

ALLISON PASCHKE

2017 bio

After her first eight years growing up in RISD's backyard (both parents were alums), Allison Paschke spent her childhood moving around the country with her artist mother. As an only child, she spent much of her solitary time creating tiny objects. Small living spaces and an itinerant lifestyle developed her interests in portability and the miniature.

Her first BFA at UC Santa Cruz focused on photography, a pursuit that led to a lifelong interest in light. Eventually Paschke found her true voice through porcelain: its delicacy, its materiality, and its paradoxical durability and fragility. During this time, Allison lived in a series of tiny apartments with two active toddlers. The living conditions helped to develop her inclination toward minimal, soothing work.

Paschke attended Kansas City Art Institute for her second BFA in Ceramics, with an emphasis on wheel-thrown pottery. Very thin and translucent porcelain became her primary focus. While earning her MFA at Cranbrook Academy of Art, she shifted toward sculpture and began experimenting with other translucent and delicate materials such as treated tissue paper and epoxy resin.

In 1999 Paschke and her family returned to Rhode Island. Having more studio space has allowed her to work on a large scale, though she continues to make small, intimate works.

Paschke's current work explores geometry and light through wall pieces and installations. She uses reflective and translucent materials such as mirrors, porcelain, acrylic gel mediums, and resin. Her work is often interactive in terms of touch, light, and sound.

In recent years, Paschke has exhibited in solo and group shows in Providence, Brooklyn, San Francisco, and other locations nationally. Her work is included in national and international private collections as well as in several corporate and museum collections. She curated three installation exhibitions in the Providence area, and since then has become part of a wonderful network of artists in Rhode Island and beyond.