

TIMOTHY PERSONS

Persons
Projects

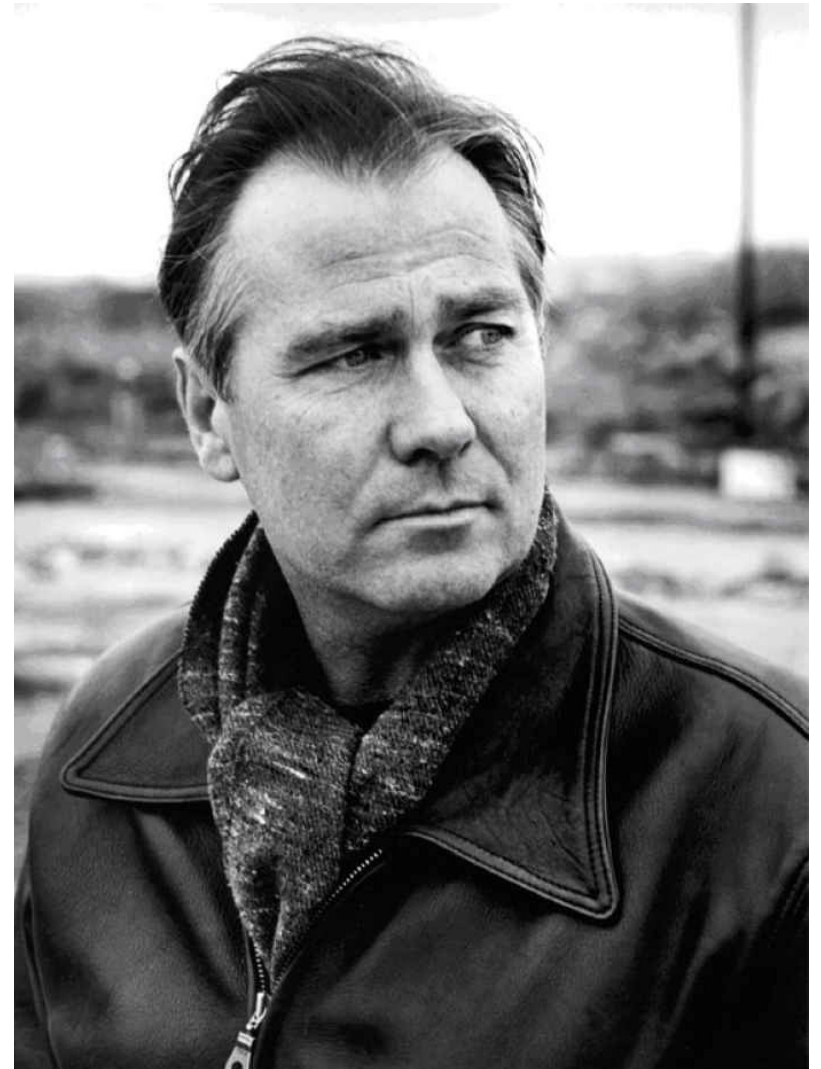
Timothy Persons' artistic practice is defined by his pioneering reinvention of the ceramic surface, where painting, sculpture, and material experimentation converge. Educated under Paul Soldner in the tradition established by Peter Voulkos and working as Betty Woodman's assistant, Persons was among the first artists to combine terra sigillata with both raku and salt firing, developing an approach that moved ceramics beyond its traditional associations with craft and function. From his early work in Southern California to his move to Finland in the 1980s, he has treated clay as a space for abstraction, drawing, colour, and conceptual experimentation. Returning to ceramics after an extended period devoted to curatorial and educational work, Persons continues this exploration today, bringing the experimental freedom of his early practice into a new body of work.

Timothy Persons (b. 1954, Narvik, Norway) is a US-American artist, ceramic sculptor, curator, and writer raised in

Southern California. He studied ceramics at Claremont Graduate School under Paul Soldner and Betty Woodman, working as Soldner's teaching assistant and emerging from the post-Voulkos generation of West Coast artists who challenged the boundaries between ceramics and contemporary art.

From the late 1970s onward, Persons developed an experimental approach that brought ceramics into dialogue with painting, drawing, sculpture, and assemblage. After completing his MFA in 1982, he moved to Finland at the invitation of Tapio Wirkkala to work with Arabia and later taught at the University of Art and Design Helsinki.

Today, Persons is internationally recognized as the founder of The Helsinki School and for his work as a curator and educator. His works are held in collections including the Fred Marer Ceramic Collection, the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery, the Vainö Aaltonen Museum, the Museum of African American Art, the Clarke Humanities Museum, and numerous private collections.



DREAMSCAPES, 2026

Dreamscapes marks Persons' return to ceramics after nearly three decades away from the medium, renewing a fascination and dialogue with clay that began in Southern California in the mid-1970s. In this new body of work, altered vessel forms evolve into poetic landscapes of memory and dreams. Characterized by a highly painterly approach, the works feature soft, layered fields of pastel color in dusty ochres, muted pinks, faded blues, and gentle greens, combined with expressive marks, translucent washes, and handwritten poems. These non-functional vessels, both thrown and hand-built, become visceral objects for gathering and storing his nocturnal dreams. The handwritten texts are drawn from a personal archive of writings accumulated over the past four decades and woven into the ceramic surfaces, blending words, color, and

gesture into intimate visual narratives. Derived from his personal archive, these writings form an emotional map that guides his spontaneity through his remembrances of their flavors, hues, and dreamlike playfulness. By closing one's eyes, the dream becomes a passage into a future where the past re-emerges in the present. Each vessel becomes a poetic landscape in which memory, imagination, and the subconscious converge.



Dreamscapes, installation view, CHART, 2026, with Persons Projects, Copenhagen



Dreamscapes 01, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 86 x 24 x 22 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 01, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 86 x 24 x 22 cm



Dreamscapes 04, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 71 x 23 x 14 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 04, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 71 x 23 x 14 cm



Dreamscapes 05, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 70 x 25 x 17 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 05, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 70 x 25 x 17 cm



Dreamscapes 06, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 50 x 11 x 10 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 06, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 50 x 11 x 10 cm



Dreamscapes, installation view, 2026, Berlin



Dreamscapes 08 , 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 48 x 18 x 17 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 08 , 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 48 x 18 x 17 cm



Dreamscapes 09, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 76 x 21 x 21 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 09, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 76 x 21 x 21 cm



Dreamscapes 10, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 53 x ø 15 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 10, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 53 x ø 15 cm

Dreamscapes, installation view, 2026, Berlin





Dreamscapes 11, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 50 x Ø 25 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 11, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 50 x ø 25 cm



Dreamscapes 14, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 34 x Ø 23 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 14, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 34 x ø 23 cm



Dreamscapes 15, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 40 x Ø 20 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 15, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 40 x ø 20 cm



Dreamscapes 16, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 44 x Ø 20 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 16, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 44 x ø 20 cm



Dreamscapes 17, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 55 x Ø 19 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 17, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 55 x ø 19 cm



Dreamscapes 20, 2026, High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 58 x 18 x 15 cm



Timothy Persons
Dreamscapes 20, 2026
High-fired bisque, oil, pencil, pigmented lacquer, 58 x 18 x 15 cm

Persons Projects

Lindenstraße 35
10969 Berlin

+49 30 2888 3370
berlin@personsprojects.com