

SKUJA BRADEN

Ingūna Skuja & Melissa Braden

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Artist Statement

Skuja Braden is the evolving embodiment of an international dialogue between Ingūna Skuja (Latvia) and Melissa Braden (USA). Through collaborative porcelain sculptures, we merge identity, tradition, and contemporary narratives, challenging distinctions between painting and sculpture, high and low culture, and personal and political themes. Our work is held in major museum collections worldwide and has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, Art Basel, and numerous global institutions.

Education

Ingūna Skuja

- MA in Ceramics, Latvian Art Academy, Riga, Latvia (2011)
- BA in Ceramics, Latvian Art Academy, Riga, Latvia (1992)

Melissa Braden

- BA in Fine Art & BA in Art History, Humboldt State University, CA (1997)
- AA in Fine Art & AA in Liberal Arts, Sierra College, CA (1992)

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2025 *Skywalkers Illuminated*, Ria Kiburis Foundation, Georgia

- *Up, Down and All Around*, Rīgas Porcelain Museum, Latvia

2024 *Under the Eaves*, Andrejs Pumpurs Museum, Latvia

2023 *Pop-Porn*, Kara Gallery, Croatia

- *Strange Bargain*, Kaufmann Repetto Gallery, Milan, Italy
- *Pardon My Body*, Kaufmann Repetto Gallery, New York, USA
- *Open Closet*, Root, Karaköy, Istanbul, Turkey
- *Selling Water by the River*, Latvian Pavilion, Venice Biennale

Past exhibitions include Design and Decorative Art Museum (Latvia), Museum of Contemporary Craft (USA), and Ars Panevezys (Lithuania), Contemporary Craft Museum (Portland, OR)

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 *Name of Desire*, Latvian National Museum, Riga, Latvia

- *Free Form*, Rīgas Porcelāns Muzejs, Riga, Latvia
- *Esther New York Contemporary Art Fair*, USA

2023 *LA Frieze*, Kaufmann Repetto Gallery, USA

- *Art Basel Miami*, Kaufmann Repetto Gallery, USA
- *Paris+ Art Basel*, Kaufmann Repetto Gallery, France
- *Souvenirs of the Future*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
- *Field of Vision*, Zuzeum, Riga, Latvia
- *Just Don't Cry*, Latvian National Museum, Riga, Latvia
- *Sum of Our Parts*, Swivel Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

Other notable exhibitions include the Guangzhou Triennial (China), Whitechapel Gallery (UK), Latvian National Museum (Latvia), World Ceramic Center (Korea), Korean International Ceramic Biennale (KICB), and Cheongju Craft Biennale (Korea), Contemporary Craft Museum (USA)

Selected Collections

- Latvian National Museum of Art
 - Museum of Applied and Decorative Arts, Latvia
 - Portland Art Museum, USA
 - Guangdong Museum, China
 - Zuzeum, Janis Zuzans Collection
 - World Ceramic Center, Korea
 - Kistefos Museum, Norway
 - Musée Ariana, Switzerland
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Awards & Honors

- **Baltic Balva Nominee for Excellence in Visual Art (2025)**
- **Purvītis Prize Nominee (2021)**
- **Delfi People's Choice Award (2021)**
- **Kilogram of Culture Award – Best Visual Artists (2020)**
- **Grata Balva Award, MuseumLV (2020)**

Public Art & Residencies

- *Venice Biennale, Latvian Pavilion (2022)*
 - *White Memorial Medical Center, USA (5,000 handmade porcelain tiles)*
 - *Portland Buddhist Priory, USA (porcelain mural installation)*
 - *Throssel Hole Buddhist Monastery, UK – Collaboration with Zen Buddhist monks to create a garniture set adorning the main altar in the Main Meditation Hall*
 - *Kistefos Museum, Norway – Ongoing commission*
 - Residencies at **Ria Keburia Foundation (Georgia), VV Foundation (Latvia), Sitka Center (USA), Changchun Ceramic Symposium (China)**
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Publications & Media

- Featured in *Art in America, Frieze, Hyperallergic, Sculpture, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Neue Keramik, Washington Post, Ceramics Now, Ceramics Monthly, and ArtNews.*
 - *Queer Art: From Canvas to Club, London, 2024*
 - *500 Ceramic Animals, Lark Books*
 - *A Human Impulse: Figuration from the Bessor Collection, ASU Museum*
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Presentations & Lectures

- *Latvian Academy of Art, Talk for Doctoral students of Art History, Riga, Latvia (April 2025)*
- *Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey*
- *Latvian National Museum of Art (Academia series)*
- *Westerwald Keramik Museum, Germany*
- *California Conference for Advancement of Ceramics, Davis, CA*

