

EDEN BENDER

ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

Eden Bender is an established Toronto based sculptor and painter. Eden's paintings utilize a minimalist colour palette amplifying the densely textured surfaces. Her monochromatic paintings at first glance appear quiet and placid, but upon closer inspection, visions of soft-focus memories shapeshift into surreal and unsettling territory. At first blush, the quiet nesting of images seems relaxed and tranquil until her narrative titles lead you down a rocky path. Blurred figures transform meaning, solidify, and what was once a familiar dream, can take a sudden sinister turn. Like the calm before the storm we are at a crossroad, this new information produces avenues of very personal association. Eden's paintings open up her world of soft-focus images into a psychological flux. Imagery is open-ended, a boat, a man with the features of a rabbit and an empty field with a group of seated figures, all of these refuse to settle into any prescribed meaning instead, it creates a nascent narrative.

Eden's involvement in her community has always been a great source of inspiration and education. Through her volunteer commitments with various non-profit organizations, Eden's work has been influenced by the adversity of the human condition. In a recent series titled "Moss" Eden states "Dead matter and decay provide the habitat for a wide array of moss. Life from death, light from dark. Brilliant almost iridescent colours provide a blinding palette. Textures draw you in to touch. The repetitive technique and exploration of industrial materials are carried throughout my work. Layers of synthetic materials are applied to mimic the organic properties of moss. The dichotomy between light and dark are echoed throughout both my sculpture and painting. It is the psychological aspects of a driven, overstimulated generation, including myself, that compels me to search out an inner calmness and a sense of self-fulfilment". Eden Bender's sculptural work is both conceptual and figurative. It often relies on scale to draw the observer into a surreal world of transformation and metamorphosis; a world where an unusual juxtaposition of static and dynamic characteristics are the norm. Fulcrums, ladders, and hoops all inform this playful yet sombre environment. The sculptures are mostly built from paper clay and are often scribed then glazed and red numerous times. Eden's experimental glaze work imbues the sculptures with the intriguing patina of some rediscovered ancient artefact. Eden will often introduce non-traditional ceramic glazes and the use of metal and cement, as well as other found objects, into her sculptures.

Eden studied at George Brown and York University. In 1990 she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine arts with honours. Her sculptures have been exhibited several times at the Gardiner Museum and The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery. She has received numerous awards including the L.L. Odette Sculpture Award, the Ontario Arts Council Award, the Toronto Potters Award of Excellence, Tuckers Award of Expression, the Pottery Supply House Award of Excellence and the Ontario Craft Council Award for Best Design and People's Choice Award The Brain Project. Her work can be found in international private and public collections, and has been exhibited at the Stricoff Gallery, New York; Art Basel, Switzerland; Warsaw Poland International Ceramic Exhibition, Poland; Master Class St. Petersburg, Russia; and The International Art Fair, Toronto. Eden is currently living and working in Toronto.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

SOLO / GROUP SHOWS

- 2024 Artist Project, Vessels and Sticks, Better Living Centre CNE, Toronto, Canada
Art Expo New York, Pier 36 Lower East Side, New York, USA
International Sculpture Center Exhibition, Sculpture Magazine
Design TO Festival, Vessels and Sticks at Ashley Botten Design, Toronto, Canada
Muse Gallery, Group Show, Toronto, ON
- 2023 Own the Light, Group Show, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
Pop-up Gallery, Vessels and Sticks Group Exhibition at Smyth Gallery, Toronto
Toronto Gallery Space, Vessels and Sticks at The Lobby, Toronto, Canada
Artist Project, Vessels and Sticks, Toronto, Canada
- 2022 Featured Artist, Marvelous Art Gallery, Online
Muse Gallery, Group Show, Toronto, ON
Figurative Sculptures, International Sculpture Center, Online
Challenging Times, Sculptors Society Gallery, Sculptors Society of Canada, Toronto
Yicca International Prize of Contemporary Art, ImagoArs, Venice, Italy
Bold Brush, Juried Exhibition, Online
Red Juried Exhibition, Colors of Humanity Art Gallery, Online
- 2021 London Art Biennale Juried International Exhibition, 5th Edition, London, England
Gelbsy Art Project, Gelbsy Projects and Magazine, Canada
International Sculpture Center, KANEKO, Omaha, Nebraska
International Sculpture Center, Artsy Group Exhibit, Online
CollexArt, CollexArt Juried International Art Prize, Online
Sculptors Society Of Canada, Resurgence, Toronto, ON
International Sculpture Center, International Sculpture Day, Online
Muse Gallery, A New Day, Toronto, ON
- 2020 International Mail-Art-Competition – Tandem Humans-Corals, Köln, Germany
Beers London – Red Competition Juried Selection, London, UK
Artavita – Covid Dreams Juried Exhibition, Santa Barbara, CA
Muse Gallery – Group Exhibit, Toronto, ON
Light Space Time – Online Art Exhibition 10th Anniversary, Palm Springs, CA
Allied Artist Of America – 107th Annual Exhibition, New York, NY
The Lindsay Morris Memorial Award
Circle Foundation For The Arts - Circle Quarterly Art Review/An Examination of Current Trends
And Original Practices in Visual Art Juried Exhibition, Lyon, France
Publication/Featured Artist Award Winner
NYA Competition – Online Exhibition
International Sculpture Day, World Wide
The Artbox Project – Collective Installation/ Together We Are One
Swiss Art Expo Zurich, Switzerland
Nuit Blanche – Black School Desk Outdoor Installation, Toronto, ON

