

HOSTLER BURROWS

KAREN BENNICKE

b. 1943, Denmark

Karen Bennicke is known for her sculptures composed of complex geometric figures, which superimpose cartographic overviews of city life, constructed landscapes, and architectural diagrams onto three-dimensional ceramic forms. Her systematic process translates data points describing urban and architectural space into a complex network of carvings, excavations, and crisscrossing topographies. City streets, urban parks, traffic routes, and subway lines are layered on top of one another, compressed into an afterimage of the forces that formed them. Ultimately, Bennicke's slab-formed sculptures develop a quality of artifacts or fossils. While each work arises from the implementation of a set of rules, the end result is enigmatic and magnetic, charged with arcane symbolism. The earth-toned terracotta and monochrome geometries prompt philosophical rumination on the city as a set of contested relations; her sculptures suggest that, obscured by time, traffic, and constant dynamism, our environment is ultimately unknowable, constantly in a process of formation and sedimentation.

Bennicke's work is featured in many museum public collections, including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Museum of Modern Ceramic Art in Gifu, the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, the Nationalmuseum of Stockholm, and the Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen. She is the recipient of the Thorvald Binesboll Medal from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and a Lifelong Achievement Award from the Danish Arts Foundation.

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Manhattan Portraits*, HB381, New York, NY
- 2023 *Spatial Collage*, Peach Corner, Frederiksberg, Denmark
- 2022 *Spatial Collage*, Modern Shapes Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2019 *Karen Bennicke: Unfolding*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK
- 2018 *Visions Spatiales*, Maison du Danemark, Paris, France
- 2016 *Urban Complex*, Banja Rathnov Galleri & Clausens Kunsthandel, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2010 *Diamonds Are...*, Ann Linnemann Gallery, Contemporary Ceramic Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2008 *Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibition*, Næstved Museum Boderne, Næstved, Denmark
- 2005 *Karen Bennicke: Action Architectones*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003 Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris, France
- 2001 *Form i Form (Form within Form)*, Galleri Norby, Copenhagen, Denmark
Status: Retrospektiv (Status: Retrospective), CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art Denmark, Middelfart, Denmark
- 1999 Galerie Bjornen, Stockholm, Sweden
Persona, Udstillingssted for Ny Keramik, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1998 *Thema (Theme)*, Galerie Norby, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1995 *Tilbageblik: Keramiske Arbejder 1957–95 (Retrospective: Ceramic Works 1957–95)*, Næstved Museum Boderne, Næstved, Denmark
- 1994 Ribe Art Museum, Ribe, Denmark
- 1991 Galerie S.C.A.G., Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1988 Galerie Umbra, Lund, Sweden

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *International Ceramics*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK
- 2022 *Small Works, Great Artists*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK
- 2021 *Bend, Bubble and Shine: Copenhagen Ceramics*, Hostler Burrows, New York, NY
Small Works, Great Artists, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK
- 2019 *Cent Ans de Céramique Danoise*, Maison du Danemark, Paris, France
Ceramic Momentum, CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art Denmark, Middelfart, Denmark

- Formes Limites*, Beaux-Arts de Paris, Paris, France
One Hundred Years of Danish Ceramics, Sofienholm, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2018 *Made in Denmark*, Grassi Museum of Applied Art, Leipzig, Germany
Geometric Scales, Ann Linnemann Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2017 Banja Rathnov Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2015 *Many a Slip*, Marsden Woo Gallery, London, UK
Random Growth, Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, UK
- 2014 *Fremsynet Tilbageblik (Forward-Looking Retrospect)*, Kunstetagerne, Hobro, Denmark
The Time Is Always Now, Banja Rathnov Gallery & Kunsthandel, Copenhagen, Denmark
Tid, Ting og Tanker (Time, Things, and Thoughts), Næstved Museum Boderne, Næstved, Denmark (Curator)
- 2013 *Architectural Rounds*, Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen, Denmark
Danish Design at the House, Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia (Organized by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
From Frame to Space, Nivaagaards Malerisamling, Nivå, Denmark
Med Leret Som Gidsel (Holding the Clay Hostage), Vestjyllands Kunstpavillon, Videbæk, Denmark
Terres: Copenhagen Ceramics Invites, Galerie Maria Lund, Paris, France
- 2012 *Architectural Rounds*, Art Centre Silkeborg Bad, Silkeborg, Denmark
Geometrical Evolution, Copenhagen Ceramics, Copenhagen, Denmark
Justus Lipsius, Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Brussels, Belgium (Organized for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the Danish EU presidency)
- 2011 Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Brussels, Belgium
- 2010 *European Ceramic Context*, Bornholm Museum of Fine Arts, Gudhjem, Denmark
Color: Secret Relationship between Ceramics and Colors, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan
På Tværs (Across), Tap I, Carlsberg, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2009 *Dansk Keramik (Danish Ceramics)*, Kunstetagerne, Hobro, Denmark
- 2008 *Gefäss/Skulptur, Deutsche und Internationale Keramik seit 1946 (Vessel/Sculpture, German and International Ceramics since 1946)*, Grassi Museum of Applied Art, Leipzig, Germany
- 2007 *Biennale for Craft and Design*, Trapholt Museum of Modern Art and Design, Kolding, Denmark
Everything Is Flux, Drud & Koppe Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
END, Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen, Denmark & Bomuldsfabriken Kunsthall, Arendal, Norway
- 2006 *Museum of Applied Art*, International Academy of Ceramics, Riga, Latvia
- 2005 *Kommunikationsstykker (Communication Pieces)*, Galleri Norby, Copenhagen, Denmark
Scandinavian Design beyond the Myth, The Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, Czech Republic; The Museum of Decorative Arts, Budapest, Hungary; The Museum of

