

ceramic artist

Gunilla Maria Åkesson

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Bio

Gunilla Maria Åkesson (b.1963, Älghult, South Sweden) is graduate with an MA in Ceramic Art from Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Norway in 1992. Where she also lived and worked as a ceramist during 21 years.

Åkesson has exhibited internationally through her whole career. In 2018 she was shortlisted for the international LOEWE Craft Prize, and 2021 she was shortlisted for the Officine Saffi Award, Milano, Italy. She has been represented at important art fairs like Collect in London, International Fine Art & Antiques Dealers Fair, New York and Collectibles in Brussels. She is also represented in the Homo Faber Guide since 2020.

Her work is included in National and International collections like The National Museum in Oslo, (N) Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum in Trondheim, (N) KODE in Bergen, (N) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ystad Art Museum, Ystad (S) and Malmö Art Museum, Malmö (S) and several private collections around the world.

She became a member of the International Academy of Ceramics (AIC) 2020.

She now lives and works in Komstad, Österlen, Sweden.

Education

National College of Art and Design, Bergen, Norway 1987 – 92

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025, Gallery Ping Pong, Malmö (S)
- 2023, Galerie NeC, Paris (Fr)
- 2022, Galleri Thomas Wallner, Simrishamn (S)
- 2021, Galleri Sebastian Schildt, Stockholm (S)
- 2020, Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall, Arendal (N)
- 2019, Galleri PING PONG, Malmö (S)
Blås & Knåda, Stockholm (S)
- 2018, Puls Ceramic, Brussels (BE)
Contemporary Ceramic Center, London (UK)
- 2017, Nääs Konsthantverk, Gothenburg (S)
- 2017, Plan B Gallery, Växjö, (S)
- 2016, Kaolin, Stockholm, (S)
- 2014, Höganäs Keramiska Center, Höganäs, (S)
- 2011, Bergdala Artgallery, Växjö (S)
- 2008, Gallery FORMAT, Bergen, (N)
- 2008, Rörstrands Museum, Lidköping (S)
- 2008, Bergdala Artgallery, Växjö (S)
- 2006, Lerverk, Gothenburg, (S)
- 2005, The Regional Artcenter, Sogn og Fjordane, Førde (N)
- 2002, Kunstnerforbundet, Oslo (N)
Blås & Knåda, Stockholm (S)
- 1999, The Regional Art center, Kritiansand, (N)
- 1994, Blås & Knåda, Stockholm (S)

Group Exhibitions / selected

- 2024, The September Exhibition, Olseröd Konsthall (S)
Sydosten United, Ronneby Kulturcentrum (S)
"Water, waves, ripples. Water as a source of inspiration", Galerie Handwerk, Munich (D)
- 2023, Gallery Velarde, Knightsbridge, (UK)
"Vet ni" ("Do you know"), Galleri Ping Pong, Malmö (S)
- 2021, "Cylinders", Berg Gallery, Stockholm (S)
Shortlisted for Officine Saffi Award 2021, Milano (IT)
"Glaze Test's", Galerie Handwerk, Munich (D)
- 2020, Septemberexhibition 2020, Galleri Thomas Wallner, Simris (N)
"It's Green", Galerie Handwerk, Munich (D)
COLLECT, Widell Projects, International Art Fair, London (UK)
- 2019, "Alle Tiders Krukker / All Times Jars" *Nordisk - Amerikansk*, Ann Linnemann Gallery, Copenhagen (DK)
Modern Masters, Internationalen Handwerksmesse 2019, Munich (D)
COLLECTIBLES, Puls Ceramics, Brussels (Be)
- 2018, Shortlisted for the LOEWE Craft Prize 2018, London Design Museum, London, UK
Collect 2018, Galleri FORMAT; International Art Fair, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2017, Collect 2017, Galleri FORMAT, International Art Fair, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
2015, -16 "UTVALT - SELECTED", juried exhibition, Craft from the South of Sweden, KHVC in Skåne, Hemslöjden, Form/Design Center, Malmö, (S)
- 2015, International Fine Art & Antiques Dealers Fair, New York, US (rep. By Brian Haughton Gallery, UK)
COLLECT, 2015, International Art fair, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2014, International Fine Art & Antiques Dealers Fair, New York, US (rep. By Brian Haughton Gallery, UK)
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- 2013, International Fine Art & Antiques Dealers Fair, New York, US, (rep. By Brian Haughton Gallery, London, UK)
COLLECT 2013, International Art Fair, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2012, Annual Craft exhibition 2012, Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo (N)
Shortlisted at European Prize Award 2012, Mons, Belgium
- 2009, The 5th World ceramic Biennale 2009, Korea (CEBIKO) (Kr)
- 2007, "Clay without borders", The National Museum, Onikan, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2006, "Sans" Tendenser, Galleri F15, Moss, (N)
- 2004 – 2007, "Trolls – Figures in Norwegian Contemporary ceramics", exhibition organized by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Curator; Harald Solberg
- 2003, The 2nd World Ceramic Biennale 2003, Korea (Kr)
- 2002, "Ceramics from Norway", Galerie Handwerk, Munich, (D)
"Modern Masters" International Crafts Fair, Munich, (D)
- 2001, "New Nordic Ceramics", Galleri Nørby, Copenhagen, (Dk)
- 2000, Annual Exhibition of Art Crafts – 00, Bergen (N)
Norwegian Contemporary Ceramics, Millenium Ceramic Symposium, Amsterdam (NL)
- 1999, Annual Exhibition of Art Crafts – 99, Oslo (N)
- 1998, Annual Exhibition of Art Crafts 98, Trondheim (N)
- 1997, The 50th International Ceramic Art Competition, Faenza (I)

