

Lauren Skelly Bailey is a sculptor and ceramic artist whose practice investigates the interwoven relationships of natural systems, growth, and transformation through experimental processes with clay and other materials. Deeply influenced by marine ecosystems—particularly coral reefs, sea sponges, and other organisms that thrive through interdependence—her work reflects the tension between fragility and resilience inherent in these environments. Through immersive installations, vessels, and sculptural forms, Bailey creates spaces that invite viewers to consider ecological cycles, vulnerability, and regeneration. Her material process is central to this exploration. Using techniques such as ceramic burnouts, she embeds organic matter into clay, preserving its traces as textures and patterns permanently reimaged in fired form. This alchemy of disappearance and preservation gives her sculptures a layered history, simultaneously referencing life, decay, and renewal. Recently, Bailey has expanded into hybrid forms, integrating ceramics with glass, lighting, and site-responsive elements. Lamps, illuminated structures, and architectural interventions introduce transparency, atmosphere, and movement into her installations, emphasizing light as both metaphor and physical force—a catalyst for transformation that animates her surfaces.

Bailey's work has been exhibited in galleries, museums, and unconventional spaces, often as site-specific installations that expand beyond the vessel into immersive ecological landscapes. In 2025, she was awarded a residency at the Red Lion Inn, where she developed new large-scale ceramic works, and presented *Craze*, a solo exhibition at The Painting Center in New York City. Earlier, as the 2023 Caumsett Foundation Artist in Residence, she created installations embedded within the park and shoreline, situating her practice within the rhythms of the natural environment. That same year, she participated in the NYC Crit Club Cohort led by Rose Nestler, further expanding her dialogue with contemporary sculpture and critical discourse. Her residencies and community-based projects extend this inquiry, inviting public engagement and collaborative making as a way of reinforcing the collective resilience reflected in natural systems.

Bailey holds an MFA in Ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design (2015), an MA in Sculpture from Adelphi University (2014), and a BFA from Adelphi University (2012). Across her practice, she is committed to exploring how material experimentation can echo the processes of nature, offering tactile and contemplative encounters with the beauty, precarity, and interconnectedness of the living world.