- Applied Arts, Leipzig, Germany
- 2004 *Scandinavian Design beyond the Myth*, Palazzo della Triennale, Milan, Italy; The Design Museum, Ghent, Belgium
- Puls Contemporary Ceramics, Brussels, Belgium
- Biennale for Craft & Design*, Trapholt Museum of Modern Art and Design, Kolding, Denmark
- Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark
- 2002–2004 *From the Kilns of Denmark: Contemporary Danish Ceramics*, Maison du Danemark, Paris, France; The Felleshus (Pan-Nordic Building), The Nordic Embassies in Berlin, Berlin, Germany; Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris, France
- 2000 *Dansk Form: Design vom Nachbarn (Danish Form: Design by a Neighbor)*, Stilwerk and Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany

COLLECTIONS

- Brandts, Odense, Denmark
- CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, Middelfart, Denmark
- Danish Arts Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Grassi Museum of Applied Art, Leipzig, Germany
- Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany
- Keramion, Frechen, Germany
- KKAM Höganäs Museum, Höganäs, Sweden
- Københavns Billedkunststudvalg, Copenhagen, Denmark
- KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces, Koge, Denmark
- Kunstmuseum den Haag, The Hague, The Netherlands
- Landesmuseum Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany
- Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France
- Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany
- Museum of Applied Art, Riga, Latvia
- Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan
- Museum Østdanmark, Holmegaard, Næstved, Denmark
- Næstved Museum Boderne, Næstved, Denmark
- Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden
- Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum, Trondheim, Norway
- OJD Collection, Denmark
- Public Art Agency Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden
- Röhsska Museum, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Schleswig-Holsteinisches Landesmuseum, Schleswig, Germany
- The Devonshire Collection, Chatsworth House, Chatsworth, UK
- The New Carlsberg Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark

Trapholt Museum of Modern Art and Design, Kolding, Denmark
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2024 Danmarks Nationalbank's Anniversary Foundation of 1968, Denmark
- 2017 Thorvald Binesbøll Medal, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Denmark
- 2016 Lifelong Achievement Award, Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2014 The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2013 Visual Arts Project Funding, The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2012 Danish Crafts, Denmark
- 2011 Danmarks Nationalbank's Anniversary Foundation of 1968, Denmark
- 2010 Annie and Otto Johs. Detlefs Ceramics Prize, Denmark
- 2009 Danmarks Nationalbank's Anniversary Foundation of 1968, Denmark
Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fund, Denmark
The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2008 Inga and Ejvind Kold Christensen Honorary Prize, Denmark
The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2005 Danish Crafts, Denmark
- 2004 Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fund, Denmark
Travel Grant, The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2003 Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fund, Denmark
The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2002 New York Grant from the Danish Ministry of Culture, Denmark
- 2001 Craftsperson of the Year, West Zealand County, Denmark
The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 2000 Danmarks Nationalbank's Anniversary Foundation, Denmark
- 1997–2000 Three-year Working Grant from the Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 1996 Center for Dansk Billedkunst (Center for Danish Visual Arts), Denmark
- 1995 Danmarks Nationalbank's Anniversary Foundation of 1968, Denmark
The CDK Prize, Denmark
- 1992 Ole Haslunds Kunstnerlegat
- 1987 Augustinusfonden
Danmarks Nationalbank's Anniversary Foundation of 1968, Denmark
- 1990, 1988, 1986 The Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- 1981 Overretssagfører L. Zeuthens Mindelegat

MEMBERSHIPS

Danish Visual Artists, Denmark
The Society of Artists, Denmark

International Academy of Ceramics, IAC