

MELANIE FERGUSON

b. 1955 Newport, OR

Eroding hillsides, the swirling ripple on water's surface, the rhythmic patterns of ocean flora and fauna each provide me with endless relationship intrigue; their associated shadow and reflection, sound, smell, and effortless energy feeds my inner spirit. These key sensory "notes" inspire creative concept by revealing a story that challenges my expression through any given medium utilizing elements that demand physical involvement in building form and surface. Using stoneware, earthenware, or porcelain, I hand-build my sculptural forms to preserve this symbolic gesture of energy. Applying clay coils, I frequently paddle the form's surface to engage with its inner resonance, reminiscent of tidal rhythm and flow as the form evolves with direction and movement. I then add oxide stains (usually copper and iron), slips, color-tinted underglaze, and etching techniques to establish a surface visual that maps a spirited dance within. I engage many firing methods appropriate for each work, with a preference for atmospheric firing. How the surface elements attract and cast flame plays an integral role in the evolution of the story that ultimately engages the beginning of my next work.

- Melanie Ferguson

Solo Exhibitions:

- 2018: Storytellers, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017: Surfing the Lotus Threads, Tansey Contemporary, Denver, CO
- 2014: Inside Chandler's Cove, Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dotham, AL

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2022: Voices from an Animist Earth, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Summer Improv: Bibi's Choice, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019: Mavericks II, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2018: Contemporary Showcase: Howard/Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA
- 2017: This is What Clay Can do: A Meditation, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
Making it in Crafts III: National Invitational Exhibition, Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Lafayette, IN
Contemporary Showcase: Howard/Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA
- 2016: Fictitious Fiber - Group Invitational Exhibition, curated by Jane Sauer, Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM
DE LA NATURALEZA, curated by Eric Rausch, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens with Central Ohio Clay Arts, Columbus, OH
Summer Spotlight, Featured Artist, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
12th ANNUAL WARSAW CERAMICS FAIR, Ceramics On The Web Invitational, Polish Ceramic Association, Warsaw, Poland
Winter Showcase: New Works by Gallery Artists, Howard/Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA
Maverick!, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

- 2015: Pottery Northwest Un-Wedged, juried by Richard Notkin, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA
 Rhizome! New Growth at Cavin-Morris Gallery, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 Working Women: 36 Contemporary Women Artists, Invitational Exhibition, Marian Graves Mugar Gallery at Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH
 Enflamed! New Ceramics at Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 In Dreams Begin Responsibilities: 30 Years at Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 Metro Curates, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014: Elementals: Women Sculpting Animism, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 Making it in Crafts II, National Invitational Exhibition, Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Lafayette, IN
 Director's Choice: Clay, Not The Usual Suspects, Invitational Exhibition, The Gallery at Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, OH
 Metro Montage XIV, Juried Invitational Exhibition, Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art, Marietta, GA
 Praisesong for the Numinous, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 The Metro Show, represented by Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013: Restless III - A mix, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY
 Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens: Artists for Peace and Common Understanding Between the Peoples of the Middle East and the United States, John Natsoulas Gallery, Davis, CA
- 2012: The Art of Healing: A Visual Arts Benefit, Southeast Alabama Medical Center Foundation and Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL
 BI2 Biennial Exhibition, Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL
 Painting-Sculpture-Ceramic, sponsored by Uşak Governorship, Uşak Municipality, and Uşak University, Uşak, Turkey

Publications:

- Storytellers: Path to the Known, exhibition catalog, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY, 2018
 Feature Artist, b2zone Magazine, Summer 2018
 Making it in Crafts III, exhibition catalog, Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Lafayette, IN, 2017
 Earth Skin: New Ceramics at Cavin-Morris Gallery, exhibition catalog, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY, 2016
 Fictitious Fiber, exhibition catalog, Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM, 2016
 Maverick!: the New, exhibition catalog, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY, 2016
 Unwedged No.5, exhibition catalog, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, Washington, 2015
 Enflamed: New Ceramics at Cavin-Morris Gallery, exhibition catalog, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY, 2015
 Working Women: 36 Contemporary Women Artists, exhibition catalog, Marion Graves Mugar Art Gallery, Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH, 2015
 The Artist Omnivore, Featured Artist Interview, Donna Greenberg, Polymer Arts Magazine, Summer 2015
 Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens Memorial Exhibition catalog, John Natsoulas Gallery, 2015
 Feature Artist, Premier Issue, John Hopper, Inspirational Magazine, Fall 2014
 Feature Artist, Premier Issue, 2014 Potters Council Calendar, Potters Council, October 2014
 Feature Artist, A Sculpture Collection, 2014 Potters Council Calendar, Potters Council, June 2014
 Restless III - a Mix, exhibition catalog, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY, 2013
 Featured Artist, 2013 Potters Council Calendar, A Sculpture Collection, Potters Council, November 2013
 International Group Show, Painting-Sculpture-Ceramic, exhibition catalog, Uşak University Press, 2013