

6 ceramic sculpture exhibitions not to miss

By Charles Desmarais

The increased interest in ceramic sculpture among artists has seen a corresponding expansion of offerings in Bay Area art galleries, from introductions of new artists to rediscoveries of historic figures. Here are six long-running museum exhibitions of special note, in chronological order.

“Kathy Butterly: ColorForm”: The New York sculptor returns to her alma mater for an evaluation of works the New Yorker magazine called “furiously charming,” and a review of her post-UC Davis career of more than a quarter century. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Through Dec. 29. Free. Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, UC Davis, 254 Old Davis Road, Davis. (530) 752-8500. <https://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu>

“Viola Frey: Center Stage”: An innovator whose career was too often overshadowed by the art world’s attention to “men’s men” like Peter Voulkos and Robert Arneson, Frey is now acknowledged for her unique feminist vision and extraordinary technical skill. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Through Dec. 29. \$15-\$18; free 17 and under. Di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, 5200 Sonoma Hwy., Napa. 707-226-5991. dirosaart.org

“Annabeth Rosen: Fired, Broken, Gathered, Heaped”: CJM’s presentation is the third and final venue of this major exhibition’s national tour. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursdays-Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays. Thursday, July 25-Jan. 19. \$14-\$16; free 18 and under. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., S.F. 415-655-7800. <https://thecejm.org>



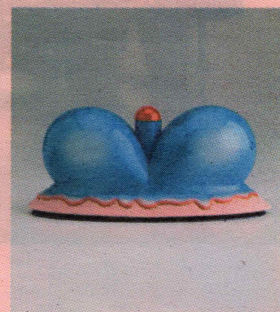
Michael Macor / The Chronicle 2004



Wasson Collection / James Cohan Gallery



Courtesy Annabeth Rosen



UC Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive

Clockwise from top: Viola Frey with one of her dramatic feminist statements in 2004. Ron Nagle, “The Bad Clown,” 2003. Annabeth Rosen, “Droove,” 2012. Kathy Butterly, “Solid Stand,” 2016.

“Woody De Othello”: “I’m still an avid cartoon-watcher,” the artist says. Don’t be fooled. De Othello’s woozy visions are equal parts fantasy and fear. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays. Nov. 1-April 5. \$8-\$10; 17 and under free. San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St., San Jose. (408) 271-6840. www.sanjosemuseumofart.org

“2019 SECA Art Award Exhibition”: Three artists were chosen for the current edition of SFMOMA’s prestigious SECA Award, presented every two years or so. One of the three (the others are Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle and Marlon Mullen) is Sahar Khoury, one of the Bay Area’s most innovative and challenging ceramists, who will unveil new works in her boundary-stretching oeuvre. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Tuesday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday. Nov. 16-April 12. \$19-\$25; 18 and under free. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., S.F. 415-357-4000. www.sfmoma.org

“Ron Nagle: Handsome Drifter”: Many of Ron Nagle’s most important works would fit in the palm of a hand, if one were so bold as to touch the flawlessly fragile, fundamentally precious objects he has made since the 1950s. This much-anticipated retrospective anoints the 80-year-old Nagle one of the most influential living sculptors to work in the medium. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Jan. 15-June 14, 2020. \$11-\$13; 18 and under free. UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, 2155 Center St., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. <https://bampfa.org>

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