

**Shirah Rubin**  
[shirahrubin.com](http://shirahrubin.com)

**Artist Statement:**

I am a multidisciplinary artist based in Boston. Through my sculptural ceramics, I invent three-dimensional worlds that explore memory and the challenges posed by its fragile nature. I believe that the past is caught between three discrete elements: Its reality, our idealization of that reality, and the impossibility of recapturing that reality. By investigating these intersections I reclaim fragments of memory, defying the notion that reclaiming memories is beyond our grasp.

The Wisdom Vessels forms began as an exploration of the Dead Sea scroll jars that I adapted. I am interested in the juxtaposition between the archaeological looking finish contrasted with the soft crocheted blankets. My grandmother and great aunts handcrafted these objects. Imbued with affection, the blankets represent protection and creativity. While the blankets had covered me, I have now repurposed them. The blankets are tucked in the vessels and are now peeking out because the blankets have been transformed from external objects of protection into something internalized.

What needs to be remembered? How and why do we make memory matter? I explore these questions in my work. In particular, how is memory not only preserved but transmitted? Memory is time's vessel. In my effort to both hold time and shape memory I create coil vessels. These vessels are also about containment. Growing up and dealing with serial losses for the first twenty years of my life, I learned to carry loss and related emotions, including absorbing the unexpressed grief of family members. Vessels as containers are metaphorical reminders to separate my emotions from the unnecessary responsibility of holding the weight of others' feelings. The Wisdom Vessels become manifestations of compartmentalization and an affirmation of the self.

**Biography:**

Shirah Rubin is a sculptor who works in mixed media most often incorporating ceramics. She utilizes a visual language with materials appropriate to the metaphorical, historical, and social elements of a project. As a teaching artist, she develops art workshops for audiences ranging from young children through adults in museums, universities, schools, camps, and synagogues. Shirah worked at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; the Fresh Air Fund at Camp Hidden Valley, NY; Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design Hillel and Gallery; and Camp Yavneh.

**Exhibitions:**

- 2024 *Plus One*, Bromfield Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2024 *The Alchemy of Art and Play at the Piano Gallery*, Boston, (Jurors: Sage Brousseau, Laura Petrovich-Cheney & organized by Claudia Fiks).
- 2024 *Hope Diaries Project*, Hebrew College Gallery, MA, (Curator: Deborah Feinstein).

2023 *Awake: Mindfulness & Presence in Art*, Unbound Visual Art, Overlook Gallery, Brighton, MA, (Juror: Jack Energy).

2023 *Grace in Clay*, Light Art Space, NM, (Juror: George Rodriguez).