

shfap

Press release:

Stanley Rosen: *Vessels*

May 21st – June 25th, 2022

steven harvey fine art projects

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Starting, Saturday, May 21st, SHFAP presents “Vessels,” our third one-person exhibition of ceramics by Stanley Rosen, exploring Rosen’s expanded conception of the vessel. Rosen’s ceramic sculptures may evoke architectural monuments, such as ancient temples or natural phenomena like coral reefs. His work includes vase shapes, often made by hand with a technique of pinched clay aggregated into forms. Less common are vase forms made on the wheel. What unites his pots and sculptures is the way space moves around and through them. Rosen introduces the interplay between empty space, which he has described as “the void,” and the physical presence of the clay. This freedom can be simultaneously liberating and unsettling. Kate Butler has written, “Rosen transformed the void into something he could live with, something intimately bound up with the nature of dwelling in the world.” Vessels are evoked through rounded shapes and sheltering forms. The idea of the vessel is taken further with his clay ships. The nature of vessels within Rosen’s oeuvre is expansive. John Yau of Hyperallergic has written, “Rosen’s ceramic sculptures are a revelation: they are like a country that many of us never knew was there until now.”

Stanley Rosen was born in Brooklyn in 1926. His family came from Poland and sold kosher chickens. At the age of 18, he served in the Navy at the end of World War II, where he was posted to Japan and China. There he had his first experience of “a consuming beauty: mountains coming down into the bay, foliage, and Shinto markers.” On the GI Bill he attended the Rhode Island School of Design, where he studied with Gilbert Franklin and Lyle Perkins and began to work with clay. He attended Alfred University College of Ceramics for his MFA. After graduating in 1956, Perkins introduced him to Greenwich House Pottery in New York City, where he took a job as studio manager.

Rosen began his thirty-one-year teaching career at Bennington College in 1960, with artists present including Anthony Caro, David Smith, Kenneth Noland, Jules Olitski and Paul Feeley, Vincent Longo and Lyman Kip. Rosen found himself at the center of a profound conversation on abstraction. Rosen was reticent about sharing his work with his students. It wasn’t until 2017, at the age of 90, that he had a solo exhibition at The

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Bennington Museum, titled *Holding the Line*, which then travelled to the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum later that year. In October 2017, SHFAP presented the first art gallery exhibition of Rosen's work titled, *Beginnings*. New York's Museum of Art and Design acquired a group of works that were on view in an exhibition titled *New Acquisitions* in fall of 2017. In 2018, Rosen was included in a group exhibition, *Excavation*, at Peter Blum Gallery and SHFAP presented his work in a solo installation as part of the NADA Miami art fair. In 2019, Rosen was featured in the group exhibition "Out on a Limb" at the Thomas Erben Gallery. In 2021, SHFAP published Stanley Rosen: *Shaping Space*, which was accompanied by an exhibition at the gallery.

Please contact Jenny at the gallery for further information or photographs at jenny@shfap.com or 917-861-7312.