

Kathleen Skeels

Education

- 1976 Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting, University of Washington
 1973 Canada Film Board School of Animation, Vancouver, B.C.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 Seward Park Clay Studio Gallery, Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA
 2012 *Old World, New Horizon*, Gallery 254, Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA
 2012 46th Annual NCECA, Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA
 2011 *Cliff Hanger*, Helen Smith Gallery, Green River Community College, Auburn, WA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *Reaching Beyond: The Northwest Designer Craftsmen*, 60 Whatcom Museum, Whatcom, WA
 2014 4th Annual Workhouse Clay National, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA
 2014 *Albatross: A Seattle Storefront Installation*, South Lake Union Neighborhood, Seattle, WA
 2013 *Exhibition Diversiform: An Invitational Exhibition of Figurative Ceramic Sculpture*, Seward Park Clay Studio Gallery, Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA
 2012 *Un-Wedged 2012*, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA
 2012 *Local Produce*, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA
 2012 Tulipieres Exhibition, Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA
 2012 *The Realm of the Feminine: Interior Edge*, Gage Academy of Art, Steele Gallery, Seattle, WA
 2010 *Art of Drawing and Ceramics*, Bellevue College, Bellevue, WA
 2008 *The Nature of Growth*, Bellevue College, Bellevue, WA

Awards:

- 2013-2014 Project Grant for Storefronts Seattle Program
 2012-2014 Grant for Individual Artist Projects, Seattle, WA

Teaching Experience:

- 2012-2015 *Instruction in handbuilding sculpture with paperclay, porcelain, and stoneware clay, including drawing and painting on clay*, Seward Park Clay Studio, Seattle, WA
 2014 *Cone Fire Paperclay*, Moshier Arts Center, Burien, WA
 2013 *Creating a convincing sculpture of a child, the newborn through childhood*, Seward Park Clay Studio, Seattle, WA

Artist Statement

For me my art is an alternate world, a place of possibility and discovery where I am at my most capable and where the rules are of my own making. Through my art I make intangible worlds tangible. Art gives me a serious playground that holds me enthralled for as long as it takes to complete the work.

Drawing is basic to my art, drawing in black and white and color. It's play. It's memory. It's a refuge. On another level, it serves as a tool for examining the world directly, and for thinking through ideas and projects.

Clay is a versatile and challenging material. I work in in clay to sculpt, and use it as a ground for drawing and painting. It is a versatile and challenging material. Porcelain's fine texture is perfect for small sculptures and complex drawings. Colors are at their most brilliant on top of porcelain. A heavy duty stoneware clay works well for creating my large scale sculptures.

I create my figurative sculptures from imagination informed by my studies from life. Often these three dimensional pieces double as grounds for my drawings.

My artwork is eclectic. I use whatever I need at the moment, color and tone, 2D and 3D, giant and tiny. Often opposites attract, for example a sculptural volume that flattens into a drawing, going from 3D to 2D and back to 3D again, or a twice life sized figure that contains a miniature world.

I design and construct gardens as well, sometimes using my ceramics to create the hardscape. Gardens take time to experience and time to develop. Gardens are space sculpted by form, form made of a composition of hardscape and nature, that can only be experienced through movement and time.

These are the three art mediums I work with: drawing, sculpture, and space.