

CURRICULUM VITAE: RIKA HERBST

Qualification Profile

I am a ceramicist, cultural entrepreneur and historian from South Africa with a passion for Porcelain, Bone China, and Wood firing. I work from my studio in Cape Town and present workshops as a guest teacher at studios across South Africa.

Specific Accomplishments

Awards & Competitions

Oct 2017 - 3rd Cluj Ceramics Biennale (2017) Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Oct 2017 - XIII International Biennial of Artistic Ceramics of Aveiro, Portugal
Aug 2016 – Ceramica Multiplex 2016, Croatia
Nov 2015 - XII Bienal de Cerâmica Artística de Aveiro, Portugal
May 2015 - III Triennial of Ceramics UNICUM 2015, Slovenia
July 2013 - Cluj International Ceramics Biennale 2013, Romania
July 2013 – 11th Biennial International Artistic Ceramics Exhibition, Aveiro, Portugal 2013
Aug 2012 – SA Handmade Collection Decorex – Gold Award, Best Stand South Africa
Aug 2012 – The Iconic Handmade Piece, South Africa –Decorex Gauteng South Africa
Aug 2012 – Ceramica Multiplex 2012, Croatia - Honourable Mention
Aug 2011 – Decorex – SA Handmade Collection - Award for Best Product Design, South Africa
Aug 2011 – CSA Regional Exhibition - Highly Commended Award, South Africa
Jun 2011 - Gyeonggi International CeraMIX Biennale 2011, Korea – Certificate of Honour
Apr 2011 - 9th International Ceramics Competition: Mino, Japan - Honourable Mention
Oct 2010 - CSA National Exhibition – Best Porcelain Piece, South Africa
Aug 2009 – Icons – Decorex – SA Handmade Collection, South Africa

Work History

Ceramicist/Cultural Entrepreneur – ClayConnect (January 2026 – current)
Ceramicist/Member – Bohlokoa Studio, Fairland, Gauteng, South Africa (Sept 2003 – Dec 2025)
Owner/Director – Bohlokoa Consulting, Fairland, Gauteng (April 1999 – Aug 2003)
Investment Officer, Investment South Africa, Sandton, Gauteng, South Africa (Feb 1997 – March 1999)

Education

BA Hons (ANE History: cum laude) University of South Africa, 2023
Bachelor of Arts: Art & Ancient History, University of South Africa, 2021

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Qualification Highlights

Collections:

- Quomo Art Gallery, Jingdezhen, China 2024
- Taoxichuan Art Centre, Jingdezhen, China 2024
- Shanghai Institute of Visual Art 2023
- Jianshui Purple Pottery Museum 2023
- 5th Changchun International Ceramics Symposium, China 2016
- National Museum of Slovenia, 2015
- Ceramics Museum, Aveiro, Portugal 2013
- Bloemfontein War Museum, South Africa 2013
- Cluj International Ceramics Biennale, Romania 2013
- KERAMEIKON Collection of Contemporary World Ceramics, Croatia 2012
- Corobrick Collection, Pretoria, South Africa 2011
- Korea Ceramic Foundation, Korea 2011

Residency/Festival/Symposium:

- Ding Kiln White Porcelain Contemporary Ceramics Art Centre, Quyang, Hebei, China 2026
- Taoxichuan International Clay Studio, Jingdezhen 2024
- 5th Shanghai – Yunnan Jianshui International Woodfired Ceramics Festival, China 2023
- 5th Changchun International Ceramics Symposium, China 2016

Membership:

- International Academy of Ceramics
- Ceramics Western Cape

Professional Profile

Rika Herbst is a South African ceramic artist, researcher, writer, and cultural producer whose practice explores memory, material culture, heritage, and cultural exchange through porcelain. She established her ceramic studio practice in 2003 and has since developed an internationally exhibited body of work characterised by texture, translucency, atmospheric surfaces, carving, piercing, and layered construction.

