

Brian Kakas



Sculptural Ceramic Vessels

Email: sculpture@briankakas.com

USA mobile: +1 610-790-5622

Website: www.briankakas.com

Current Position:

2015-Present Associate Professor of Ceramics, Northern Michigan University,
Marquette, MI

Previous Positions:

2011-2015 Assistant Professor of Ceramics, Northern Michigan University
2009-2011 Visiting Professor of Art, Xi'an University of Science and
Technology, Xi'an, China
2009-2011 Assistant Director of Artist Residency, FUTO Art Village, Fuping, China
2008-2009 Lecturer, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Australia
2007-2008 Program Director, Maryland Middle School Ceramic Art Program
Baltimore, MD
2004-2007 Lecturer, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Education:

2004-2007 MFA, Ceramics, The University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN
2000-2002 BFA, Ceramics, Magna Cum Laude, The University of Montana,
Missoula, MT
1998-2002 Maryland Institute College of Art, Ceramics, Baltimore, MD
1997-1998 Montgomery County Community College, Art History, Pottstown, PA

Awards:

2016 -Excellence in Teaching Award, Northern Michigan University
2015 -Honorable Mention, 2nd International Ceramics Biennale, Cluj Museum of
Ceramic Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2011 -Award of Excellence, "1st Kaolin Grand Prix for International Ceramic Arts",
Great China Museum, Jingdezhen, China
2009- Silver Prize, "5th World Ceramic Biennale", Icheon World Ceramic Center,
South Korea
2007 -Efroymsen Fund Emerging Graduate Artist Award, The Snite Museum of Art,
University of Notre Dame
2007 -Outstanding Teacher Award, Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning,
University of Notre Dame, 2007
2004 -Full Tuition Scholarship, The University of Notre Dame, MFA Program
2007 -"Best of Show" 29th Regional Juried Exhibition, Midwest Museum of American
2006 -"Best Sculpture" 28th Regional Juried Exhibition, Midwest Museum of Art, 2006
2005 -"Best Ceramics" 27th Regional Juried Exhibition, Midwest Museum of American
2006 -Graduate Research Grant, University of Notre Dame

Administrative Service:

Northern Michigan University

- 2019 Member, International SRA Task Force
- 2017-current Member, Project Innovation Fund (PIF) Committee
- 2015-current Chair of International Programs, School of Art & Design
- 2012-current Chair, Scheduling Committee, School of Art & Design
- 2016-2017 Secretary, Committee on Internationalization
- 2012-2016 Member, Committee on Internationalization
- 2011-Present Member, Various Search Committees

Marquette City / Chamber of Commerce

- 2016- 2019 Treasurer, Evolve MQT (creative industries grant management)

Professional:

- 2020` -Resident Artist, La Meridiana International Ceramic Academy, Tuscany, Italy
- 2020 -Workshop Instructor, Soda Firing/Sculpture Fabrication, La Meridiana International Ceramic Academy, Tuscany, Italy
- 2017 -Wood Kiln Design Workshop, Universitatea of Arte si Design, Cluj, Romania
- 2016 -Resident Artist, Gaya Ceramic Art Center, Bali, Indonesia
- 2016 -Workshop Instructor, Soda Kiln Design and Build, Gaya CAC, Indonesia
- 2014 -Resident Artist, LH Project, Joseph, Oregon
- 2013 -Resident Artist "Nature 8 Ways", Watershed Center for the Arts, Newcastle, ME
- 2013 -Demonstrator, Michigan Ceramic Art Association Conference, Saginaw, MI
- 2012 -Workshop Instructor, Large Scale Forms, Tulane University, New Orleans
- 2012 -Workshop Instructor, Modular Mold Constructions, St. Louis Community College, St. Louis, MO
- 2011 -Demonstrator, 45th National Council of Educations for the Ceramic Arts Conference, Tampa Bay, Florida, USA
- 2011 -Workshop Instructor, Masters Class – Mold Making, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, Illinois
- 2011 -Resident Artist, LH Project, Joseph, Oregon USA
- 2011 -Resident Artist and Instructor at Gaya Ceramic Art Center, Bali, Indonesia
- 2011 -Workshop Instructor, Touchstone Craft Center, Pennsylvania, USA
- 2010 -Sculptural Ceramics Workshop Instructor, Ceramics Victoria, Australia
- 2010 -Full Time Resident Artist at FuLe International Ceramic Center, China
- 2010 -Workshop Instructor, "Architectural Ceramics", Fuping Pottery Art Village, Fuping, China
- 2009 -Invited Guest Workshop Artist, All China Wood Fire Festival, China
- 2008 -Workshop Instructor, Modular Plaster Mold Making Techniques, RMIT University, Australia
- 2008 -Workshop Assistant-Printing on Clay Techniques w/ Suzanne Wolfe (Hawaii) Australia National University
- 2008 -Workshop Assistant-Clay and Glazes w/ Gail Nichols (Australia) Australia National University

