



## MARA SUPERIOR:

Private Collections, Artist Archives, and  
Works from the Studio

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Our 2026 summer catalog of available works by Mara Superior spans 1985-2026 and features selected works featured in her 2025 solo exhibition, *Porcelain Love Letters: The Art of Mara Superior* at Shelburne Museum (Shelburne, VT). Curated by Kory Rogers, Francie & John Downing Senior Curator of American Art at Shelburne Museum, these master works were drawn from Superior's archive collection, private collections, and recently created in her studios. They celebrate the breadth of Superior's ceramic practice exploring themes based in art history, social commentary, the home and garden on platters, teapots and sculpture.

All works were produced in studios at home in Williamsburg, MA and at East Street Clay Studio in Hadley, MA. All photography by John Polak courtesy of Ferrin Contemporary.

# ABOUT MARA SUPERIOR

Artist Mara Superior is known for her sculptural porcelain works that blend fine art with the decorative arts. Her high-relief platters and intricate objects feature painterly motifs that explore themes ranging from domestic life to cultural, political, and environmental issues. Superior's work offers thoughtful commentary on contemporary culture through a historical lens. Superior has received numerous awards including a National Endowment for the Visual Arts Fellowship, the prestigious Guldaggergård Residency in Denmark, and numerous individual artist grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Superior has had solo exhibitions at Shelburne Museum (Mara Superior: Porcelain Love Letters, 2025, Shelburne, VT), the New Britain Museum of American Art (Mara Superior: A Retrospective, 2006, New Britain, CT), Fuller Museum of Art, (Souvenirs D'Italia, 2003, Brockton, MA), DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum (New England Artists Series, 1991, Lincoln, MA), and featured in numerous curated shows including A Golden Age for Whom? In 2026 (Figge Art Museum, IA) and Portland Vase: Mania and Muse (Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA 2024). Her work can be found in over 20 American museums including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, DC), the Museum of Arts and Design (New York, NY), the Peabody Essex Museum (Salem, MA), Philadelphia Museum of Art

(Philadelphia, PA), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles, CA), White House Collection of American Craft (Little Rock, AK), and Shelburne Museum (Shelburne, VT). In 2018, through the generous support of the Kohler Foundation, gifts of art by Mara Superior were made to fifteen museums throughout the USA. This increased the public holdings of Superior's artworks and created an in depth study collection at the Racine Art Museum, (Racine, WI). This collection was exhibited in 2020 in Collection Focus: Mara Superior and published in a fully illustrated catalog. In 2010 she was interviewed for the oral history program of the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art, (Washington, DC).

Superior studied at the Pratt Institute and Hartford Art School, completing her BFA in painting from the University of Connecticut followed by a MAT in ceramics from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She is represented by Ferrin Contemporary.

# PORCELAIN LOVE LETTERS: The Art of Mara Superior

Artist Mara Superior has a deep love for porcelain—a dedication that compels her to work with this ancient and often unpredictable material. She works with slab construction and fires her pieces in a high-temperature reduction atmosphere, techniques that make the process even more challenging and increase the risk of warping or breakage.

Trained as a painter, Superior discovered the beauty and creative possibilities of porcelain in the late 1970s. Since then, she has focused entirely on this bright but delicate material, appreciating both its fragility and its strength. She describes porcelain as a “magical three-dimensional canvas,” where she carefully paints detailed, whimsical images and adds sculpted designs to create pieces that are both visually striking and rich with meaning.

Superior’s art draws inspiration from many sources, including Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, illuminated manuscripts, Renaissance art, historical ceramics, and Americana. She blends these influences to create her distinctive and romantic style. Each piece feels like a love letter to the world—reflecting her deep affection for home, good food, the environment, and her country.

This exhibition showcases a wide range of Mara Superior's work, from her early explorations to her latest creations. It features commissioned pieces from private collections along with deeply personal works from her own home—many of which have never been shown before. Superior considers the works on view here some of her most treasured pieces, demonstrating both her artistic skill and creative imagination.

–*Porcelain Love Letters: The Art of Mara Superior*, Catalog essay, Shelburne Museum



***Birth of Venus (After Sandro Botticelli, c. 1484–1486)***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze, gold leaf, epoxy, digital print

2021

17.5 x 14 x 2"

18000.00

MSupe-42604



***The Nymph of Spring (After Lucas Cranach The Elder, 1540-45)***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze, gold leaf, epoxy, digital print

2021

12.5 x 18.5 x 1.5"

18000.00

MSupe-42606



***Polar Distress***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

2021

16 x 16 x 2.5"

10000.00

MSupe-42605

**Environment**



### **Only One Planet Earth**

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze,  
gold leaf

2019

16 x 16 x 1.5"

7500.00

MSupe-39437

**Environment**



## **Le DoDo**

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

2019

16 x 16 x 2"

7000.00

MSupe-39516

**Environment**



***Summer House – June Platter***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

2022

14.5 x 18 x 1.5"

