22 **Instructor.** Di Rosa Center for Art, Napa, CA.
- 2019 **Guest Artist: Mold Making Workshop.** Laney College, CA.
- 2019 **Skutt Kiln Training.** Skutt Factory, Portland, OR.
- 2019 **Lecture: Porcelain Echoes.** Sonoma Community Center, CA.
- 2019 **Workshop Coordinator & Teaching Artist: Porcelain Echoes.** Menlo Studio, Jingdezhen, China.
- 2019 **Lecture.** Pottery Workshop, Jingdezhen, China.
- 2019 **Sabbatical & 6-week Residency.** Jingdezhen, China.
- 2019 **Workshop Coordinator & Teaching Artist.** La Meridiana, Tuscany, Italy.
- 2018 **NCECA Panelist:** Architectural Terracotta Co-Lab. Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2017 **Instructor: Mold Making: Systems & Surfaces.** Anderson Ranch Art Center. Snowmass, CO.
- 2016-18 **Board Member, Association for Clay and Glass Artists.** CA.
- 2016 **NCECA Panel Moderator: 'Artist as Entrepreneur'.** Kansas City, KS.
Guest Artist, Mendocino College. Ukiah, CA.
- 2015 **Exhibiting Artist / Representative for Gandee Gallery.** NCECA. Providence, RI.
- 2014 **Resident Artist, Red Lodge Clay Center.** Red Lodge, MT.
Guest Artist, Penland Spring Concentration. Penland School of Crafts, Penland, North Carolina.
Guest Artist, Houghton College. Houghton, NY.
- 2013 **Studio Assistant to Ole Jensen.** Alfred University, Alfred, NY.
- 2011 **Curator, ColorScapes.** Schein Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, Alfred, NY.

Select Exhibitions

- 2023 **Earth.** Alley Gallery, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA.
Atmospheric. Solo exhibition, Alley Gallery, Sonoma, CA.
- 2022 **Quench: Things for and About Water.** Solo exhibition, Alley Gallery, Sonoma, CA.
Fire Transforms. Curated by Rina Faletti. Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA.
- 2021 **Common Ground, Artists of Northern California.** Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma, CA.
Table Flares: Signals of Social and Environmental Change. Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma, CA.
From Ground to Surface. Organized by Benjie Heu for NCECA. Sacramento Art Center, CA.
- 2020 **Women Working in Clay: Ten Years of Telling the Story.** Valentine Museum, VA.
- 2019 **Porcelain Echoes.** Menlo Gallery, Jingdezhen, China.
- 2019 **Contemplative Interiors.** Lockhart Gallery, SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY.
- 2018 **Architectural Terracotta Co-Lab.** Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.
Architectural Terracotta Co-Lab. CDCP Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA.
Alternate Endings. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
The Gist Street International. James Simon Sculpture Studio, Pittsburgh, PA.
From Fire, Love Rises. Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, Sonoma, CA.
- 2017 **Discovered.** Petaluma Art Center, Petaluma, CA.
Containment and Connection, NCECA. Portland, OR.
- 2016 **Accessibility by Design.** Curated by Susan Beiner and Brian Gillis. NCECA, Kansas City, KS.
100 Cups. Curated by The Clay Studio for NCECA. Kansas City, KS.
- 2015 **Line/Break: Kala Stein, Lauren Gallaspy, Giselle Hicks.** Turman Larison Contemporary. Helena, MT.
Crafted. Society for Contemporary Craft. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Apprenticelines. The Pawtucket Armory, Providence, Rhode Island.
Memorial Art Gallery Biennial. Rochester, New York.
Upstate NY Ceramics Invitational. Main Street Arts Gallery. Clifton Springs, New York.
- 2014 **Souvenirs from the Future.** Curated by Ben Ahlvers. Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence, KS.
Crafted. Society for Contemporary Craft. Pittsburgh, PA.
Shake it Baby! Curated by Lisa Orr and Bryan Hopkins. Baltimore Clay Works, Baltimore, MD.
Artists Invite Artists. Invitational. Red Lodge Clay Center, Red Lodge, MT.
Solo Exhibition. Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, MI.
- 2013 **Longing for Repetition.** Invited Artist. Carbondale Clay Center, Carbondale, CO.
Ethereal Patterns. Invitational. Upper Iowa University, Fayetteville, IA.
- 2012 **Prototypes.** Invitational. Red Lodge Clay Center, Red Lodge, MT.
Convivium. Solo Exhibition. Rosalie Steiner Gallery, Genesee Community College, Batavia, NY.
- 2011 **NCECA Biennial.** Jurors Glen R. Brown, Julia Galloway, Arthur Gonzalez. The Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL. Purchase Award.
ACGA Clay and Glass National Juried Competition. Juror Jo Lauria. Brea, CA.
Winter Blooms: Giselle Hicks and Kala Stein. The Firehouse Gallery, Rochester, NY.
- 2010 **Form Follows Food Invitational.** Greenwich House Pottery, New York, NY.
Made In NY. The Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, Auburn, NY.
Conversations, Coincidences, & Motivations: Alfred Alumni Retrospective 1971-2009. Snyderman-Works Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2009 **Artist/Educator.** Rowan University Gallery, Glassboro, NJ.
Art in Craft Media. Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY.
The Sixth Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition. The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA.
Convivium M.F.A. Solo Thesis Exhibition. The Alfred International Museum of Ceramic Art, NYSCC, Alfred University, Alfred, NY.

Awards & Grants

- 2018 **National Endowment for the Arts Grant.** Maryland Institute College of Art. Baltimore, MD.
- 2016 **DISCOVERED Grant.** Creative Sonoma & Sonoma Community Foundation.
- 2015 **Individual Artist's Grant.** Up-cycled brick studio research project. New York State Council on the Arts.