

# Karin Gulbran

## Biography

Karin Gulbran was born in Seattle, WA, in 1967. She currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Karin Gulbran is a prominent figure in California's avant-garde craft movement, known for her contribution to the field of ceramic sculpture. Over the course of 20 years, Gulbran has pioneered a new generation of artists characterised by their deliberately simple and classical forms decorated with pictorial narratives. Her work utilises gestural figuration, blending in recurring abstracted motifs inspired by nature, resulting in a distinctive visual language. Gulbran's artistic repertoire includes various elements, such as leaf and branch shapes, animals, and raindrops, showcasing her remarkable ability to create and convey her own symbolic language. The animal motif holds a profound significance in Gulbran's work. Her clay sculptures and painted vessels exude empathy as if the creatures themselves were nurtured into existence, forming an extended family that the artist revisits periodically. Gulbran's current body of work encompasses several ongoing series, including the Animal Pots and Fishbowls, the Sculptural Bird Vases, and her most recent venture, the Obscure Mirrors series, which seamlessly combines glass with ceramics. In this latter series, a monochrome coloured glass is encased within a glazed ceramic landscape adorned with small creatures, rocks, and flowers. These wall-hanging works come to life as daylight filters through the glass, creating subtle shifts in colour.

Gulbran's work is in the permanent collection of the TIA Collection, Santa Fe and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

### Solo exhibitions

#### 2022

2022 - Obscure Mirrors & Totemic Lamps , Pierre Marie Giraud, Bruxelles, Belgium, D

#### 2021

2021 - Somnambulist, MASSIMODECARLO, London, UK

#### 2018

2018 - Birds, Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, B. Catalogue

2018 - Weird Sisters, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

#### 2016

2016 - The Woods, Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, B

#### 2015

2015 - Splendor in the Grass, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles, USA

#### 2014

2014 - Karin Gulbran, White Room Show, White Columns, New York, USA

### Group exhibitions

**2023**

2023 - South Willard, Gordon Robichaux, New York, USA  
2023 - Wishing Well, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
2023 - Slip Tease, Kasmin, New York, USA

**2022**

2022 - The Earth Laughs, Ellen Browning Building, Portland, USA

**2021**

2021 - Cracked, Tristan Hoare, London, UK  
2021 - These lacustrine homes, curated by Mai-Thu Perret, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

**2020**

2020 - Sculpture from a Distance (Part III), Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

**2018**

2018 - Vision Valley: The Glendale Biennial, Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale, USA

**2017**

2017 - Behold Man, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles, USA  
2017 - The Brightsiders, curated by Adam Miller, Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, USA

**2016**

2016 - SexPot, curated by Monique van Genderen and Amy Gallaccio, Visual Arts Gallery, Structural and Materials Engineering (SME) Building, San Diego, USA

**2015**

2015 - The Avant-Garde Won't Give Up: Cobra and its Legacy, Blum and Poe, Los Angeles, USA  
2015 - Tiger Tiger, Salon 94, New York, USA  
2015 - Sweet Sixteen, China Art Object Galleries, Los Angeles, USA

**2014**

2014 - Another Cats Show, 365 Mission, Los Angeles, USA  
2014 - Visible Soul, Van Dernooy Gallery, Lesley University, Cambridge, USA

**2013**

2013 - Why is Everything the Same?, Works from the collection of Anne Collier and Matthew Higgs, Shoot the Lobster, New York, USA  
2013 - The Cat Show, curated by Rhonda Lieberman, White Columns, New York, USA  
2013 - Wonder Valley Way Station - High Desert Test Sites project by Corrina Peipon and Lucy Raven, The Palms, Wonder Valley, USA  
2013 - Pet Shapes, China Art Objects, Los Angeles, USA

**2012**

2012 - Eye Bowls Shop exhibit of ceramics, South Willard Store, Los Angeles, USA

**1999**

1999 - MFA Thesis Show, UCLA Wight Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
1999 - Bill Adams, Karin Gulbran, Joey Kotting, Jessica Fredericks gallery, New York, USA

**1998**

1998 - Square Pegs, Ron Breeden Gallery, Orange, USA  
1998 - Ordinary Magic, 9251/2 Tularosa, Silverlake, USA

# Bibliography

## 2015

Horst, Aaron. "Karin Gulbran at China Art Objects", *CARLA*, November 18 2015.

Wagley, Catherine. "Karin Gulbran: Splendor in the Grass", *LA Weekly*, December 2015.

## 1998

Curtis, Cathy . "Raw Talents", *LA Times*, March 10 1998.

Schoenkopf, Rebecca. "Awkward Is as Awkward Does", *OC Weekly*, March 6 1998.

# Public Collections

## **United States of America**

TIA Collection, Santa Fe