

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*, Guldaggergård, Skælskør, Denmark
- Revive, Remix, Respond*, The Frick, 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, Guldaggersgård, 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, Guldaggergård, 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", Buckberrrough, 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.

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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.