- 2008 -Workshop Assistant-Alternative Slip Cast Vessels w/ Jereon Bechtold
(Netherlands) Australian National University
2002 –Resident Artist, Archie Bray Foundation Center for the Ceramic Arts

Lectures

- 2019 -Presentation “Holistic Pedagogy: Tactically Re-Thinking Foundations”,
FATE Conference, Columbus, OH
2013 -Artist Lecture, SUNY Plattsburgh, NY
2012 -Artist Lecture, “Pensive Intonations”, University of Art & Design Cluj-Napoca,
Cluj, Romania
2013 -Artist Lecture, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
2011 -Slide Presentation and Artist Lecture, Roswell Museum of Art, New Mexico
2010 -“Elements of Sculpture” Lecture, Xi’an Architecture University, Xi’an, China
2009 -Clay and Glaze Formulation Lecture, Maryland Institute & College of Art,
Baltimore, MD
2008 -Slide Presentation and Artist Lecture, Australian National University, Canberra,
Australia
2008 -Slide Presentation and Artist Lecture, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
2007 -Slide Presentation and Artist Lecture, Maryland Institute & College of Art,
Baltimore, MD
2007 -Artist Lecture, Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, Indiana
2006 -Artist Lecture, Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, Michigan.
2002 -Slide Presentation and Lecture, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, Montana.

Exhibitions:

* represents invitational

2019

- “5th International Ceramics Biennale”, Cluj Museum of Ceramic Art, Cluj-Napoca,
Romania
-“International Latvia Ceramic Symposium Exhibition”, Mark Rothko Art Centre,
Daugavpils, Latvia
-“Big Clay”, Buckham Gallery, Flint, MI*

2018

- “Works from the International Contemporary Ceramics Museum of Romania”,
Brancoveanu Palace, Mogosaia, Romania.*
-“Ceramic Masters Exhibition”, Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, MI*
-“Martinsons Award Competition”, Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia
- “ArtPrize 10, Turner Building, Grand Rapids, MI
-“Crossing the Straits”, Mackinaw Arts Council Gallery, Mackinaw Island MI*

2017

- “Craft Forms, 23rd International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Fine Craft”, Ethel
Sergeant Clarke Smith Gallery, Wayne Art Center, Juror: Nora Atkinson, Wayne, PA

- “Pensive Intonations”, solo exhibition, Matei Corvin House Gallery, Universitatea Arte si Design, Cluj, Romania*
- “3rd International Ceramics Biennale”, Cluj Museum of Ceramic Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- “Awards of Excellence Exhibition”, Bistrita Museum, Bistrita, Romania*
- “Essential Earth”, Davenport Gallery, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA*
- “Tectonic Perceptions”, Solo Exhibition, Finlandia University, Hancock, MI*
- “10th Annual North of the 45th Parallel”, DeVos Art Museum, Marquette, MI
- “Faculty Biennale”, Devos Museum of Art, Northern Michigan University, MI *

