

Brian Benfer

B. 1973

Lives and works in Southern California

Education

Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ

M.F.A. Visual Arts

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

B.A. Studio Art

Selected Exhibitions/Projects

- 2023 *Brian Benfer*, Coachella Valley Art Center, Indio, CA
- 2022 *The Benson(s) Project*, Art Academy of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
DEGI RASA, Zarasu ežero sala, Zarasai, Lithuania
- 2021 *Latvia Ceramics Biennale*, Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia
Brian Benfer and Paul Turounet, jdc Gallery, Gleneden Beach, OR
- 2020 *You & Yours*, jdc Gallery, Gleneden Beach, OR
- 2019 *Porceliano Tapatybė*, Panevėžio miesto dailės galerija, Panevėžys, Lithuania
- 2018 *Porcelain Identity*, M.K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum, Kaunas, Lithuania
Melting Point: Movements in Contemporary Clay, Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 *Renegade Fiber*, Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, Novato, CA
- 2016 *ROJA Lab 16*, Exhibition and Workshop Center, Roja, Latvia
Thunder in Our Hearts, Noosky Projects, Los Angeles, CA
ArtAxis, Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
- 2015 *What Remains: Debris and Detritus in Fine Art*, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA
Reshaping the 2%, Mesa Art Gallery, San Diego, CA
- 2014 *Art San Diego*, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
Brian Benfer and Carlton Bradford, Prescott College, Prescott AZ
- 2013 *Ready MADE*, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
Brian Benfer, Amazon Headquarters, Seattle, WA
- 2012 *Cultural Foundation Fellows Exhibition*, Seto City Museum, Seto, Japan
Brian Benfer, Brown University, Providence, RI
Brian Benfer, Kittredge Gallery, Tacoma, WA
Brian Benfer and John Grade, Gallery4Culture, Seattle, WA
- 2011 *Premio Faenza*, Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy
Connections and Beyond, Red Lodge Clay Center, Helena, MT
Brian Benfer, Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY
- 2010 *Biennial Exhibition*, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
Biennale de la Contemporaine Céramique, Centre Culturel d'Andenne, Andenne, Belgium
Beyond the Brickyard, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT
- 2009 *Biennial Ceramics Exhibition*, NAU Art Museum, Flagstaff, AZ
NCECA Clay National Biennial Exhibition, Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ
Margins: A Nontraditional Approach to Clay, The Icehouse, Phoenix, AZ
- 2008 *Ceramic Objects/Conceptual Material*, Anne Kittrell Gallery, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
- 2007 *Ceramics in Architecture*, SERDE Art Center, Aizpute, Latvia
Falling to Earth, CSAW Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2006 *Eastern Philosophy*, Gaddis Geeslin Gallery, Huntsville, TX
- 2005 *Five Years of the Anagama*, Rotermann Art Center, Tallinn, Estonia
International Ceramic Exhibition, Tohisoo Mansion, Kohila, Estonia
- 2003 *Off the Top*, Bill Maynes Gallery, New York, NY
Generations: Impending Lineage, Art & Industry Gallery, San Diego, CA
- 2002 *International Invitational Exhibition*, Period Gallery, Omaha, NE, 2002

- 2001 *Invitational Exhibition*, Reese Bullen Gallery, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
 2000 *Tilts 2000*, Latvijas Maksliņieku Savienības Galerija, Riga, Latvia
International Exhibition, Zvartava Castle, Gaujiena, Latvia
 1999 *Holiday Invitational Exhibition*, First Street Gallery, Eureka, CA
Invitational Exhibition, Reese Bullen Gallery, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