2019 Citizens of Craft Fusion Fireworks, Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, ON

2018 The Brain Project, Union Station, ON
 Lost, Gardiner Museum, ON
 Collective Show, Muse Gallery, ON
 The Artbox Project, The Stricoff Gallery, New York, NY
 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition 2017, Toronto City Hall, ON
 Fireworks 2017, Fusion, Museum London, London, ON
 Reflections of Us, Sculptor's Society of Canada, Toronto, ON
 Gallery, ON

2017 Small Works, Limn-er Gallery, Hudson, NY
 Kudos, The 2017 Art Kudos International Juried Online Exhibition
 Fireworks 2017, Rails End Gallery, ON
 The 49th Open International Juried Art Exhibition, Society of Canadian Artists,
 The Papermill
 The Artbox Project, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
 Craft Ontario '17 Juried Exhibition, Craft Ontario, Toronto, ON
 Ground Works, Shane Norrie Contemporary, Toronto, ON
 Come Undone, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON
 Group Exhibit, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON

2016 Toronto Potters Biennial Juried Exhibition 2016 Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON
 Revitalize, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON
 Warsaw Poland International Ceramic Photo Exhibition, Warsaw, Poland
 Official Launch Party of Lab Studio and Design/"Coming to Life" Project Gallery,

2015 Art Kudos International Juried Art Competition 2015
 Juried Biennial Exhibition – A Premier Showcase of Excellence, Carnegie Gallery
 A Premier Showcase of Excellence, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, ON
 Group Exhibition, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON

2014 Biennial Juried Exhibition, Toronto Potters, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON
 Failure to Thrive, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON

NOTEWORTHY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RECENT AWARDS

- Toronto Design Festival, Jurors Choice Award - Presented by Vessels and Sticks with Ashley Botten Design
- International Art Award, Collectors Art Prize in collaboration with Contemporary Art Collectors
- Leonardo da Vinci International Prize, Russo/Fondazione - Effetto Arte, National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci, Milan
- Harmony for Humanity, The Global Consciousness Art Prize, Contemporary Art Collectors
- The Lindsay Morris Memorial Award, Allied Artists of America
- CollexArt, CollexArt Juried International Art Prize, Profile Award
- Selected Featured Artist, Circle Foundation - The Arts
- Selected Featured Artist, Circle Foundation - The Arts Quarterly
- The Lindsay Morris Memorial Award, Allied Artist Of America
- Publication/Featured Artist Award Winner, Circle Quarterly Art Review
- Circle Foundation for the Arts Artist of the Year Award and Grant Finalist
- Brain Project People's Choice Award
- Scarborough Potters' Guild of Cedar Ridge Purchase Award Craft Ontario Award
- Gardiner Museum Award
- Craft Ontario Award
- Fusion Design Award
- Pottery Supply House Biennial Award Tuckers Award of Expression
- Pottery Supply House Award of Excellence Tuckers Award of Excellence
- Ontario Craft Council Award for Best Design L.L. Odette Sculpture Award
- L.L. Odette Sculpture Award
- Ontario Arts Council Award
- People's Choice Award for The Brain Project
- Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award for The Daily Bread Food Bank

EDUCATION

- George Brown College, Jewellery Design
- York University, Visual Arts Independent Studies
- York University, Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual)

AFFILIATIONS

- Executive Member of Sculptors Society of Canada
- Member of Fusion – Ontario Clay and Glass Association
- Member of Toronto Potters (2002 -2004 Executive Board Member)
- Member of International Sculpture Centre
- Member of Craft Ontario

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Sculpture Magazine, International Sculpture Center
95 Years and Still Going Strong, Sculptors Society of Canada
- 2023 5th International Prize Leonardo da Vinci, the Universal Artist, Effetto Arte Fondazione
Contemporary Celebrity Masters Volume 2, Effetto Arte Fondazione
Leaders and Protagonists of Art at Washington, Effetto Arte Fondazione
Divide Magazine Issue 2, ISSUU, Online
Contemporary Art Collectors Book, Volume One by Contemporary Art Collectors
Contemporary Celebrity Masters Volume 6, Effetto Arte Fondazione
- 2022 Marvelous Art Magazine Publication Issue 6
- 2021 London Art Biennale, 5th Edition 2020 Allied Artist of America – 107th Annual Exhibition
Spotlight Contemporary Art Magazine, Issue 27 CFA press, ISSUU
- 2020 Sculpture Magazine - International Sculpture Center
Circle Foundation - The Arts Quarterly Selected Featured Artists
- 2019 Fusion Fireworks, Canadianart.ca
- 2018 Artists, brainproject.ca
Circle Foundation, Spotlight Contemporary Art Magazine, Issue 7
Artist Eden Bender: Winner of the Yonge & St.Clair People's Choice Award,
- 2017 Society of Canadian Artists, Juried International Catalogue
Fireworks 2017, Biennial Juried Exhibition of Clay and Glass, Fusion Magazine
04 Living In Style, Beautiful Home by Studio Pyramid, Objekt International2
- 2016 Works of Art, toronto.com, Vicky Sanderson
Abode Magazine, Metroland Media
- 2014 500 Figures in Clay, Volume 2, Lark Books
- 2013 500 Teapots, Volume 2, Lark Books