

MARA SUPERIOR

b. 1951, New York, NY, lives and works in Williamsburg, MA

EDUCATION

1980 M.A.T., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
1975 B.F.A., Painting, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
1970–1972 University of Hartford, Hartford Art School, Hartford, CT
1965–1969 High School of Art and Design, NY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Mara Superior: Porcelain Love Letters*, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT
2021 *Collection Focus: Mara Superior*, Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI
2017 *Porcelain Stories*, Graver's Lane Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2015 *A Porcelain Menagerie*, Clark Gallery, Lincoln, MA
2008 *La Mer*, Dane Gallery, Nantucket, MA
2007 *Italia Nostra*, Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, MA
2006 *Mara Superior: A Retrospective*, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
2005 J.M. Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI
2003 *Souvenirs D'Italia*, Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, MA
2002 *Souvenirs D'Italia*, Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, MA
1991 *New England Artists Series*, De Cordova Museum, Lincoln, MA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Portland Vase: Mania & Muse*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
2023 *HEY! Ceramique.s*, Musee de la Halle Saint Pierre, Paris, FR
Are We There Yet?, Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, MA
ICAF 2023, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2022 *Esprits libres, Ceramiques un resistance (Free Spirits, Ceramics in resistance)*, The Fondation d'entreprise Bernardaud, Limoges, France
2021 *American Clay: Modern Potters, Traditional Pots*, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
2020 *Nature/Nurture*, Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, MA
2019 *Cool Clay: Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Ceramics*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
Tending the Fires: Recent Acquisitions in Clay, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
2018 *The Shoebox Show*, Guldagergård, Skælskør, Denmark
Revive, Remix, Respond, The Frick, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA & Preview at the New York Ceramics & Glass Fair, New York, NY
New York Ceramics & Glass Fair, Bohemian National Hall, New York, NY
We the People: Serving Notice, American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona, CA
2017 *The Women*, Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, MA
Scripps 73rd Ceramics Annual, Scripps Women's College, Claremont, CA
The Suitcase Collection, Ferrin Contemporary at the Craft Trend Fair, Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale 2017, Icheon-si, Gyeonggi-do Province, Korea
New York Ceramics & Glass Fair, Bohemian National Hall, New York, NY
2016 *The Faces of Politics: In/Tolerance*, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
Asparagus Valley Potter's Guild, 40th Anniversary Exhibition, Harvard Ceramics, Allston, MA

FERRIN
CONTEMPORARY

RE—Reanimate, Repair, Mend, and Meld, Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, MA
Alice in Wonderland, Guldagergård, Skælskør, Denmark, and Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy
(413): Pioneering Western Massachusetts, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA

2015 *Selected Works from Current Projects*, Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, MA
2014 *Consider the Kylix*, Peters Valley Gallery, NJ
 Tea Collectia, Clay Art Center, Port Chester, NY
 The Bacchanalistas: Passions and Pleasure, Ferrin Contemporary, New York Ceramics Fair, New York, NY
 artKamp: indigo mass, Ferrin Contemporary at Independent Art Projects, North Adams, MA

2012 *COVET*, Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, MA
 Figure/Figurine, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
 The Letterpress Portfolio Project, Big Wheel Press, Northampton, MA

2011 *The Pursuit of Porcelain*, Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, MA
 WOMENARTISTS@NEWBRITAINMUSEUM, New Britain Museum, CT
 Fresh Figurines, curated by Gail Brown, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA

2010 *The Nude*, SOFA Chicago, Ferrin Gallery, Chicago, IL
 Couples, Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, MA
 ReObjectification, Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, MA

2009 *Illusculptors*, Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, MA

2004 *Salutations: New Space, New Art*, Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, MA
 This Splendid Table: Fantastic Dishes for Food, Kentucky Museum of Arts & Design, Louisville, KY

2003 *After Pallissy*, Lacoste Gallery, Concord, MA
 Great Pots! Contemporary Ceramics from Function to Fantasy, Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ
 Subject-Me-Object: Autobiographical Ceramic Art, Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, MA
 Short Stories, Ferrin Gallery, Lenox, MA

2001 *31st Annual Ceramics Exhibit*, Crossman Gallery; University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, WI
 Teapots Transformed, Clay Art Center, Port Chester, NY

2000 *Color and Fire: Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950– 2000*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

1999 *Erotica in Ceramic Art*, Ferrin Gallery, SOFA New York, NY; Northampton, MA
 20th Anniversary Teapot Exhibition, Ferrin Gallery, Northampton, MA

