
VIOLA FREY

1933 Born in Lodi, California
Studio in Oakland, California

EDUCATION

1953 Stockton Delta College, Stockton, California
1956 California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, California BFA
1958 Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana MFA

EXHIBITIONS

One Person

2003 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
1999 Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Esprit Wall and Glove, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1998 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
1997 Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
1996 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
Carin Delcout Van Krimpen, Amsterdam
1994 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
Viola Frey: Plates 1968-1994, the Butler Institute of American Art,
Youngstown, Ohio (traveling exhibition)
1993 Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
1992 Fresno Museum of Art, Fresno, California (catalogue)
Crocker Museum of Art, Sacramento
Asher / Faure Gallery, Los Angeles
Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
1991 Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
1990 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
(catalogue)
1989 Nancy Hoffman Gallery, San Francisco (catalogue)
Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
1988 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
1987 Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Viola Frey: A Bricoleur of the 20th Century, Pacific Bell,
San Ramon, California
1986 Asher Faure Gallery, Los Angeles
1985 *Viola Frey*, Rena Bransten Quay Gallery, San Francisco

- 1984 *It's All Part of the Clay: Viola Frey*, Goldie Paley Gallery,
Moore College of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
(catalogue and traveling exhibition)
Asher / Faure Gallery, Los Angeles
- 1983 Quay Gallery, San Francisco (catalogue)
Viola Frey, The Charles H. Scott Gallery, Emily Carr
College of Art, Granville Island, Vancouver, Canada
- 1982 *Viola Frey: figures*, California State University, Fullerton
Mark Twain Bank, Kansas City, Missouri
- 1981 *Viola Frey: A Retrospective*, originating at the Crocker Art Museum,
Sacramento (catalogue and traveling exhibition)
- 1980 Quay Gallery, San Francisco
- 1977 Wenger Gallery, La Jolla, California
- 1975 Hank Baum Gallery, San Francisco
Hank Baum Gallery, San Francisco
- 1974 Wenger Gallery, San Francisco

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 *Life Taking Shape: Ceramics from the Alfred Milrad Collection*, Gardiner
Museum of Ceramic Art, Toronto, CA
- 2001 *Poetics of Clay: An International Perspective*, Philadelphia Art Alliance,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Rooms with a View: Works from the Permanent Collection, Long Beach Museum
of Art, Long Beach, California
- 2000 *Color and Fire: Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950-2000*, Los Angeles
County Museum of Art
Made in California: Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000, Los Angeles County
Museum of Art
Conjunction: The Melba and Al Langman Collection, Long Beach Museum of Art
- 1999 *Toronto Collects Contemporary Ceramics*, The George R.
Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Toronto, Canada
Art & Industry: Contemporary Porcelain from Sevres,
American Craft Museum, New York
- 1996 *Six from California*, Frank Lloyd Gallery, Santa Monica
Narcissism: Artists Reflect Themselves,
California Center for the Arts Museum, Escondido
From The Figure, Carl Scholsberg Fine Arts, Sherman Oaks, California
Ceramic Sculpture from the East Bay, California State University,
Hayward
Vessels, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, California
- 1994 *The Women's Mentor Show*, San Francisco Art Commission Gallery,
Interiors, Champion International Corporation, Stamford, Connecticut
- 1993 *Summer Exhibition*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, California
*Modernism: Craft Breakthrough in Northern California,
1950-1975*, California Crafts Museum, San Francisco

