

# Risa Hricovsky, MFA

Assistant Professor of Art

## Biography

Risa Hricovsky is a post-discipline/installation artist. Her work pushes the boundaries between painting and sculpture, and between art, design and craft. Risa received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a post-bacc from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BFA from Bowling Green State University. Recently Risa received a Bailey Opportunity Grant, Current Art Fund Grant and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in mixed media at the Zanesville Prize for Contemporary Ceramics. Risa has exhibited nationally and internationally and she has attended many prestigious residencies. Most notable residencies are The Studios at MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA, Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center in Skealskor, Denmark and SIM in Reykjavik, Iceland. Currently, Risa is working on a solo exhibition for the Arkansas Museum of Fine Art.

## Academic and Research Interests

Risa is currently working on three distinctive series, *Fringe*, *Stranger* and *Future Rocks*. *Fringe* is a sequence of shag rugs made of fired colored porcelain. Shag rugs are synonymous with the 1960s and its counterculture. These fringe pieces are as hard as they look soft. The porcelain rugs are a metaphor for the ideals of the 60s being frozen in sentiment and unable to engender substantial progress. Yet they still represent the contemporary idealism of radical transformation and the hope for a greater future.

The term *Strange Stranger* comes from the book *Hyperobjects* written by Timothy Morton, an object-oriented ontologist and ecological philosopher. Morton describes the *Strange Stranger* as knowable but uncanny. In Risa's work, the series *Strange Stranger* is a collection of sculptures made with different materials with varying degrees of likeness. The series *Strange Stranger* presents visual poems made up of the interpretation of the different materials and their explorations. These sculptures celebrate these materials and give new life and value to them. These sculptures also bring attention to the lifespan of a material and how we understand the hierarchy of different materials.

*Future Rocks* explores the Anthropocene. Through the creations of "fossils from the future." *Future Rocks* fetishizes and aestheticizes a post-human existence. Through making and exploring, Risa creates the fossilization and crystallization of our current civilization. *Future Rocks* hypothesize what fossils would look like after the earth heals from the human inflictions and devastations long after humans are gone.

## HONORS and AWARDS:

3<sup>rd</sup> place, 125, Paul V. Hamilton Center for the Arts, Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, TN, 2022

Artefields Finalist for \$50,000 Art Prize, 2022

Bailey Opportunity Grant, Arts & Cultural Alliance, Knoxville, TN, 2021

Current Art Fund, Tri-Star Arts Project Grant, Tennessee, 2021

1<sup>st</sup> place in mixed media, Zanesville Prize for Contemporary Ceramics, 2017

## **ART EXHIBITIONS**

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

*Then is Now*, Horn Gallery, Arkansas Museum of Fine Art, Little Rock, AR, 2023-2024

*LMU Arts Faculty*, Hamilton Center for the Arts, Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, TN (with Michael Giles) 2023

*Stranger Things*, Emporium, Knoxville, TN, 2022

*Counter Carpet*, Walter State University Gallery, Morristown, TN, 2021

*Relational Attunement*, Paul V. Hamilton Center for the Arts, Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, TN, 2020

*Parlor*, Central Collective, Knoxville, TN, 2019

*Deconstructing Sameness*, Woodland Gallery, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2018

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

*Greetings from Vestal III*, Candoro Marble building, Tri-Star Arts, Knoxville, TN, 2023

*125*, Paul V. Hamilton Center for the Arts, Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, TN, 2022

*KMC Skateboard*, Stripped Light, Knoxville, TN, 2022

*Greetings from Vestal II*, Candoro Marble building, Tri-Star Arts, Knoxville, TN, 2022

*Maker Exchange*, *The Tennessean*, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2022

*Hard + Soft*, Patterson-Appleton Art Center, curated by Pablo Barrera, Denton, TX, 2021

*Greetings from Vestal*, Candoro Marble building, Tri-Star Arts, Knoxville, TN, 2021

*Bailey Opportunity Recipient Exhibition*, Emporium, Knoxville, TN, 2021

*Good Things (Small Packages)*, Central Collective, Knoxville, TN, 2021

*Threefold*, Tipton Gallery, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN, 2018

*Sarah Nearer Fuller Flower*, C for Courtside, Knoxville, TN, 2018

*Porcelain Symposium*, Apple House Gallery, Guldagergaard, Skælskør, Denmark, 2018

*Shoe Box*, Apple House Gallery, Guldagergaard, Skælskør, Denmark, 2018

*Zanesville Prize for Contemporary Ceramics Award Winners*, Zanesville Museum of Art, Zanesville, OH, 2018

*HREIÐUR*, SÍM Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland, 2018

*Converge(nce)*, NCECA, Pittsburgh, PA, 2018

### **PUBLIC LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA**

*Poetics of Materiality*, (Instructor, two week workshop on material experimentation)  
Arrowmont, Gatlinburg, TN, 2023

*De-Skilled Ceramics in Contemporary Art* (Presenter), Fertile Ground NCECA Conference, Sacramento, CA, 2022

*Artist Lecture*, Walter State University Gallery, Morristown, TN, 2021

*Artist Lecture*, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, NC, 2021

Porcelain Symposium (Presenter), Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center, Skælskør, Denmark, 2018

*Artist Lecture*, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2018

*Artist Lecture*, SÍM Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland, 2018

### **PERMANENT COLLECTIONS**

The Maker Exchange, The Tennessean Lobby, Knoxville, Tennessee

Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center, Skælskør, Denmark

Bowen-Thompson Student Union, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH