

Risa Hricovsky, MFA

Assistant Professor of Art

<https://cargocollective.com/hricovsky>

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 1st 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:

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

Artfields 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

1st 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