- Majolica*, Jane Harsook Gallery, Greenwich House Pottery, New York,
20 Years, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 1992 *The Figure: Two Bay Area Artists: Christopher Brown And
Viola Frey*, Johnson County Community College, Gallery of Art,
Overland Park, Kansas (brochure)
Espirit Sculpture Park, San Francisco
Large scale installation with Dennis Gallagher
Cross Section, Battery Park, New York
*From Plastic Form to Printer's Plate: 16 Contemporary
Sculptors / Printmakers*, California College of Arts and Crafts,
Oakland
Sculptor's Drawings, Linda Farris Gallery, Seattle
Works on Paper: The Craft Artists as Draftsman, Renwick Gallery
of the National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1991 *Experiencing Sculpture: The Figure in American Art*,
Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York
Smith Collects Contemporary, Smith College Museum of Art,
North Hampton, Massachusetts
de-Persona, The Oakland Museum
Selections from the Dirosa Collection, Redding Museum and Art
Center, Redding, California
Selections from the Permanent Collections, Whitney Museum
of American Art, New York
Diverse Directions, Transamerica Pyramid, San Francisco
Reprise, Phyllis Roth Gallery, Fairleigh Dickinson University,
Madison, New Jersey
National Objects International, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
Black And White, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts
- 1990 *Works on Paper*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
Walls Large Scale Ceramic Sculpture, Eight Variations,
Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University, Logan, Utah
(catalogue)
Functional Fantasy, Transamerica Pyramid, San Francisco
Oakland's Artists '90, The Oakland Museum
American Ceramic Sculpture, The National Museum of Ceramic Art,
Baltimore, Maryland
American Craft Museum: Building a Permanent Collection,
American Craft Museum, New York, New York
Drawings by Sculptors, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Eight Ceramic Artists, The Artium Gallery. School of Fine Arts,
University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut
Inaugural Sculpture Exhibition, Gateway Complex,
The Prudential Services Company, Newark, New Jersey
National Drawing Invitational, The Arkansas Arts Center,
Little Rock

- Pygmalion: The Female Form in Sculpture*, Phyllis Rothman Gallery, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, New Jersey
- 1989 *Collector's Exhibition*, The Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
- The Figures*, The Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
- Craft Today: U.S.A.*, Organized by the American Craft (traveling exhibition)
- American Pop Culture Today III*, La Foret Museum, Koto-Ku, Japan
- Ceramics Traditions: Figuration*, Palo Alto Cultural Center, Palo Alto, California
- 30 Ceramic Sculptors*, Natsoulas Noveloza Gallery, Davis, California
- Summer Pleasures: Water*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Rain Of Talent: Umbrella Art*, The Fabric Workshop, Philadelphia
- The Figure as Subject*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
- Surreal Ceramics*, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
- 1988 *The Figure and Clay*, Pewabic Potter, Detroit, Michigan
- Bronze Works*, Memorial Union Art Gallery, University of California at Davis
- Heroics*, Walter Phillips Gallery, The Banff Centre, The School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta, Canada
- Manufacture de Sevres*, Atelie Experimental de Recherche et de Creation, Hall du Centre National des Arts Plastique, Paris
- Urban Figures*, Whitney Museum of American Art at Phillip Morris, New York
- Just Like a Woman*, Greenville County Museum of Art, South Carolina
- An Evening of Contemporary Art at the Bayly*, Bayly Art Museum, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- East Side/West Side*, Helander Gallery, Palm Beach, Florida
- Columnar*, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York
- Classical Myth and Imagery in Contemporary Art*
- The Queens Museum, Flushing, New York
- Portraits: Here's Looking at You*, Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Anchorage, Alaska
- California Crossroads*, Koll Company, Newport Beach, California
- Not so Naïve: Bay Area Artists & Outsider Art*, San Francisco Craft and Folk Museum, San Francisco
- 1987 *Quatre Americans a la Manufacture de Sevres*, American Center, Paris
- American Ceramics Now: The 27th Ceramic National Exhibition*
- Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York
- California Figurative Sculpture*, Palms Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California (catalogue)
- The Bay Area Collects: A Focus on Sculpture*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
- Imaginary Acquaintances: Contemporary Sculpture And Paintings of People*, 101 California Lobby Gallery and the Airports Commission Gallery, San Francisco

