

Brian Benfer

B. 1973

Lives and works in Southern California

Education

Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts, New Brunswick, NJ, 2003

M.F.A. Visual Arts

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, 2000

B.A. Studio Art

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2014 *Brian Benfer and Carlton Bradford* at Prescott College, Prescott AZ

2013 *Brian Benfer* at Amazon Headquarters, Seattle, WA

2012 *Brian Benfer* at Brown University, Providence, RI

Brian Benfer at Kittredge Gallery, Tacoma, WA

Brian Benfer at Rose Center for the Arts, Longview, WA

Brian Benfer and Lee Renninger at Olin Gallery, Washington, PA

Brian Benfer and John Grade at Gallery4Culture, Seattle, WA

2011 *Brian Benfer* at Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY

2007 *Brian Benfer* at Mesa College, San Diego, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

2018 *Melting Point: Movements in Contemporary Clay*, Craft & Folk Art Museum, 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, Noysky Projects, Los Angeles, CA

Sinking Sinking Sinking, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, 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 College Art Gallery, San Diego, CA

MAS Attack 8, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA

2014 *RIPE*, Boehm Gallery, San Marcos, CA

Art San Diego, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

Invitation Exhibition, Hyde Art Gallery, El Cajon, CA

2013 *Ready MADE*, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX

2012 *Cultural Foundation Fellows Exhibition*, Seto City Museum, Seto, Japan

Art Interruptions, Waterfront Park, Seattle, WA

2011 *Premio Faenza*, Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy

Connections and Beyond, Red Lodge Clay Center, Helena, MT

Fired, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

Invitational Exhibition, Trisolini Gallery, Ohio University, Athens, OH

2010 *Biennial Exhibition*, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA

National Ceramics Invitational, John P. Weatherhead Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN

3/2/1, The Esther Allen Greer Museum, Rio Grande, OH

National Invitational Exhibition, Trisolini Gallery, Ohio University, Athens, OH

Biennale de la Contemporaine Céramique, Centre Culturel d'Andenne, Andenne, Belgium

Beyond the Brickyard, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT

Clay on the Wall, Landmark Arts, Lubbock, TX

2009 *Clay³*, ClaySpace, Warrenville, IL

Biennial Ceramics Exhibition, NAU Art Museum, Flagstaff, AZ

New Texas Talent, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX

NCECA Clay National Biennial Exhibition, Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ

Margins: A Nontraditional Approach to Clay, The Icehouse, Phoenix, AZ

2008 *Clayfest*, Herron Gallery, Indiana/Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN

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
Earth & Fire, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2003 *Roja Raku*, The Roja Hotel, Roja, Latvia
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 *International Exhibition*, Roja Museum, Roja, Latvia
Invitational Exhibition, Reese Bullen Gallery, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
- 2000 *Holiday Invitational Exhibition*, First Street Gallery, Eureka, CA
Tilts 2000 Exhibition, Latvijas Makslinieku Savienibas Galerija, Riga, Latvia
International Exhibition, Zvartava Castle, Gaujiena, Latvia
International Ceramic Exhibition, The Roja Hotel, Roja, Latvia
Regional Invitational Exhibition, First Street Gallery, Eureka, CA
Invitational Exhibition, Reese Bullen Gallery, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
- 1999 *Holiday Invitational Exhibition*, First Street Gallery, Eureka, CA
Invitational Exhibition, Reese Bullen Gallery, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

Selected Bibliography/Publications

- 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)
- "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 Savienibas Galerija-2000 (catalogue)
- Ieva Rupenheite, "Zvartava makslinieki cel tiltu," *Diena*, August 11, 2000.

Awards

- 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 NAU Biennial Exhibition, Third Place
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
- Artists Union of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
- Larry Baza, San Diego, CA
- Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
- Brown University, Providence, RI
- City of Roja, Latvia
- The Estonian Ceramists Association, Tallinn, Estonia
- Gallery4Culture, Seattle, WA
- Grossmont College, El Cajon, CA
- Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, NE
- Mesa College, San Diego, CA
- Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA
- Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy
- Northern Clay Center, Minneapolis, MN
- Ohio University, Athens, OH
- Palomar College, San Marcos, CA
- 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
- Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA