

PENLAND GALLERY

Yael Braha

Star, NC

CLAY | Functional ceramics

Penland Affiliation | Penland Studio Assistant 2022, Penland Student 2018, 2019, 2022

Artist Information | Studio artist; education: MFA San Francisco State University (CA), BA European Institute of Design (Rome, Italy); residencies: Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park (Japan), Starworks Ceramics (NC), Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (TN), Cub Creek Foundation (VA), BANFF Centre for the Arts (Canada), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (CA), Compound Gallery (CA), Berlinale Talent Campus (Germany); exhibitions: Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts (ME), Red Lodge Clay Center (MT), Companion Gallery (TN), Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (TN), African American Museum (TX), Watermark Art Center (MN), Charlie Cummings Gallery (FL)

Artist Bio | Working at the intersection of craft, design, art, and multimedia, Yael creates functional, sculptural and installation ceramic work. She received her BA from the European Institute of Design in Rome, and her MFA from San Francisco State University. In 2021 she was awarded the Multicultural Fellowship Award from the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), and from 2022-2023 she was an Artist-in-Residence at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (TN).

Artist Statement | *My parents escaped from Libya: they left everything behind except their knowledge, became refugees, and started their life anew in their country of asylum – Italy. As a result of this displacement, I have cherished the notion of “acquiring knowledge” and skills, which has led me to learn, teach, and experiment in various art fields - from graphics design, to cinema, to metal fabrication, and more recently, ceramics.*

I create functional ceramic work with bold and stylized surface designs that focuses on optical and geometrical illusions, patterns and tessellations. I use lines and curves to distort and add dynamism to the surface of my work, and I use seams and negative spaces to create contrast and tension within a form. The surface pattern reliefs add a sensually tactile experience when the work is held, touched, and used.