Her work is represented in institutional and museum collections in South Africa, China, Korea, Slovenia, Croatia, Portugal, and Romania. She has participated in international exhibitions, competitions, symposia, and residencies, including recent residencies at the Ding Kiln White Porcelain Contemporary Ceramics Art Centre in Quyang and Taoxichuan International Clay Studio in Jingdezhen, China.

Her 2026 Quyang residency marked a significant development in her practice. Working within the historical context of Ding ware, she developed *Layered Histories*, an ongoing body of research investigating how historical surfaces, motifs, and material traces can be translated into contemporary porcelain. *Chinese Zodiac Hierarchy* emerged as a pivotal work from this research and established a new direction towards larger-scale, layered porcelain forms.

Alongside her studio practice, Herbst is committed to developing ceramic discourse and cultural exchange. She founded ClayConnect, produces and presents ClayChat, and has contributed to the development of the South African Clay Awards. Her writing includes contributions to *Studio Potter* and forthcoming writing for *New Ceramics* magazine.

She holds a BA in Art and Ancient History and a BA Honours in Ancient Near Eastern History, both from the University of South Africa, and is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics.

Artist Statement

I use porcelain as a way of holding memories and traces of cultural histories. I am drawn to textures, patterns, imprints, architectural details and decorative elements. The small physical traces that connect us to places, people and the past. Through layering light, material and form, these fragments are carried forward, shifting between what was and what is.

Through imprinting, moulding, carving, piercing, and layered construction, I translate these references into contemporary porcelain forms. Rather than reproducing historical objects, I fragment and reconstruct their surfaces, allowing familiar elements to become part of new sculptural languages.

My recent residency at the Ding Kiln White Porcelain Contemporary Ceramics Art Centre in Quyang, China, marked a significant turning point in this practice. Working within the historical birthplace of Ding ware, I developed *Layered Histories*, exploring the relationship between inherited ceramic traditions and contemporary material expression. *Chinese Zodiac Hierarchy*, created during the residency, became a pivotal work within this research.

I am now extending this investigation towards a broader exploration of material culture and cultural memory. I am particularly interested in historical artefacts, textiles, architectural fragments, and culturally significant objects as sources for new porcelain surfaces. The work is developing into larger sculptural cylinders and vessels, wall-based works, tiles, plates, and installation-scale forms.

I see each work as a tactile archive: layers of material, history, interpretation, and time brought together in a contemporary object. Through porcelain, I explore how histories are preserved, transformed, and continually reassembled, creating connections between past and present and between cultures across geographical boundaries.

Publications:

- Special Residency Exhibition: Taoxichuan Art Museum, Jingdezhen, China, 2026 Catalogue
- AbstRacT: Synchrony Revealed, Jan Rupert Art Museum, Graaff-Reinet, 2025 Catalogue
- Walk with the Light International Modern Ceramics Exhibition, Jingdezhen 2024, Catalogue
- Shanghai Institute of Visual Art 2023: International Woodfired Ceramics Works Exhibition Catalogue
- Flamingo, by Air Namibia. May 2018: Clay Naturally. Page 58 – 61
- 3rd Cluj Ceramics Biennale 2017 Cluj-Napoca, Romania 2017, Catalogue
- XIII International Biennial of Artistic Ceramics of Aveiro, Portugal 2017, Catalogue
- Ceramica Multiplex 2016 Croatia, Catalogue
- Studio Potter, Jan/Feb 2015. In the studio glazing: Underglaze over glaze
- XII Bienal de Cerâmica Artística de Aveiro, Portugal, 2015 Catalogue
- III Triennial of Ceramics UNICUM 2015 Slovenia, Catalogue
- Ceramics Art & Perception No 95, 2014 Page 32-35
- Cluj International Ceramics Biennale 2013 Romania, Catalogue
- 11^a Biennial International Artistic Ceramics Exhibition Aveiro, Portugal, 2013 Catalogue
- Ceramica Multiplex 2012 Croatia, Catalogue
- Gyeonggi International CeraMIX Biennale 2011, Catalogue
- 9th International Ceramics Competition Mino, Japan, Catalogue
- Cerkanvas, Summer 2011: Page 54-55
- Beeld, July 2011 Pottebakker maak opslae.
- Ceramics Now, Featured Artist. July 2011
- SA Art Times – November 2010 Page 16/17 Issu
- <https://sahomeowner.co.za/the-allure-of-ceramics/2020>
- Ceramics South Africa Magazine
- City Vibe: Passionate Potter speaks the language of Clay. June 2009
- Garden & Home June 2003: Scratching the Surface. Page 18