1998 *Contemporary Teapots Exhibition*, Ferrin Gallery, Northampton, MA

1995-98 *The Whitehouse Collection of American Crafts*, traveling museum exhibition

1995 *Let's Play House*, Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, Racine, WI
 The Nude in Clay, Perimeter Gallery, Chicago, IL

1993-94 *Ceramic National Exhibition*, Everson Museum of Arts, Syracuse, NY
 Newark Museum, Newark, NJ

1993 *The Tureen Show*, Helen Drutt Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
 Teapot Invitational, Dorothy Weiss Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1992 *Containers Revisited*, NCECA, Tyler School of Art, Elkins Park, PA

1980-93 *A Tea Party*, Ferrin Gallery, Northampton, MA
1991 *The Narrative Vessel*, John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan, WI
1990-93 *Art That Works; The Decorative Arts of the Eighties Crafted in America*, Lloyd Herman, curator, traveling museum exhibit

RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

2023 Empower Digital Grant Program Award, Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation
2017 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Grant Award
2016 Residency, Guldagergård, Skælskør, Denmark
2015 ArtKamp, Project Art, Cummington, MA
2006 Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Residency, Newcastle, ME
2005 Artist Fellowship Grant, Massachusetts Cultural Council
1992 Artist Fellowship Grant, Massachusetts Cultural Council
1991 Artist Fellowship Grant, Massachusetts Cultural Council
1990 Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts
The Guild, American Crafts Design Award
1989 The Guild, American Crafts Design Award
1988 Artist Fellowship Grant, Massachusetts Cultural Council
The Guild, American Crafts Design Award
1986 Artist Fellowship Grant, Massachusetts Cultural Council
1985 Judges Award and Craftsmans' Choice Award, The Smithsonian Washington craft show, Washington, DC
1981 Prize for Craftsmanship and Design, The Philadelphia Craft Show, Philadelphia, PA
1979-80 Graduate Teaching Assistantship in Design, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
1977 Best in Show Crafts Division, Paul Smith judge, Hartford Civic and Arts Festival, Hartford, CT

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany, NY
American Craft Museum, New York, NY
American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona, CA
Bennington Museum of Art, Bennington, VT
Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, WI
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY
Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Arts and Design, NY
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ
Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI
Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI
Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art, Washington, DC
Smithsonian Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington, DC
The Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee, WI
The Kamm Teapot Foundation, CA
The Whitehouse Collection of American Crafts, Little Rock, AR
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

COMMISSIONS

"The Pursuit of Happiness", The Ginsberg Collection, New York, NY

"Building Sign: Letter R", Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA

PUBLICATIONS

2024 "Portland Vase: Mania and Muse (1780-2023)", Edited by Rachel Gotlieb, Essays by Anne Forschler-Tarrasch, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA. Published by Hirmer Publishers, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2024.

2023 "HEY! CÉRAMIQUE.S Exhibition Catalog", Edited by Anne Richard, Hey! Publishing, September 15, 2023.

2022 "Esprites libres Exhibition Catalog", Anne Richard, Fondation Bernardaud, Limoges, France, June 17, 2022 - April 1, 2023.

2021 "Collection Focus: Mara Superior at RAM", Article by Bruce W. Pepich, Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI, Aug 18, 2021.

2017 "Making Good: An Inspirational Guide to Being an Artist Craftsman", Jacklyn Scott, Kristin Müller, Tommy Simpson, Foreword by Stuart Kestenbaum, Schiffer Publications, pg. 189, 2017.
"Studio Craft as Career: A Guide to Achieving Excellence in Art-making", Paul J. Stankard, Schiffer Publications, pg194, 2017.

2016 "413: Pioneering Western Massachusetts", Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA, 2016.
"Patriotic Passions & Mara Superior", Galerie Magazine, Fall Issue 2016.

2011 "WOMENARTISTS@NEWBRITAINMUSEUM", Buckberrough, Sherry and Noble, Nancy. Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 2011.

2011 "The Birding Life", Laurence, Carol Sheehan and Precourt, Kathryn. New York, NY: Clarkson Potter Publishers, 2011.

2010 "The Political Imagination of Mara Superior: An Interview with the Artist", Hubbs, Joanna. Ceramic Art & Perception Magazine, June 2010.
"Politics and Intuition", Buttenweiser, Sarah. Hand/Eye Magazine.com, 2010.
"Superior Décor", Buttenweiser, Sarah. Preview Magazine, December 2010.

2009 "American Craft", image of "Bushwacked", April-May 2009.

2008 "Wedded Bliss, the Marriage of Art and Ceremony", Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA, 2008.

2006 "Art into The Fire", Hornblow, Deborah, Hartford, CT: Hartford Courant, 2006.
"Mara Superior: A Retrospective", exhibition catalogue, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT, 2006.

2005 "House and Garden", Martin, Molly. Nantucket, The Dane Gallery, 2004.

2004 "500 Figures in Clay: Ceramic Artists Celebrate the Human Form", Gunter, Veronika Alice. Asheville: Lark Crafts, 2004.

2002 "Mara Superior", Ceramics Monthly, Vol. 50 Issue 8, p14, Oct 2002.
"500 Teapots", Lawton, Jim. Asheville: Lark Crafts, 2013.

2003 "Souvenirs D'Italia", Lauria, Jo. American Craft Magazine, August – September 2003.
"Great Pots, Contemporary Ceramics from Function to Fantasy", Dietz, Ulysses Grant. The Newark Museum, Guild Publishing.
"21st Century Ceramics, United States and Canada", Hunt, Bill. Westerville, OH: American Ceramic Society, 2003.

2001 "American Craft, Commissions", Literati Clock, February/March 2001.

2000 "The Craft and Art of Clay", Peterson, Susan. Overlook press/Viking, 3rd Edition, 2000.

FERRIN
CONTEMPORARY

"Color and Fire: Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950 – 2000", Lauria, Jo. New York, NY: Rizzoli International Publications, 2000.

"Teapots Transformed: Exploration of an Object", Ferrin, Leslie.; Madison, WI: GUILD Publishing, 2000.

"Telling Stories in Porcelain", Whitcomb, Claire. Victoria Magazine, vol. 14 # 4, April 2000.

1995 "The Clinton Collection", Berry, Heidi. Washington Home, April 27, 1995.

"Contemporary Crafts Find a Home in the White House", Patton, Phil, p. 52. Smithsonian, June 1995.

"The White House Collection of American Crafts", Monroe, Michael. New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1995.

1994 "Hand and Home, The Homes of American Craftsmen", Simpson, Tommy. Boston, MA: Bulfinch Press/Little Brown & Co., 1994.

"Porcelain with a Past," Bostonia, Spring, p.85, 1994.

"Crafts at the White House," American Craft, June/July 1994.

1993 "Currents," The New York Times, 3 September 1993.

"Fiction, Function, Figuration: The 29th Ceramic National," Ceramics Monthly vol.4 #9, November 1993.

"Exhibitions, Mara Superior", Fina, Angela. American Ceramics, 1993.

1991 "Pride of the Yankees", Danforth, Randi. Bon Appetit Magazine, November 1991.

1990 "Review", Fina, Angela. American Ceramics, April 1990.

"Philadelphia Craft Show Portfolio", Ceramics Monthly, May 1990.

"Table Top Artistry", Cheverton-Wick, Linda, Food and Wine, March 1990.

"News and Reviews, review of The Hearth at Ferrin Gallery," Ceramics Monthly, March 1990.

"Art That Works, Decorative Arts of the Eighties, Crafted in America", Herman, Lloyd. University of Washington Press, 1990.

"Contemporary Crafts for the Home", Kraus Sikes Inc., 1990.

1989 "The Eccentric Teapot", Clark, Garth. NY: Abbeville Press, 1989.

"Philadelphia Craft Show," HG Magazine, November 1989.

"Style File, State of the Arts," Home, May 1989.

"Art for the Table", Metropolis, April 1989.

1988 "Style Preview, Toni Sykes Award," Metropolitan Home, November 1988.

"A Tea Party", Home Section, The New York Times, October 1988.

"Creative Ideas for Living," A Life in Crafts, 1988.

"The Simpson House", House Beautiful, March 1988.

"News and Reviews", Porcella, Alla. Ceramics Monthly, May 1988.

"Review", Fina, Angela. American Ceramics, 1988.

1986 "Soups and Stews", Time/Life CookBook Series, 1986.

"Portfolio Section", American Crafts Magazine, June 1986.

"Hand Painted Tiles," cover article, Home, April 1986.

1985 "Ceramics Monthly", September 1985.

"Town and Country", Arts and Antiques Section, June 1985.

"Hand Painted Tiles," Bride Magazine, June 1985.

1984 "American Crafts: A Source Book for the Home", Pearson, Katherine, Tabori, Stewart, and Chang, 1984.

"Gallery Section, American Crafts", February/March 1984.

"Ceramics Monthly", February 1984.