- Figurative Clay '87*, University Center Gallery, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Edwardsville, Illinois
Works on Paper, Joe and Emily Lowe Art Gallery, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
Sculptors' Drawings, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho and California State University, Sonoma, California
Clay Revision: Plate, Cup and Vase, Seattle Art (traveling exhibition, through 1989)
Bay Area Drawing, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, California
Bay Area Artists – Small Works Invitational, Janet Steinberg Gallery, San Francisco
The Eloquent Object, Philbrook Art Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma (traveling exhibition, catalogue)
Biennale de Chateauroux, Marie de Chateauroux, France
Contemporary American Drawings, Wake Forest University Fine Arts Gallery, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- 1986 *Featured Artists of N.C.E.C.A. 1986*, Southwest Craft Center, San Antonio, Texas
Seven Dials Gallery, London
Contemporary American Studio Pottery: An Overview, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
New Views: Works In Clay and Bronze, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
CCAC Faculty Show: Works in Ceramics, Fiber, Glass, Metal, And Wood, Victor Fischer Galleries, Oakland
West Coast Clay, Walnut Creek Civic Arts Gallery, California
Inez Storer & Viola Frey, Site 311, Pacific Grove, California
Material and Metaphor: Contemporary American Ceramic Sculpture, Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, (catalogue)
Second Newport Biennial: The Bay Area, Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, California (catalogue)
Celebrating Women, Jewish Hospital at Washington University Medical Center (catalogue)
Craft Today: Poetry of The Physical, American Craft Museum, New York, (traveling exhibition, catalogue)
Painters Who Sculpt, Palo Alto Cultural Center, California
Collector's Gallery Xx, McNay Art Institute, San Antonio, Texas
Painting and Sculpture Today: 1986, Indianapolis Museum of Art
Summer Group Show, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Works on Paper, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 1985 *The Figure in Ceramics*, Rathbone Gallery, Russell Sage College, Albany, New York
California Sends Her Best, Morgan Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
In The Eye of the Beholder, College Art Gallery, The College at New Paltz, State University of New York, New Paltz (catalogue)
Fired Clay: Vessels and Image, Greenberg Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri

- C.C.A.C. Faculty Show*, Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, California
American Clay Artists: Philadelphia '85, Port of History Museum
Surface/Function/Shape: Selections from the Earl Millard Collection, University Center Gallery, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Edwardsville, Illinois (catalogue)
Past Models, Future Shapes, Sun Valley Center Gallery, Idaho
Menagerie: Animal Images by Contemporary Artists, San Francisco International Airport
Art in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-1980, The Oakland Museum, (book)
- 1984 *M. Lee Fatherree: Photographs of Artists*, Bank of America concourse Gallery, San Francisco
Recent Ceramic Sculpture, University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (catalogue)
Winter Solstice, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Asher Faure Gallery, Los Angeles
Ceramic Sculptors: Sculpture & Drawings, Weil Gallery, Corpus Christi State University, Corpus Christi, Texas
Art of the States: Works from a Santa Barbara Collection, Santa Barbara Museum of Art (catalogue)
Contemporary Ceramic Vessels - Two Los Angeles Collections: The Betty Asher Collection; The Howard and Gwen Laurie Smits Collection, Baxter Art Gallery, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California
Figurative Sculpture: Ten Artists/Two Decades, University Art Museum, California State University – Long Beach, (catalogue)
Directions in Contemporary American Ceramics, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, (catalogue)
A Passionate Vision: Contemporary Ceramics From the Daniel Jacobs Collection, DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska (catalogue)
Platters and Related Forms, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, (traveling exhibition, catalogue)
Here and Now: Fatimah &/Or Fred?, Greenville County Museum of Art, South Carolina
American Sculpture: Three Decades, Seattle Art Museum,
The 20th Century: The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, (book)
- 1983 *Statements*, Craftsmen's Gallery, Omaha, Nebraska
College of Arts and Crafts: Faculty, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Small Figures, Garth Clark Gallery, Los Angeles
A Personal View/Selections From The Joan Manheimer Ceramic Collection, University of Missouri, Kansas City
Narrative Ceramics, Impressions Gallery, Boston

