



A 2003 Offering

Karen Karnes

b. 1925

Karen Karnes is one of the foremost ceramic artists living in the United States today. She was a student at Black Mountain and Alfred, then studied with Bernard Leach and Soji Hamada starting in 1946. In the early '50s she returned as a resident potter. The avant-garde artists, Robert Rauschenberg, Peter Voulkos, and John Cage were among the many creative minds at Black Mountain College during this period.

She moved to Rocky Point, Long Island in 1954. For twenty-five years, she honed her skills in the traditional manner of pottery. She reveled in her role as the local potter because it allowed for personal relationships. She also taught at Long Island University at Southampton during this period. This simple way of life awarded her great pleasure with modest economic rewards.

In 1979 Karnes moved to Vermont

and began working in much larger scale "in response to her new open environment ... sculptural abstractions rooted in Modernism as they naturally evolved," - Daum Museum which describes the piece in their collection, "In this wood-fired piece by Karnes, the ash from the kiln has created a speckled effect which gives it a light and airy quality. The anthropo-morphic shape of this vessel lends a sensual quality. Light flows through the space of the vessel through a small opening in the center. Her work unmistakably remains grounded in the traditions of pottery even though her latest pieces are rooted in Modernism."

She remains as vital as ever, her work appears in *New Ceramics*, *Ceramics Today*, *Contemporary Ceramics* and her contributions are given extensive play in *A Century of Ceramics in the US* and *American Ceramics*.

A Few Awards & Museum Collections

1986, 45, 67 • SEP 1985, 41-42, 83 • JAN 1981, 45-48 • APR 1979, p 37 • MAR 1978, 32-35 • MAR 1976, 83, 85 • FE2000 Canton Museum of Art

1998 American Craft Council Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship 1998

1997 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts - Vermont Arts Council

1990 Medal for Excellence in Craft from the Society of Arts and Crafts

1988 Visual Arts Fellowship

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Everson Museum of Ceramics

Daum Museum of Art, Nancy, France

Just the coverage afforded her in one magazine, *Ceramics Monthly*, indicates her importance: "Celebrating Excellence" - Dec 1993, p 43 • "A Karen Karnes Workshop" - Jan 1981, p 45 • "Karen Karnes Retrospective" - Mar 1978, p 32 and • FEB 2001, p 16 • APR 1999, p 69 • DEC 1993, 43, 45 • MAY 1992, p 37 • MAY 1991, p 26 • FEB 1989, p 40 • APR 1988, p 57 • APR B 1976, p 44 • NOV 1975, p 52 • SEP 1974, p 25 • MAR 1973, p 49 • JAN 1973, p 43 • MAY 1970, p 32 • JAN 1968, p 23 • DEC 1964, p 22 • SEP 1960, p 22 • DEC 1958, p 12 • JUL 1956, p 31 • FEB 1954, p 25 • MAR 1953, p 32

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