

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Keri Straka: *Internal Blooming*

July 14 – August 15, 2021

Artists' Reception:

Saturday, July 17, 2 - 5pm

First Friday Reception

August 6, 5 – 8:30pm

Zoom Artists' Talks

Thursday, July 29, 6pm

Gallery Hours

Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm

Keri Straka's debut solo exhibition at Boston Sculptors Gallery, *Internal Blooming*, features ambitious and delicate sculptural works which unexpectedly integrate complex ceramic forms with the supple tactile qualities of textiles. Strongly influenced by organic forms and natural phenomena, Straka's work is closely tied to biological processes of the human body. Oscillating between the skeletal architecture of bone and the petal soft terrain of flesh, the artist creates a subtle dance between external and internal space. The works are evocative of the ebb and flow of human life as mirrored in the blooming of a single cell dividing. In a world both hard and soft, there is a rising up over the horizon of curving swells, a sense of fluids exchanging, eggs coalescing, seeds germinating, all provoked by the pulse of growth beneath a surface of membranes simultaneously exposed and exposing.

Straka employs porcelain and stoneware clay for structure and stability, firing it in a kiln at high temperatures which vitrify the pores of the clay, allowing it to engender qualities of ridged bone and coral. In stark contrast, nylon, satin, and woven cotton fabrics drape, stretch, and cling, suggesting womb like safety.

Keri Straka holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Art and Design with a concentration in Ceramics. She is a Professor of ceramics at Framingham State University, and maintains her studio in Framingham, MA.

Internal Blooming runs concurrently with Roya Amigh's *Absolutism and Sexuality*.

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