

## *A Shared Journey: The Barkan Contemporary Ceramic Collection at the RISD Museum*

September 13, 2025 - March 5, 2028

Remarkably versatile and available around the world, clay has been used by makers for thousands of years. This soft, malleable earth can be shaped into an infinite variety of objects, then transformed by heat into something hard and durable.

Yet, if you think about ceramics, what comes to mind? A teapot, or perhaps a plate? Clay—whether earthenware, stoneware, or porcelain—is typically used to make small functional objects. But why not create something big, bold, and sculptural from clay?

Artists working in the field of ceramics in the 1950s responded to this challenge in powerful and innovative ways. Peter Voulkos, who radically pushed clay beyond the functional, said, “Wielding clay is magic. The minute you touch it, it moves, so you’ve got to move with it. I always work standing up, so I can move my body around. I don’t sit and make dainty things.”

Made by nearly 40 artists, the objects in this exhibition present the undeniable embrace of clay as a viable medium for contemporary art. This trajectory continues to gather strength today. Paralleling artists’ expanding approach to ceramics, Hope and Mel Barkan developed a shared interest in sculptural ceramic forms as they built their collection, part of which they recently gave to the RISD Museum. Most of those works are shown here, along with contemporary examples from the museum’s collection.

Elizabeth A. Williams  
David and Peggy Rockefeller Curator of Decorative Arts and Design

RISD Museum is supported by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and with the generous partnership of the Rhode Island School of Design, its Board of Trustees, and Museum Governors.

### CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

#### Case 1

Tony Marsh  
b. 1954 in New York; works in Long Beach, California  
*Untitled*, 1997  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.23a-c**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Ron Nagle  
b. 1939; b. in and works in San Francisco  
*Untitled*, 1981  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.28



Ron Nagle  
b. 1939; b. in and works in San Francisco  
*Kimberly Timbers*, 2004  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.29



Richard Notkin  
b. 1948 in Chicago; works in Puget Sound, Washington  
*Heart Teapot: Metamorphosis IV*, from the *Yixing* series, 1999  
Stoneware  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.30ab



Annabeth Rosen (RISD faculty 1990–1991, Ceramics)  
b. 1957 in Brooklyn, New York; works in Davis, California  
*Untitled (Collage Plate with Dark Amber Leaves)*, 1997  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.35



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

### Case 2

Andrew Lord  
b. 1950 in Lancashire, England; works in New York  
*Two teapots in angled morning light. Black*, 1981  
Earthenware  
Gift of Susan Lorence **2011.102.3a-d**



Andrew Lord  
b. 1950 in Lancashire, England; works in New York  
*Jug and Dish in Electric Light, Curves/Inside Out*, 1984  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of William and Susan Kolodner **2019.28ab**



John Gill  
b. 1949 in Renton, Washington; works in Alfred, New York  
*Ewer*, 1978  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.52**



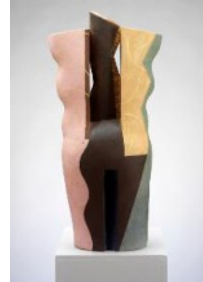
John Gill  
b. 1949 in Renton, Washington; works in Alfred, New York  
*Ewer*, 1978  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.51**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

### Case 3

Andrea Gill (RISD BFA 1971, Painting)  
b. 1948 in Newark, New Jersey; works in Alfred, New York  
*Vase*, 1984  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Chazan **1987.102**



Chris Gustin  
b. 1952 in Chicago; works in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts  
*Teapot*, 1988  
Stoneware with glaze  
Museum purchase with the aid of the National Endowment for the Arts  
and the Marken Scholes Shedd Memorial Fund **1989.002**



Wayne Bates  
b. 1943 in Georgia; works in Murray, Kentucky  
*Brushstroke Platter*, ca. 1985  
Earthenware with slip, glaze, and sgraffito decoration  
Gift of Larry Day and Ruth Fine in honor of William and Catherine Daley  
**2002.82.1**



### Case 4

Steven Branfman (RISD MAT 1975, Art Education)  
b. 1953 in Los Angeles; works in Needham, Massachusetts  
*Vessel*, 1994  
Raku-fired earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Chazan **2000.69**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

James Richard (Rick) Dillingham  
1952–1994; b. in Lake Forest, Illinois; worked in Santa Fe, New Mexico  
*Untitled*, 1984  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.10**



Anish Kapoor  
b. 1954 in Mumbai, India; works in London  
*Untitled*, 1993  
Porcelain and earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.19a-c**



Malene Müllertz  
b. 1949; b. in and works in Copenhagen  
*Untitled*, 2000  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.26**



Malene Müllertz  
b. 1949; b. in and works in Copenhagen  
*Rattle Sound*, 2008  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.27**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Beatrice Wood  
1893–1998; b. in San Francisco; worked in Ojai, California  
*Two Handled Chalice*, 1992  
Earthenware with luster glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.47



### Case 5

Alison Britton  
b. 1948 in London; works in Yorkshire, England  
*Pink Jar*, 1998  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.1



Lawson Oyekan  
British Nigerian; b. 1961; b. in and works in London  
*Passage Pot (Afe Ika Afi Eke) Saworo*, 1993  
Earthenware  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.31



Colin Pearson  
1923–2007; b. in London; worked in England  
*Untitled*, 1998  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.33



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Michael Cleff  
b. 1961; b. in and works in Bochum, Germany  
*Untitled*, 2000  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.5



Lis Ehrenreich  
b. 1953 in Denmark; works in Aarhus, Denmark  
*ALBARELLO*, 2003  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.12



Kenneth Ferguson  
1928–2004; b. in Elwood, Indiana; worked in Kansas City  
*Untitled (Hare Basket)*, 1980  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.13