Workshops presented:

- October 2025 – Mastering Paper Porcelain, Howick, KwaZulu-Natal
- October 2025 – Paper Porcelain, Kleinmond Ceramic Festival, Kleinmond, Western Cape
- July 2023 – Wood-firing Meraki Woodfire Kiln – Northvale, Krugersdorp, Gauteng
- June 2023 – Introduction to Paperclay/Porcelain – Giverny Studios, KwaZulu-Natal
- June 2023 – Advanced Paper Porcelain Lights – Giverny Studios, KwaZulu-Natal
- June 2023 – Digging Wild Clay, Gauteng
- Nov 2022 – Porcelain Paper Clay – Rushmere Farm, Sedgfield, Eastern Cape
- October 2022 – Porcelain Paper Clay – Melissa Barker Studio, Western Cape

- June 2022 – Porcelain Paperclay – Giverny Studios, KwaZulu-Natal
- June 2022 – Wood-firing Meraki the Woodfire kiln with special Guest Hennie Meyer – Northvale, Gauteng
- Mar 2022 – Porcelain Paperclay – Ceramics @ Kleynstein Studio, Pretoria

Other exhibitions include:

Nov 2026	Sky After Rain, Porcelain: Group Exhibition	Ceramics Gallery, Newlands Village, Cape Town
Nov 2026	Rooted: From Earth to Art, Group Exhibition	Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, Betty's Bay, Cape Town, South Africa
Oct 2026	IAC South African Members Exhibition	Rust-en-Vrede Gallery + Clay Museum Durbanville, Western Cape, South Africa
Oct 2026	The Earth that Holds Us	Lizamore Gallery, Sandton, Gauteng, South Africa
Sep 2026	Exhibition of Distinctive Ceramics	Blacksmith Yard Gallery, Riebeeck West, Western Cape, South Africa
Sep 2026	Inheriting the Past and Embracing the Future	Exhibition Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Resumption of Ding Kiln Production Hebei Provincial Museum, Baoding, China
Jun 2026	IAC Resident Exhibition	Taoxichuan Art Museum, Jingdezhen, China
Jun 2026	Strata, Inaugural Exhibition	Overberg Contemporary Art Gallery, Napier, Western Cape, South Africa
Jun 2026	Hermanus FynArts	Hermanus, Western Cape, South Africa
Apr 2026	Functional Forms Exhibition	Iziko Orientation Centre, Groot Constantia Wine Estate, Constantia, Cape Town, South Africa
Mar 2026	Made in Jingdezhen, Craft without Borders	Design Shanghai, China
Sep 2025	HOMO CERAMICUS	Gyeonggi Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Icheon, Korea
Apr 2025	AbstRacT – Synchrony Revealed	Jan Rupert Art Museum, Graaff-Reinet, South Africa
Nov 2024	Gather Friends: Group Exhibition	FynArts Gallery, Hermanus, RSA
Sep 2024	Ceramics Southern Africa National Biennale	GIBS, Johannesburg, RSA
Apr 2024	Walk with the Light, International Modern Ceramics Exhibition	Quomo Art Gallery Jingdezhen, China
Nov 2023	Earthen Emerald: Group Exhibition	Johan van Heerden Art Gallery, Pretoria, RSA
Oct 2023	International Woodfired Ceramics Works Exhibition, Shanghai Institute of Visual Art	Shanghai Towers, Shanghai, China
Sep 2023	International Woodfired Ceramics Exhibition	Jianshui Purple Pottery Museum, Yunan Province, China
May 2023	Blue! Group Exhibition	Johan van Heerden Art Gallery, Pretoria, RSA
Sep 2022	Maison & Object, South African Pavilion	Paris, France
May 2022	Of Mothers and Madonna's Group Exhibition	Johan van Heerden Art Gallery, Pretoria, RSA
Feb 2022	After the Rain Group Exhibition	Johan van Heerden Art Gallery, Pretoria, RSA
Sep 2021	A Fling with Spring, Tina Skukan Gallery	Pretoria, South Africa
Aug 2021	Wood-fired & Other Ceramics, Featured Potter, Association of Arts	Pretoria, South Africa
Jun 2021	Desire – The Cape Gallery	Cape Town, South Africa
Jun 2021	Hermanus FynArts	Hermanus, South Africa
Jun 2021	Luminaries	Artbox Gallery, Pretoria RSA