6500.00

MSupe-42889

**House & Garden**



***My June Garden***

high-fired porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglaze, glaze

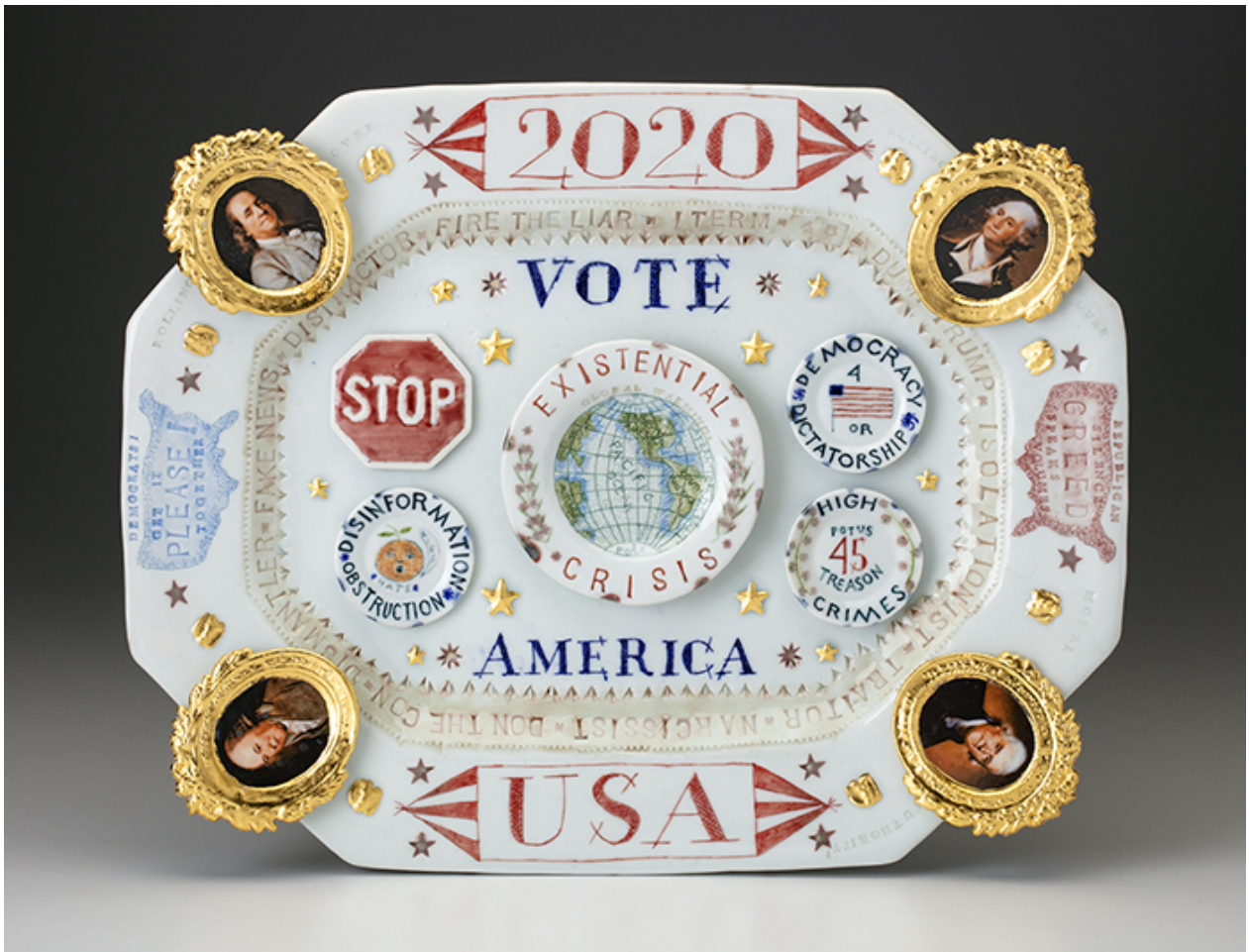
2018

16 x 16 x 2.25"

5500.00

MSupe-38430

**House & Garden**



**2020/USA/Vote/America**

high-fired porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglaze, glaze, ceramic decals, gold leaf

2019

13 x 16.25 x 2"

10000.00

MSupe-39434

**Political**



**July 4th**

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze, gold leaf

2016

12.5 x 12.5 x 1.5"

4500.00

MSupe-36170

**Political**



***I Want to Go Home! – Lady Liberty (After Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi,***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze,  
gold leaf

2024

9.5 x 6.5 x 1.25"

4500.00

MSupe-44203

**Political**



**Trust**

high fired English porcelain, gold leaf

2025

10.25"

3000.00

MSupe-45135

**Political**



**Truth**

high fired English porcelain, gold leaf

2025

10.25"

3000.00

MSupe-45136

**Political**



**Ethics**

high fired English porcelain, gold leaf

2025

10.25"

3000.00

MSupe-45137

**Political**



### ***Democracy – Mend/Repair***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze,  
gold leaf, gold thread

2024

20.5 x 7.75 x 1.25" (platter)

