

FERRIN

CONTEMPORARY



RAE STERN

Statements

ON HER WORK

I strive to serve as a witness, documenting elusive human phenomenon. By emulating the anonymous makers throughout history, I produce objects that can serve as evidence of global and personal experiences of this era. These artifacts seek to reveal the idiosyncrasies in contemporary human interaction. They embrace the potential of connection and expose its limits. My process combines traditional and industrial techniques that serve the concept. Often, I source imagery and manipulate it to tie the concept with the form. The imagery functions as bait, luring the viewer with a familiarity that is later exposed as merely an illusion.

ON NATURE/NURTURE

Spending time at American art residencies has impacted my professional growth in unpredictable ways. Coming from a non-ceramic background, residencies allowed me to immerse myself in open-end exploration and experimentation with the medium. As an immigrant, spending time at these unique transient ecosystems offered an opportunity to build a professional network despite having graduated from a foreign school. One of the best experiences was the recent year-long residence at Belger Arts, KC, MO, during which I created the exhibition "Rae Stern: In Fugue". The close mentorship from Evelyn Craft-Belger and the Belger Arts team was an empowering vote of confidence in my conceptual body of work as well as an unparalleled opportunity to step up the scope and technical complexity of my work.

ON "Steve Sherry: Not old friends but good friends"

The touch sensitive photographic lithophanes portrays the pre-war images of Steve's parents, Otto and Lili Serebrenik. The three managed to escape Nazi Austria with the help of near strangers who sponsored their immigration to the United States. During one of our conversations, Steve described the American couple as "not old friends, but good friends". I often think of this statement and of how profoundly impactful we can be on each other's lives, even as strangers.



Steve Sherry: Not old friends but good friends,
2019, ceramic, digital components.
Portrait courtesy of Saj Issa.
Photo courtesy of John Polak Photography.