May 2021	Fabergé Inspired	Johan van Heerden Art Gallery, Pretoria RSA
Sep 2020	Hermanus FynArts	Online Exhibition
Jun 2020	Gallery Synergy	Online Exhibition
Nov 2019	Connected by Fire	Rust-en-Vrede Gallery, Durbanville Cape Town RSA
Nov 2018	Ceramics Southern Africa National Biennale	Rust-en-Vrede Gallery, Durbanville Cape Town RSA
Sep 2018	Ceramics Southern Africa Regional Exhibition	MuseumAfricaA, Gauteng, South Africa
Jun 2018	Hermanus FynArts	Hermanus, South Africa
Feb 2018	Legacy Exhibition, Three Potters and a Painter	Stellenbosch, South Africa
Dec 2017	International Celadon Exhibition, Huamao Art Museum	Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, China
Dec 2017	Association of Arts Plate Exhibition	Pretoria, South Africa
Dec 2017	Let there be light Exhibition II, ArtBox Gallery	Pretoria, South Africa
Oct 2017	3rd Cluj Ceramics Biennale (2017) Cluj-Napoca	Romania
Oct 2017	XIII International Biennial of Artistic Ceramics of Aveiro	Portugal
Oct 2017	Ceramics Southern Africa Regional Exhibition	MuseumAfricaA, Gauteng, South Africa
Aug 2017	Decorex 2017 Gauteng, The South African Craft Collective	Gauteng, South Africa
July 2017	The David Walters & Friends Exhibition: Art in Clay, William Humphreys Art Gallery	Kimberley, South Africa
Dec 2016	Eat, drink and be merry pottery exhibition, Association of Arts	Pretoria, South Africa
Nov 2016	Tellus Sculptura Exhibition, Association of Arts	Pretoria, South Africa
Nov 2016	Ceramics South Africa National Biennale	University of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa
Oct 2016	Let there be light Exhibition, ArtBox Gallery	Pretoria, South Africa
Aug 2016	Decorex 2017 Gauteng, The South African Craft Collective	Gauteng, South Africa
Aug 2016	CERAMICA MULTIPLEX 2016	City Museum Varazdin Croatia
July 2016	5 TH Changchun International Ceramics Symposium	China
Nov 2015	XII Bienal de Cerâmica Artística de Aveiro	Portugal
Oct 2015	CSA Regional Exhibition Gauteng	FADA, Gauteng, South Africa
July 2015	The Promenade: Healing in Nature. Co-Exhibition of Icheon World Ceramic Center and the National Folk Museum of Korea	Korea
July 2015	Giftex	Tokyo, Japan
July 2015	Decor & Design	Melbourne, Australia
June 2015	Forms of Expression	Hermanus Fine Arts, Hermanus, South Africa
May 2015	III Triennial of Ceramics UNICUM	Slovenia

