

Artist Julie Green Dies, Memorialized Last Suppers of Death Row Inmates

Julie L. Green (born in 1961, Yokosuka, Japan), an artist based in Corvallis, Oregon, known for making paintings about food, fashion, and [capital punishment](#), died of cancer October 12.

Green spent half of each year on her work, *The Last Supper*, an ongoing series of 1000 plates to date, illustrating final meals of U.S. death row inmates.

Green received a BFA and MFA from The University of Kansas with Roger Shimomura as a significant professor. Since 2000, Green spent half of the studio year illustrating final meal requests of death row inmates in an ongoing project titled *The Last Supper*. 800 kiln-fired plates were on view at Bellevue Arts Museum through September 2021. *First Meal*, a collaboration with exonerees and the Center on Wrongful Convictions, depicts the first meal eaten following release from a wrongful conviction. UPFOR gallery's *First Meal* and *Fashion Plate* exhibition received the Presents Booth Award at The Armory Show in 2020.

Green's work has been featured in publications including The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Rolling Stone, a Whole Foods mini-documentary, National Public Radio, and Ceramics Monthly.

A recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Painters and Sculptors and the Hallie Ford Foundation Fellowship, Green has had forty-two solo exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad/ Green was a professor of art at Oregon State University.

She lived in the Willamette Valley with her husband of twenty-four years, artist [Clay Lohmann](#) and their small cat, Mini, who survive her.

A remembrance from friend and artist [Peregrine Honig](#):

Goodbye, today to Julie Green, who archived the requests of one thousand people on death row's final meals in blue glaze on white porcelain and stoneware.

Julie's sly ruby smile and Olive Oyl elegance were as simple and complicated as her twenty-one-year project. An undertaker, serving up what people desire to put inside their bodies before their bodies are taken from them.

Cobalt and alabaster against the gallery walls, the children, and the asks for nothing always hit me the hardest.

A pleasure to call this woman a friend. An honor to work with her, to meet Clay, her partner in heart and hand.

Last Supper resolved in a firing of fifty plates on September 4th. State, date of execution, and thumbprint mark the back of every piece. Julie humanized each death with her creative legacy.

The quaintness and homeyness of her collective labor remind us how each of these criminals had a first meal and hunger for life. Someone held them, no matter how compromised or complicated the embrace.

Thank you, Julie Green, for your time well spent, your love deeply shared, your wonderful mind, and the leftovers you left us to consider.