2016

- “Architectonics”, Gaya Ceramic Art Center, Bali, Indonesia*
- “Gaya Resident Artists Exhibit”, Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas, MO*
- “9th Annual North of the 45th Parallel”, DeVos Art Musuem, Marquette, MI
- “88th Muskegon Regional Exhibition”, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI
- ArtPrize 8, DeVos Pavillion, Grand Rapids, MI
- “Biomorphic” Galeria Galataea, Bucharest, Romania*

2015

- “2nd International Ceramics Biennale”, Cluj Museum of Ceramic Art, Cluj Napoca, Romania
- “Perspectives”, Bannister Gallery, Rhode Island College, 49th NCECA Conference Concurrent Independent Exhibition, Providence, RI
- “Above the 45th Parallel”, DeVos Museum of Art, Marquette, MI
- “Tectonic Perceptions”, Solo Exhibition, Peter White Library, Marquette, MI
- “Michigan Ceramics”, Traveling Exhibition - Dennon Museum of Art and Saginaw Art Museum, Saginaw and Traverse City, MI
- “Faculty Biennial Exhibition”, DeVos Museum of Art, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI

2014

- “LH Resident International Exhibition”, RBV Gallery, Portland, OR*
- “Jakarta 4th International Ceramics Biennale”, Museum of Contemporary Art, Jakarta, Indonesia*
- “Sculptors and Professors”, The Snite Museum of Art, Notre Dame, Indiana*
- “Pinch, Press, Slab, Coil”, Eutectic Gallery, Portland, OR*
- “Potsketch”, Missoula Clay Studio, Missoula, MT*

2013

- “International Ceramics Biennale”, Cluj Museum of Ceramic Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- “International Symposium Exhibition”, Brancoveanu Palace, Mogosaia, Romania *
- “Perspectives”, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI*
- “3rd Kaolin Grand Prix for International Ceramic Arts”, Great China Museum, Jingdezhen, China
- “Michigan Ceramics Arts Association Exhibition”, Delta College, Saginaw, MI*

- “Northern Exposure”, Bonifas Arts Center, Media Award, Escanaba, MI
- “Faculty Biennale” Devos Museum of Art, Northern Michigan University, Marquette *
- “Wood Fire Invitational”, Clay Studio of Missoula, Missoula, MT*
- “AIA Residents”, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Newcastle, ME*

2012

- “Ceramics Now International Exhibition”, Galaatea Gallery, Bucharest, Romania*
- “Northern Exposure”, Bonifas Art Center, Escanaba, MI
- “LH Project: Decade of Distinction”, 46th NCECA Conference, Seattle, WA*
- “Above the 45th Parallel”, DeVos Museum of Art, Marquette, MI
- “Grand Opening Gala”, Bilinear Arts - Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA*
- “A La cARTe”, BiLinear Arts - Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA*

2011

- “1st Kaolin Grand Prix for International Ceramic Arts”, Great China Museum, Jingdezhen, China
- “Ceramic Invitational”, A.L. Swanson Gallery, Helena, Montana*
- “12th Annual Ceramic Invitational”, Art Spirit Gallery, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho*
- “Pensive Intonations”, solo exhibition, GAYA CAC, Bali, Indonesia*
- “Works from the Permanent Collection”, World Ceramic Exposition Center, Incheon, South Korea*
- “Structural Ceramic Designs: Hull Series”, solo exhibition, Touchstone Center for Crafts, PA, USA

2010

- “Contemporary Cultural Exchanges”, Tang Daiman Palace, Tang Heritage Preservation Foundation, Xi’an, China*
- “American Ceramics”, Dao Art Space, Xi’an Museum of Art, Shaanxi, China*
- “Tectonic Perceptions”, solo exhibition, Bell Tower Cultural Center, Xi’an, Shaanxi, China

2009

- “5th World Ceramic Biennale 2009 Korea”, Silver Prize Award, Icheon World Ceramic Center, Kyonggi Province, Korea.
- “Tri City Wood Firing Festival Exhibition”, XYZ Gallery, 798 Arts District, Beijing, China.*
- “All China Wood Fire Festival”, Jia Pingao Museum, Xian University, School of Architecture, Xian, China.*
- “Gangjin International Ceramic Competition”, Gangjin, Korea. *

