



MARA SUPERIOR

(b. 1951, New York, NY,
lives and works in Williamsburg, MA)

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 Guldaggersgård 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 (Figue 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.



"The Pursuit of Happiness", 2012-2014, high-fired porcelain, ceramic oxides, underglaze, glaze, glaze, wood, gold leaf, brass, bone, paper, 27.5 x 25 x 20"