Robert C. Turner  
1913–2005; b. in Port Washington, New York; worked in Alfred, New York  
*Ashanti*, 1982  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.44ab



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

### Case 6

Ron Nagle  
b. 1939; b. in and works in San Francisco  
*Untitled (Cup)*, 1981  
Earthenware with paint and glaze  
Marken Scholes Shedd Memorial Fund **81.062**



Phillip Maberry  
b. 1951 in Stamford, Texas; works in Santa Monica, California  
*Bowl*, 1981  
Porcelain with glaze  
Museum purchase: Edgar J. Lownes, Marken Scholes Shedd,  
Georgianna Aldrich Funds, Bequest of Taube Farnsworth and Lyra  
Brown Nickerson, by exchange **83.025**



Kathy Butterly  
b. 1963 in Amityville, New York; works in New York  
*The Snake Charmer*, 1996  
Porcelain with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.2**

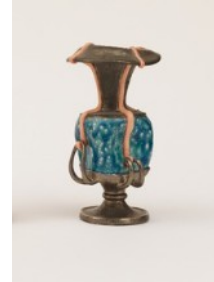


Rain Harris (RISD BFA 1997, Ceramics)  
b. 1969 in Oakland, California; works in Kansas City, Missouri  
*Green Three-Lobe Poison Bottle*, 2002  
Porcelain with glaze, pearl, and wire  
Daphne Farago Purchase Fund **2003.42**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Kathy Butterly  
b. 1963 in Amityville, New York; works in New York  
*Return from Venus*, 1995  
Porcelain with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.3**



Phillip Maberry  
b. 1951 in Stamford, Texas; works in Santa Monica, California  
*Untitled (PM-16-81)*, 1981  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.25**



Ken Price  
1935–2012; b. in Los Angeles; worked in California and New Mexico  
*California Cup*, 1991  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.34**



Beatrice Wood  
1893–1998; b. in San Francisco; worked in Ojai, California  
*Gold Balls on Gold Vase*, 1999  
Earthenware with luster glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.48**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Eunjung Park (RISD MFA 1999, Ceramics)  
b. 1971 in Korea; works in Seoul  
*Flower Tea Set*, 1999  
Porcelain with glaze  
Gift of Michele Lederberg **2025.51**



### Case 7

Anina Major (RISD MFA 2017, Ceramics)  
b. 1981 in Nassau, Bahamas; works in Provincetown, Massachusetts  
*Hybrid Gourd*, 2019  
Stoneware with glaze  
Mary Ann Lippitt Acquisition Fund **2022.8**



Chris Gustin  
b. 1952 in Chicago; works in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts  
*Untitled (Teapot)*, 1982  
Stoneware  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.15ab**



Irvin Tepper  
b. 1947 in St. Louis, Missouri; works in New York  
*Alert*, 1999  
Porcelain with pigment  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.42**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Irvin Tepper  
b. 1947 in St. Louis, Missouri; works in New York  
*New Beginnings*, 2004  
Porcelain with pigment  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.43**



Philip Cornelius  
1934–2015; b. in San Bernardino, California; worked in California  
*Teapot*, 1981  
Porcelain with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.6ab**



Jun Kaneko 金子潤 (RISD faculty 1973–1975, Ceramics and Glass)  
b. 1942 in Nagoya, Japan; works in Omaha, Nebraska  
*Untitled*, 1982  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.17**



Peter Voulkos  
1924–2002; b. in Bozeman, Montana; worked in California  
*Untitled*, 1962  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.45ab**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Peter Voulkos  
1924–2002; b. in Bozeman, Montana; worked in California  
*Elephant Foot*, 1985  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.49**



Kenneth Ferguson  
1928–2004; b. in Elwood, Indiana; worked in Kansas City  
*Teapot*, 1978  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan **2025.39.50ab**



### Case 8

Kathryn Sharbaugh  
b. 1948 in Norwich, Connecticut; works in Flint, Michigan  
*Suspension Climb Teapot*, 1988  
Porcelain with underglaze decoration  
Museum purchase with the aid of the National Endowment for the Arts  
and the Marken Scholes Shedd Memorial Fund **1988.068**



Ruth Duckworth  
1919–2009; b. in Hamburg, Germany; worked in Chicago  
*Untitled (Cup and Blade)*, 1988  
Porcelain  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Barnet Fain **1993.127**



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Babs Haenen  
b. 1948; b. in and works in Amsterdam  
*Troubled Walls*, 1996  
Porcelain with pigment and glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.16



Bodil Manz  
b. 1943; b. in and works in Copenhagen  
*Untitled*, 2006  
Porcelain with transfer print  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.21



Bodil Manz  
b. 1943; b. in and works in Copenhagen  
*Untitled*, 2006  
Porcelain with transfer print  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.22



### Case 9

Akio Takamori 高森昭夫  
1950–2017; b. in Nobeoka, Japan; worked in Seattle  
*Boy*, 1996  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.39



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Akio Takamori 高森昭夫  
1950–2017; b. in Nobeoka, Japan; worked in Seattle  
*High School Boy*, 1996  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.40



Akio Takamori 高森昭夫  
1950–2017; b. in Nobeoka, Japan; worked in Seattle  
*Boy Urinating*, 1997  
Stoneware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.41



## Case 10

Richard DeVore  
1933–2006; b. in Toledo, Ohio; worked in Michigan and Colorado  
*Untitled*, 1990  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.7



Richard DeVore  
b. in Toledo, Ohio; worked in Michigan and Colorado  
*Untitled*, 1993  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.8



## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Richard DeVore  
1933–2006; b. in Toledo, Ohio; worked in Michigan and Colorado  
*Untitled*, 1978  
Earthenware with glaze  
Gift of Hope and Mel Barkan 2025.39.9

