



Valerie James with Karl Fritsch and his daughter Mia



Valerie James

Valerie James received her Bachelor's degree from the Tyler School of Art and continued on to receive her Master's degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. She now lives and works in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She has received several prestigious grants and awards, and continues to teach at RISD and the Tyler School of Art.

Her work centers on the concept of traversed spaces by analyzing the psychology of walking and the relationship between the body and landscape. She translates these concepts into her pieces through the use of hand engraving techniques. Her necklaces, based on specific locations, follow the contours of the horizon and use the engraved trail to symbolize light crossing the landscape.

Her relationship with Ornamentum began in the summer of 2018 with an internship at the gallery during her graduate studies at RISD.

“—assisting with fun things such as photographing hundreds of Karl Fritsch rings and making sure every glass vitrine was spotless. In all earnestness, this experience gave me the opportunity to make invaluable connections and witness what it takes to grow an artistic practice. Living in Hudson became hugely influential to how I approach my practice even now, wandering frequently and trying to notice small, yet special moments. I've had the opportunity to occasionally gallery-sit since that summer and I always look forward to my trips back upstate. I am incredibly grateful to Laura and Stefan for their willingness to always share their wisdom and guidance in the beginning years of my career. Congratulations on 20 years!”