Official Collections

- The Swedish Parliament, Stockholm (S)
Malmö Artmuseum, Malmö (S)
Ystad Artmuseum, Ystad (S)
The National Museum of Decorative Art, Trondheim, (N)
Sogn og Fjordane Art Museum, Førde (N)
The Regional Collection of the West Region, (S)
The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs (N)
The National Museum Art, Architecture & Design, Oslo (N)
KODE, The West Norway Museum of Applied Art, Bergen (N)
The Art Museum of Sørlandet, Kristiansand, (N)
The Swedish Council of Culture (S)
The Norwegian Council of Culture (N)

The Authorities of Aust – Agder, (N)
The Authorities of Uppvidinge, (S)

Private Collections

H.R.H. Queen Sonja (N)
Ragnhild Smørås, (N)
Handelsbanken Art Association, Stockholm (S)

Publications

2000 / 1 Kunsthandverk; Indre meditative rom” by Øystein Laundal
2001 Catalogue, ”Mentalt og Materielt” by Nina Malterud
2001 / 5 Neue keramik, ”Geist und Materie”, by Nina Malterud
2002 Radioprogram in NRK P2 „Agenda“ by Svein Kjos, broadcast 8.9. 2002
2004 / 1 Keramik Magazine, “ Mandala”, by Ulla Munck Jørgensen
2005 Catalogue, “New works” by Ulla Munck Jørgensen
2006, Catalogue, “Enigmatic Energies” by Grete Huus
2008 / 2 Tidsskrift Svenskt Konsthantverk, by Bo Borg
2008 / 06 New Ceramics: “Enigmatic Energies” by Grete Huus
2016, Catalogue, Käril - Vessels, by Thomas Millroth
2019, FORM Magazine 1/2019, Carolina Söderholm
2022, Catalogue: In i Stillheten / Into the Silence, (Käril / Vessels 2013–21) Text by: Carolina Söderholm and Anne Britt Ylvisåker

Scholarships

2023, 2 years working grant, The Swedish Arts Grants Committee (S)
2022, Långmanska Kulturfonden, (S)
2019,- 21 One year working grant, The Swedish Arts Grants Committee (S)
2016, Helge Ax:son Johnssons Foundation (S)
2016, Konsthantverkets Vänners Foundation, Stockholm (S)
2013, -15, -19, - 23 The Arts and Grants Committee, IASPIS, (S)
2013, -19, -22, Estrid Ericsson Foundation (S)
2007, Scandinavia – Japan Sasakawa Foundation
2006, The National Scholarships for artists, travel and study (N)
2005, The County of Sogn og Fjordane, (N)
2001 - 04, The Craftsmen Fund’s 3 year Scholarship for Artists (N)
2000, The Authorities of Bergen Town (N)
1999, The National Scholarships for Artists, material (N)
1998, The Authorities in the County of Hordaland (N)
1997, The National Scholarships for Artists, travel and study (N)
1996, The Authorities of Bergen Town (N)
1992 – 94, The Center of Art, Risør (N)
1986, The Authorities of Uppvidinge (S)

Related Activities

2016, Artist in Residence, AIR, Vallauris, (Fr)
2012-14, Guestmember, Blås & Knåda, Stockholm
2007, Artist in Residence, Shigaraki, Japan
2007, Workshop, Lagos, Nigeria ”Uniting Potters through Cooperation”,
Nigeria – Norway - Sweden
2005, Workshop - seminar, exchange with ceramists from the Nordic
Countries and Balkan
2002, Illustrated the book “From Healing to wholeness” by Audhild Karlsen

2001, "Process", Ceramic Symposium, Risør (N)
2000, "Black Ceramics" Ceramic Symposium, Vilnius, Litauen
1998, "Osnabrücker friedensreiter", Ceramic symposium, IBK, Osnabrück (D)
1997, Work Shop "Pots around the City", Blås & Knåda and the European
City of Culture 1998, Stockholm (S)

Member of

Konsthantverkscentrum, KHVC (S)
Konstrnärernas Riksorganisation, KRO (S)
International Academy of Ceramics, AIC, Suisse