

Lorena D'Arc
Lorena D'Arc Menezes de Oliveira
São Domingos do Prata - Brazil, 1964
Lives and works in Belo Horizonte, Brazil
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Biography:

The clay with which Lorena D'Arc works is restless, carrying an ancestral materiality that permeates both the modeling and firing processes and its symbolic expression over time. Lorena's restless clay does not settle on one type of clay or firing; it is white, red or black, fired at low, high or simply raw fires. This restlessness transgresses the commonplace of utilitarianism, where teapot spouts multiply among shapes that resemble breasts. Skins, leather and guts are sometimes woven into the ceramic body, providing new formal, aesthetic and conceptual relationships.

Born in São Domingos do Prata, Minas Gerais, she discovered ceramics in 1984, under the guidance of Master Terezinha Escobar, when she enrolled in the Fine Arts course at the Escola Guignard-UEMG. She graduated in Fine Arts, both in the Bachelor's and Licentiate degrees, and obtained a postgraduate degree in Art and Contemporaneity from the same institution. In 2011, she completed her Master's degree in Arts at ECA/USP under the guidance of Dr. Norma Grinberg, with the dissertation "The Poetics of the Pot". In 2018, under the guidance of Dr. Lalada Dalglish, she defended her doctoral thesis in Arts, entitled "Between the Edges of Ceramics: Bonds Between Clay and Milk", at IA/UNESP.

Since 1989, Lorena D'Arc has been a faculty member at the Escola Guignard-UEMG as a ceramic's teacher, where she has served as director three times. From her experiences and challenges as an educator, manager and multidisciplinary artist, she creates new perspectives to constantly reinvent herself.

Lorena's research raises relationships between ancestral and contemporary archetypes, recurring to natural elements, the feminine universe, domestic daily life, rituals and the principles of life and death. She explores the characteristics and behaviors of materials that carry the ambiguity of being, at the same time, raw material and symbol, in dialogue with themes related to ancestry, ecofeminism, affectivity and decoloniality.

Academic Background:

2014/18 - PhD in Arts - IA/UNESP. Brazil.

2009/11 - Master's in Visual Arts - ECA/USP. Brazil.

2001/02 - Postgraduate Lato Sensu in Visual Arts and Contemporaneity. Escola Guignard - UEMG. Brazil.

1990/93 - Fine Arts/ Licentiate's Degree - Escola Guignard - UEMG. Brazil.

1984/88 - Fine Arts/Bachelor's Degree - Escola Guignard - UEMG. Brazil.

Solo Exhibitions:

2019 - Spilled Milk. Mari' Stella Tristão Room. Palácio das Artes. BH, MG. Brazil.

2018 - Between Clay and Milk. IA/UNESP Gallery. SP, SP. Brazil.

2013 - Those who can't handle the pot don't handle the grate. Traveling: Annex I Museum of Inconfidência. Ouro Preto, MG. Copasa Art Gallery. BH, MG. Brazil.

2011 - The Poetics of the Pot. MAC Ibirapuera. SP, SP. Brazil.

2007 - Unutilitarian - Espaço Cultural Fórum Lafayette. BH. Brazil.

1999 - Some Measure in Time. Palace of Arts. BH. Brazil.

1998 - Petal. Cultural Center of UFMG. BH, MG. Brazil.

Group Exhibitions:

2025 - When attitudes become School, Second Station. Palácio das Artes. BH, Brazil.

2024 - When attitudes become School, First Station. Palácio das Artes. BH. Brazil.

2024 - Gravity. Guignard House Museum. Ouro Preto, MG. Brazil.

2024 - School Park - Teachers of the Escola Guignard. Inimá de Paula Museum, BH. MG. Brazil.
2024 – Escola Guignard Foundation, The 80s in the 80 Years. Escola Guignard Gallery, BH. MG. Brazil.
2024 - Once upon a time. When Teachers were students. Escola Guignard Gallery, BH. MG. Brazil.
2023 - The Reverse and the Diverse Clóvis Salgado Foundation Collection. PQNA Pedro Moraleida Gallery, BH, MG. Brazil.
2020 - Traces of the Singular. Tiradentes Photography Festival, MG. Brazil.
2019 - Artistic Residency Exhibition of the 1st Photoperformance Forum. BDMG Cultural, BH, MG. Brazil.
2018 - Art 30: 30. BDMG Art Gallery. BH, MG. Brazil.
2018 - Archaeology of Destruction. Nello Nuno Art Gallery. Ouro Preto. Brazil.
2017 - Guignard School-Today. Escola Guignard Gallery. BH, MG. Brazil.
2016 - 40 X 40 – Viaduto da Artes. BH, MG. Brazil.
2013 - Resonances. Solar da Baronesa. São João Del Rei, MG. Brazil.
2013 - Impressions and Contaminations. CEMIG Art Gallery. BH. MG. Brazil.
2012 - COM-JUNTOS. BDMG Art Gallery. BH, MG. Brazil.
2010 - Original III. The Shape of the Empty Pot. Galveias Gallery. Lisbon, Portugal.
2010 - Second International Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Teapot Art. Shanghai, China.
2010 - 4th International Triennial of Ceramic Tiles Elit-Tile. MCC. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
2009 - 4th International Biennial of Contemporary Mosaic. MICC. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2008 - 2nd National Ceramic Salon. Casa Andrade Muricy. Curitiba, PR. Brazil.
2005 - 1st Visual Arts Exhibition of the Cataguazes Plant. Itinerant: Cataguazes MG; Nova Friburgo RJ; Aracaju SE; João Pessoa PB. Brazil.
2001/02 - 1st Cataguazes-Leopoldina Visual Arts Exhibition. Itinerant: Viçosa MG; João Pessoa PB. Brazil.
1999 - The Great Circle of Small Things. Florianopolis Art Museum, SC. Brazil.
1999 - The Three-Dimensional in Contemporary Art. Telemar Gallery. BH. Brazil.
1994 - Like an endless game. Cemig Art Gallery. BH. Brazil.
1992 - Contemporary Utopias. Palácio das Artes. BH, MG. Brazil.
1992 - The Great Circle of Small Things. Palácio das Artes. BH, MG. Brazil.
1990 - Van Gogh Salon. Pampulha Art Museum. BH, MG. Brazil.

Awards:

2023 - Medal of Inconfidência, honor from the State Government. Ouro Preto, MG. Brazil.
2019 - APPA Visual Arts Award. BH, MG. Brazil.
2008 - Honorable Mention 2nd National Ceramics Salon. Casa Andrade Muricy. Curitiba, PR. Brazil.

Curatorships:

2016 - Curator of the 5th National Ceramics Salon. Museum of Contemporary Art of Paraná, Brazil.

Artistic Residencies:

2025 - Serra da Capivara Artistic Residency, Ceramics Cycle. Serra da Capivara, Brazil.
2019 - Artistic Residency at the 1st Photoperformance Forum. BDMG Cultural, BH, Brazil.

Professional Activities:

2020/24 - Director of the Escola Guignard - UEMG. Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
2016/20 - Vice-Director of the Escola Guignard - UEMG. Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
2012/14 - Coordinator of the Board of the Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, Escola Guignard - UEMG. Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
2000/04 - Vice-Director of the Escola Guignard - UEMG. Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
1996/00 - Head of the Department of Three-Dimensional Subjects and Visual Arts, Escola Guignard - UEMG. Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
1989 to the present - Ceramics teacher at the Escola Guignard - UEMG. Belo Horizonte, Brazil.