- Ceramic Echoes*, Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri
(catalogue)
- California Clay Works*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art,
Nuclear Age: Tradition and Transition, Phoenix Art Museum
The Raw Edge: Ceramics of the '80's, Hillwood Art Gallery,
Long Island University, Greenvale, New York (catalogue)
Faculty Exhibit – '83, Cohen Gallery, Denver, Colorado
December Exhibition, Quay Gallery, San Francisco
*Contemporary Clay Sculpture: Selections from the Daniel
Jacobs Collection*, Hecksher Museum, Huntington, New York
- 1982 *Art and/or Craft: U.S.A. & Japan*, Hokuriku Hosokawa Kaikan,
MRO Gallery, Japan (catalogue)
College of Arts and Crafts: Faculty, Richmond Art Center,
Richmond, California
Northern California Narrative Sculpture, Jennifer Pauls Gallery,
Sacramento
It Figures, Trans America Pyramid, San Francisco
Painterly Ceramics, College of Notre Dame, Delmont, California
Collectors Weekend, American Craft Museum, New York
West Coast Ceramic Artists, San Jose State University, California
Three Dimensions: Clay, Glass, Fiber, The Katonah Gallery,
Katonah, New York
Narrative Ceramics, Impressions Gallery, Boston, Maryland
Clay Bodies/Autio, Destaebler & Frey, Maryland Institute,
College of Art, Baltimore (catalogue)
Pacific Currents: Ceramics 1982, San Jose Museum, California
(catalogue)
Figurative Clay, Quay Gallery, San Francisco (catalogue)
100 Years of California Sculpture, Oakland Museum, (catalogue)
- 1981 *The Clay Figure*, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York
Sculpture and Clay, Walter Phillip's Gallery, Banff School of Fine Arts,
Banff, Alberta, Canada
- 1980 *Wedgewood Invitational*, Buten Museum of Wedgewood,
Merion, Pennsylvania (catalogue)
- 1979 *Century of Ceramics in the United States*, Everson Museum,
Syracuse, New York (catalogue)
- 1978 *Soap Box Derby*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- 1977 El Camino College, El Camino, California (catalogue)
Ceramics Invitational, Sacramento
Overglaze Imagery; Cone 019-016, Art Gallery, California State
University, Fullerton (catalogue)
Grossmont College, El Cajon, California (catalogue)
- 1974 *Baroque*, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York
- 1973 *Oakland Myths*, Wenger Gallery, San Francisco
- 1968 *Media '68*, Walnut Creek Art Center, Walnut Creek, California
California Design, University of California Davis

- Craft Show*, Zellerbach, San Francisco, California
Faculty Show, California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland
College Of Notre Dame, Belmont, California
Lincoln Square Gallery, Oakland, California
- 1967 *Crafts Today, I*, Museum West, San Francisco
Phelan Competition, Legion of Honor, San Francisco
Contemporary Crafts, Portland
- 1966 *Hansen Gallery*, Walnut Creek, California
Walnut Creek Festival, Walnut Creek, California
Lincoln Square Gallery, Oakland, California
San Francisco Art Festival
College Of Holy Names, Oakland
San Francisco Potters, De Young Museum
- 1965 *Crocker Invitational*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento
San Francisco Potter, De Young Museum
Borkeramic Gallery, Chicago
- 1964 *San Francisco Art Festival*
California State Fair, Sacramento
Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond, California
- 1963 *Emergence*, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York
California State Fair, Sacramento
Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond, California
- 1962 *California State Fair*, Sacramento
San Francisco Potters, De Young Museum
Walnut Creek Art Festival, Walnut Creek, California
Richmond Art Center, Richmond, California
Crocker Art Gallery, Sacramento
Hansen Gallery, Walnut Creek, California
Young Americans, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York
- 1961 *California Craftsmen Biennial*, Oakland
California State Fair, Sacramento
San Francisco Art Festival
American Craftsmen, University of Illinois at Urbana
San Francisco Potters, De Young Museum

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Archer M. Huntington Gallery, Austin, Texas
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, New York
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York
Fresno Museum of Art, Fresno, California
The Israel Museum of Art, Jerusalem, Israel
Judisches Museum, Frankfurt, Germany
Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California
Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford University,
California

Matthew Center Art Collection, Arizona State University,
Tempe

Museum of Modern Art, Lodz, Poland

Newport Art Museum, Newport Beach, California

Oakland Museum of Art, Oakland, California

Sak's Fifth Avenue Corporation, New York

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Seattle Museum of Art, Washington

Skirball Museum, Los Angeles

Victoria and Albert Museum, London