2008

- “Archie Bray Foundation Past and Present Resident Artists”, Galaxie Gallery- hosted by The Nevica Project, Chicago, Illinois.*

2007

- “Emerging Excellence - NCECA Graduate Student Exhibition”, Louisville, Kentucky.*
- “MFA Thesis Exhibition”, The Snite Museum of Art, Notre Dame, Indiana.*

2006

- “28th Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibit”, Awards: Best Sculpture, Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, Indiana.
- “Systemic Progression”, Solo Exhibition, Southwestern Michigan College, Dawogiac, Michigan. *
- “Bray International - Scholarship Benefit Auction”, Warehouse Gallery, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, Montana. *

2005

- “27th Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibit”, jurors: Nick Antonakis, Robin vanRooyen. Awards: Best Ceramics, Dr. Wesley Mark Purchase Award, Bollero Purchase Award. Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, Indiana.
- “Iconic Passage, NCECA: Tour De Clay National Exhibition”, Gallery G at the Beveled Edge, Baltimore, Maryland. *
- “It’s All Relative, Spring Exhibition”, Space 237, Toledo, Ohio. *

2004

- “New Faces”, Cross Roads Gallery, South Bend, IN.

2003

- “Archie Bray Foundation Scholarship Benefit Auction”, Helena, Montana. *

2002

- “Winter Showcase’, The Holter Museum of Art, Helena, Montana. *
- “Archie Bray Foundation: Current Resident Artists”, Lill Street Art Center, Chicago, Illinois. *
- “Archie Bray Foundation: Resident Artists in Spokane”, Kolva Sullivan Gallery, Spokane, Washington. *
- “Archie Bray Foundation Scholarship Benefit Auction”, Warehouse Gallery Helena, Montana. *
- “Archie Bray Resident Exhibition”, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, Montana.
- “Ceramic Exhibition”, The Sutton Gallery, Missoula, Montana. *
- “BFA Thesis Exhibition”, Gallery of Visual Arts, The University of Montana, Missoula, Montana.

Publications

- January 2018 issue Ceramics Monthly, page 17, www.ceramicmonthly.org
- Ceramics Now Magazine, Issue #2, 2012, Romania
- “Brian Kakas, Sculptural Ceramic Forms”, DVD Documentary produced by National Council of Education of Ceramic Arts, 2012

Selected Collections

Gaya Ceramic Art Center, Ubud, Indonesia
Ceramics Associata, Cluj, Romania
Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, Romania

Great China Museum, Jingdezhen, China
World Ceramic Exposition Center, Icheon, Korea
Fuping International Art Museums, Fuping, China
Xi'an University, School of Architecture, Xi'an, China
FuLe International Ceramic Art Museums, Shaanxi, China
Archie Bray Foundation Center for the Ceramic Arts, Helena, Montana
Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, Indiana
Flint Institute of Art, Flint, Michigan
Neeson Murcutt Architects Pty Ltd, Sydney, Australia
Iredale Pederson Hook Architects, Perth, Australia
McKinnion Design, Melbourne, Australia
Phillip Smith Conwell Architects, Queensland, Australia
Guida Moseley Brown Architects, Deakin, Australia
m3architecture Firm, Brisbane, Australia
Rowan Opat Architecture Firm, Sydney, Australia
Leigh Wooley Architecture Pty Ltd, Hobart, Tasmania
Dr. I Chi Hsu, Beijing, China
Julius Friedman, Louisville, Kentucky
Beth Lo, Missoula, Montana
Bill Kremer, Cassopolis, Michigan
Paul Kuharic, South Bend, Indiana
Dr. Wesley Mark, Elkhart, Indiana

Professional Associations

2005-present -CAA, College Art Association
1996-present -NCECA, National Council of Education in Ceramic Arts
2007-present -Ceramics Victoria
2001-present -Archie Bray Foundation Center for the Ceramic Arts
2011-Present -Michigan Ceramic Art Association
2017-Present - Marquette Chamber of Commerce