6500.00

MSupe-44205

**Political**



**Presidential Cup (Franklin Delano Roosevelt)**

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

2010 - 2023

15 x 25 x 7.5" (set); 4.5 x 7.25 x 2.5" (cup)

2500.00

MSupe-35783



**Presidential Cup (George Washington)**

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

2010 - 2023

4.5 x 7.25 x 2.5"

2500.00

MSupe-43928

**Political**



### ***Presidential Cup (Abraham Lincoln)***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

2010 - 2023

4.5 x 7.25 x 2.5"

2500.00

MSupe-43932

**Political**



### ***A Home Comfort – A Retreat***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze,  
wood, faux marble paint, brass pins

1988

Pot: 19 x 25 x 6", Base: 24 x 9 x 4"

25000.00

MSupe-44724

**Teapot, House & Garden**



### **A Cocoa-Pot**

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

1988

Pot: 19 x 14.5 x 5.5" Base: 16 x 9 x 1.5"

25000.00

MSupe-44726

**Teapot, House & Garden**



### ***A Teapot – Hot Tea***

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

1985

10 x 14 x 14.5"

20000.00

MSupe-44710

**Teapot, House & Garden**

20



**Evergreens**

high-fired English porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglazes, Cornwall Stone glaze

1985

Pot: 16 x 18 x 3.5" Base :14.25 x 9 x 1.5"

20000.00

MSupe-44716

**Teapot, House & Garden**



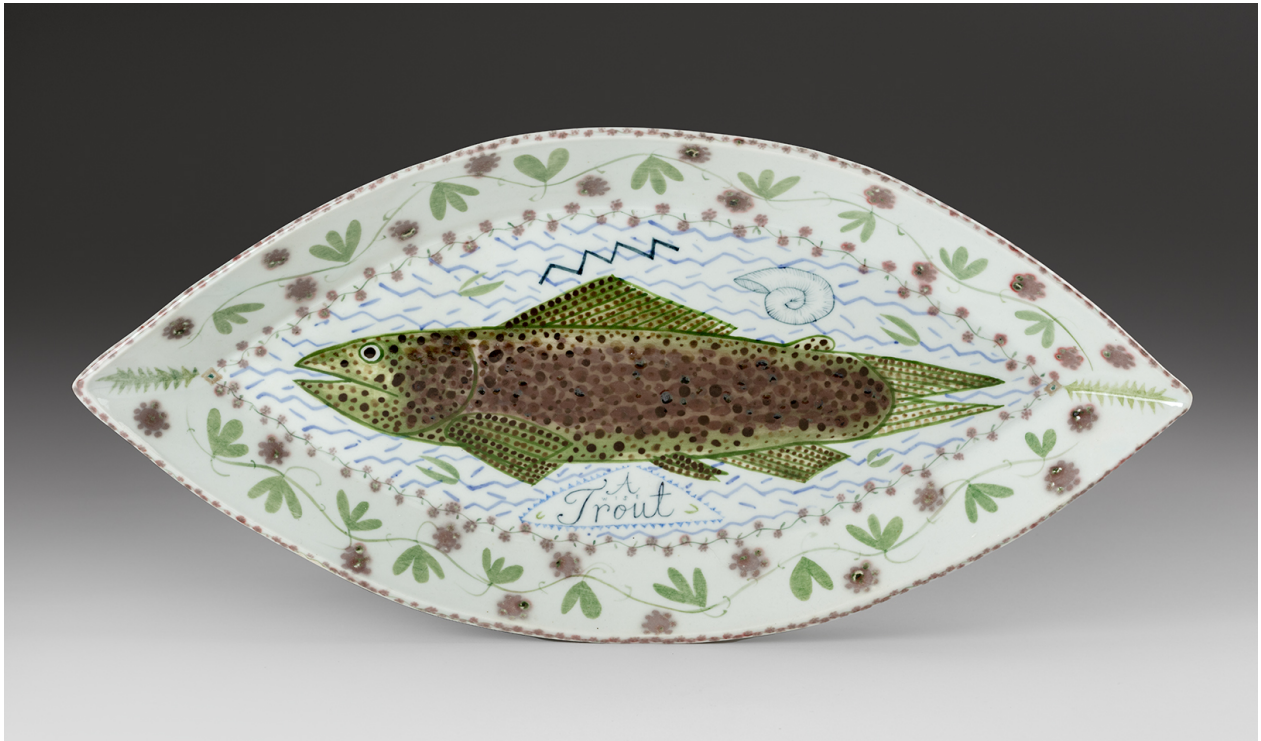
**Trout Vase**

Porcelain

1987

17x9x5"

MSupe-45218



### ***A Wise Trout Platter***

high-fired porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglaze, glaze

2022 - 2024

20.25" x 9.5" x 1.5"

4500.00

MSupe-44482



### ***Striped Bass***

high-fired porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglaze, glaze

2022

20.25 x 9.5 x 2"

4000.00

MSupe-43487



**Mallard - Fish (Cylinder Vase)**

Porcelain, slip, glaze

1982

8.5 x 7 x 7.5"

2500.00

MSupe-44750