Selected Bibliography/Publications

- Marak, Lou, and Keith Schneider. *Ceramics at the Laundry: Ceramics at Humboldt State University 1970-2020*. John Natsoulas Press, 2023.
- 3rd Latvia Ceramics Biennale, Mark Rothko Art Centre-2023 (catalogue)
- Courtney Queen & Brian Benfer (2022). A Visual Representation of Kalpaka Bulvāris in Riga, Latvia Following the Invasion of Ukraine. *Sage Publishing*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778004221114129>
- ROJA ART LAB, Roja, Latvia-2022 (catalogue)
- Brian Benfer, "Seeking Sustainability", *Ceramics Art and Perception*, #117 (2021): 4-9.
- Exposure, *Ceramics Monthly*, June/July/August 2021: 17.
- International Bone China Symposium, Vilnius Academy of the Arts-2021 (catalogue)
- Brian Benfer, "Rat Trap Clay Club", *Ceramics Monthly*, December 2019: 18-20.
- Brian Benfer, "Tapatybės Likučiai", *Nemunas*, NR. 11 (2018): 36-45.
- Brian Benfer, "Questioning Identity", *Ceramics Art and Perception*, #110 (2018): 98-103.
- International Bone China Symposium, Vilnius Academy of the Arts-2018 (catalogue)
- Gintarė Vasiliauskaitė, "Kaulinis Porcelianas", *Kauno Diena*, July 12, 2018.
- Brian Benfer, "The Particulate of Molis", *New Ceramics*, January/February 2018: 19-21.
- Stanton Hunter, "Creativity through Curiosity", *Ceramics Monthly*, January 2017: 38.
- Brian Benfer, "Māris un The Merry Men", *STUDIJA*, No. 110 (2016): 55-56.
- Patrick Whitehurst, "Artist chalks up his inspiration to tactile, analogue communication", *The Daily Courier*, May 15, 2014.
- Kyla Foster, "Casting Residue: Works by Brian Benfer", *Ceramics Art and Perception*, No. 93 (2013): 3-7.
- Kyla Foster, "Brian Benfer-Chalkboard Series", *Collect*, Autumn 2012: 43.
- Rosemary Ponnekanti, "UPS Art Exhibits Feature Dual Sides of Creative Coin", *The News Tribune*, February 24, 2012.
- Dave R. Davison, "Two New Exhibits Feature Ceramic Art at UPS", *Tacoma Weekly*, February 23, 2012.
- 57th Premio Faenza, Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche Faenza-2011 (catalogue)
- Suzanne Beal, "Bent Without Breaking", *Ceramics Art and Perception*, No. 84 (2011): 38-41.
- Fired*, Manifest Gallery-2011 (catalogue)
- Dawn Padula, "Documenting Fire: A Profile of Brian Benfer's Industrial Series," *Ceramics Technical*, No. 31 (2010): 100-103.
- Stanton Hunter, "Devil's Advocate," *Ceramics Monthly*, November 2010:10.
- Biennale de la Contemporaine Céramique*, Centre Culturel d'Andenne-2010 (catalogue)
- Brian Benfer, "The Industrial Ceramics Series", *NCECA Journal*, Vol. 31 (2010): 28.
- Adam Welch, "The Margins: A Theory of Resistance in Contemporary Ceramics," *Ceramics Art and Perception*, No. 79 (2010): 42-47.
- Beyond the Brickyard*, Archie Bray Foundation-2009 (catalogue)
- Johnson, Garth. *1000 Ideas for Creative Reuse*. Beverly, MA: Quarry, 2009.
- Clay³*, ClaySpace-2009 (catalogue)
- Germaine Shames, "2009 NCECA Clay National Biennial Exhibition," *Ceramics Monthly*, June/July/August 2009: 28-29.
- NCECA Clay National Biennial Exhibition-2009* (catalogue)
- Margins: A Nontraditional Approach to Clay-2009* (catalogue)
- Crafting Content: Ceramic Object/Conceptual Material*, University of Arkansas-2008 (catalogue)
- Anda Puce, "Svetkus aizpute svin plasi," *Kurzemes Vards*, August 13, 2007.
- Maiju Altpere-Woodhead, "Dance Around the Esthoggama," *Ceramics Technical*, No. 22 (2006): 96-99.
- Off The Top*, Bill Maynes Gallery-2003 (catalogue)
- Ieva Rupenheite, "Skaistaks par kugi," *Diena*, August 30, 2003.

Tilts, Latvijas Makslinieku Savienības Galerija-2000 (catalogue)
Ieva Rupenheite, “Zvartava makslinieki cel tiltu,” *Diena*, August 11, 2000.

Selected Awards

- 2022 U.S. Department of State/Institute of International Education, Fulbright Scholar
- 2019 California Arts Council, Artist Grant
- 2018 The LOFT, Artist Travel Grant
- 2015 Humanities Institute, Artist Grant
- 2013 Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Artist Grant
- 2012 Shunpike, Artist Project Grant
Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Artist Grant
- 2011 Agency for Cultural Affairs, Seto Cultural Foundation Award
Artist Trust, Artist Project Grant
Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Artist Grant
- 2009 Vermont Studio Center, Clowes Fellow
Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Kimmel Harding Nelson Award
- 2003 Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Graduate Scholars Award
- 2002 Vermont Studio Center, Nadine Goldsmith Fellow
Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Anonymous Donor Award
- 2001 Humboldt State University, Reese Bullen Award for Excellence in Art
- 1999 Humboldt State University, Marchi Award for Excellence in Sculpture

Selected Collections

Amazon, Seattle, WA
Art Academy of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
Artists Union of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
Brown University, Providence, RI
City of Roja, Latvia
City of Zarasai, Lithuania
Coachella Valley Art Center, Indio, CA
The Estonian Ceramists Association, Tallinn, Estonia
Gallery4Culture, Seattle, WA
Grossmont College, El Cajon, CA
Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, NE
M.K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum, Kaunas, Lithuania
Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia
Mesa College, San Diego, CA
Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA
Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy
Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
Ohio University, Athens, OH
Prescott College, Prescott, AZ
SERDE Art Center, Aizpute, Latvia
Seto City Art Museum, Seto, Japan
Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
Ann and Morris Weiner, Houston, TX
The Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
Vilnius Academy of Arts, Kaunas, Lithuania
Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA

Selected Lectures/Presentations

Art Academy of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
Artists Union of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA
Ceramics and Glass Art Center, Seto, Japan
Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, Saint Joseph, MN
Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec
Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA
The Estonian Ceramists Association, Kohila, Estonia
Grossmont College, El Cajon, CA
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, TX
Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
jdc Gallery, Gleneden Beach, OR
Mesa College, San Diego, CA
NCECA Conference, Philadelphia, PA
Ohio University, Athens, OH
Prescott College, Prescott, AZ
RojaLAB, Roja, Latvia
Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA
SERDE Art Center, Aizpute, Latvia
Seto City Cultural Center, Seto, Japan
Seto Yogyo, Seto, Japan
Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Otis, OR
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO
Temple University, Tyler School of Art, Elkins Park, PA
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
University of San Diego, San Diego, CA
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
Utenos Kraštotyros Museum, Leliūnai, Lithuania
Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
Vilnius Academy of Arts, Kaunas, Lithuania
Vilnius Academy of Arts, Vilnius, Lithuania
Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA
Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY
Zvartava Castle, Zvartava, Latvia