May 2015	Index Dubai	Dubai, UAE
May 2015	Exhibition- Rika Herbst & Stephen Graham	Alliance Francaise, Johannesburg, South Africa
Oct 2014	Art Exhibition	The Leonardo Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Oct 2014	The Name of The Rose Exhibition	Rust-En-Vrede Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Jun 2014	CSA Regional Exhibition Gauteng	MuseumAfrica, Gauteng, South Africa
May 2014	Index Dubai	Dubai, UAE
Apr 2014	Decorex CT	Cape Town, South Africa
Mar 2014	Decorex Durban	Durban, South Africa
Mar 2014	Art Exhibition, Annica's, Michaelangelo Towers, Sandton	Gauteng, South Africa
Oct 2013	Cluj International Ceramics Biennale	Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Oct 2013	11ª Bienal Internacional de Cerâmica Artística de Aveiro 2013	Aveiro, Portugal
Aug 2013	Decorex JHB	Gallagher Estate, Gauteng, South Africa
Aug 2013	Women in Clay	Art in the Forest, Cape Town, South Africa
Apr 2013	CSA Regional Exhibition Gauteng	MuseumAfrica, Gauteng, South Africa
Apr 2013	Fragile – The Porcelain Collective	Liz Loubser Gallery, Risidale, South Africa
Mar 2013	Design Indaba	Cape Town, South Africa
Feb 2013	Ambiente – The Loft	Frankfurt Germany
Nov 2012	KulturZentrum	Kapfenberg, Austria
Nov 2012	Translucencies	Art Afrique Gallery, Sandton, South Africa
Aug 2012	Decorex Gauteng	Gallagher Estate, Gauteng, South Africa
Aug 2012	CERAMICA MULTIPLEX 2012	City Museum Varazdin Croatia
May 2012	CSA Regional Exhibition Gauteng	MuseumAfrica, Gauteng, South Africa
Mar 2012	Design Indaba	Cape Town, South Africa
Feb 2012	Ambiente – The Loft	Frankfurt Germany
Dec 2011	Af - L'artigiano In Fiera	Milan, Italy
Sep 2011	9 th International Ceramics Competition	Mino, Japan
Sep 2011	Gyeonggi International CeraMIX Biennale	Korea
Aug 2011	Decorex SA Handmade Collection Gauteng	Gallagher Estate, Gauteng, South Africa
Aug 2011	CSA Regional Exhibition	Eduardo Villa Museum Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa
Apr 2011	Easter Exhibition	Ou Lettere Building, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Feb 2011	Ambiente - The Loft	Frankfurt Germany
Jan 2011	The Cube at the Clay Museum	Rust en Vrede Gallery Durbanville, South Africa
Oct 2010	CSA National Exhibition	Grande Provence Gallery, Franschoek, South Africa
Aug 2010	Decorex SA Handmade Collection Gauteng	Gallagher Estate, Gauteng, South Africa
Aug 2010	Echoes Exhibition	The Art Place, Randburg, South Africa
Aug 2010	CSA Regional Exhibition	MuseumAfrica, Gauteng, South Africa

Nov 2009	Coming Together at Christmas	Craft & Design Centre Gauteng, South Africa
Sep 2009	CSA Regional Exhibition	Eduardo Villa Museum Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa
Aug 2009	Decorex, South African Icons	Gallagher Estate, Gauteng, South Africa
July 2009	Pace	Craft & Design Centre Gauteng, South Africa
July 2009	African Landscapes in Clay	Association of Arts Pretoria, South Africa
Feb 2009	The Art of Green Living	The Peech Hotel, Gauteng, South Africa
Aug 2008	CSA National Exhibition	UJ Art Gallery, Gauteng, South Africa

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