

## Eva Stricker Zeisel - Life Chronology\*.

- 11/13/06 Born Eva Amalia Stricker, Budapest, Hungary, to Alexander and Laura Polanyi Stricker.
- 1912 Moved with family to Vienna.
- 1918 Family moved back to Budapest (age 12) after end of WWI.
- 1923 Entered Royal Academy (age 17), to study painting, stayed three semesters; home tutored by well-known painters.
- 1924 Apprenticed to traditional potter, Karapanscik's Pottery, for 6 months, then became a journeyman; first woman member of traditional Hungarian Guild of Chimney Sweeps, Oven Makers, Roof Tilers, Well Diggers & Potters.
- 1925 Started own pottery on family estate.  
Visits Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris.
- 1926 Her works displayed at the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial, receives Honorable Mention.  
Begins designing freelance for **Kispester-Granit Earthenware Factory** in Budapest; creates animal figurines and peasant-design pots and vases.
- 1927 Works at **Hansa Kunstkeramic** in Hamburg for 6 months.
- 1928 Returns to Budapest, designs stage sets, and continues painting.  
Begins work in the fall at **Schramberger Majolica Fabrik**, Germany; creates geometric-form dinnerware, vases, household items (about 200 designs in all); was one of the first designers for mass production of ceramics; also created graphic designs and photography for catalogs and advertisements.
- 1930 Leaves Schramberg in late spring; in the fall begins working in her Berlin studio designing for **Christian Carstens Kommerz. Gesellschaft** factories in Hirschau and Luebeck.
- 1932 On January 1 goes to Russia as a visitor, declaring herself the fiancée of Alex Weissberg in order to obtain a visa. Remains as a designer, works at **Lomonosov Manufactory** designing dinnerware. Designs bath fixtures, ceramic electric insulators, industrial parts for production in various factories, **Takarovka** (in the Ukraine) in particular. Begins work in the Artistic Laboratory of the **Lomonosov State Porcelain Factory** (the former Imperial Porcelain Factory) in Leningrad; her primary task is to design models for mass production.
- 1933 Designs standardized, stackable tableware for cafeterias that was never put into production but serves as the basis for her **Intourist Tea Service** which remained in production until World War II. May also have designed a children's service, coffee service, inkwells, vases, but these remain unknown.  
Marries Alex Weissberg.
- 1934 Accepts a position at **Dulevo Porcelain** (near Moscow), a large factory where she establishes an experimental design department; is extremely productive, designing tea and coffee services, carafes, liqueur sets, vases, smokers' sets and tableware..
- 1935 Moves to Moscow to serve as Artistic Director of China and Glass Industry; is invited to design perfume bottles for the perfume trust, headed by Polina Zhemchuzhina, wife of Molotov; is arrested before she can complete this commission.

- 1936 Begins 15 month imprisonment under Stalinist regime, accused of plotting against the life of Stalin (basis for *Darkness at Noon*, by her lifelong friend, Arthur Koestler).
- 1937 Released from prison without explanation, but almost certainly because of the influence of her mother and other important European intellectuals who sent telegraphic appeals to Stalin; put on a train to Vienna, where she is met by relatives. Fills out paperwork in Vienna to divorce Weissberg; Eva's mother, Laura Stricker, takes the papers to Weissberg, in prison in Russia, who signs them, wishing Eva well.
- 1938 Divorced from Weissberg by proxy; leaves Vienna for Switzerland on the day of the Anschluss (March 12); later that year marries Hans Zeisel in England.  
She and Hans arrive in New York in October with \$64 in their pocket.
- 1939 Designs miniature tea set for Simon Slobodkin on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street; probably not produced.  
Designs watches for Hamilton Watch Co.; not produced.  
Designs line of giftware for **Bay Ridge Specialty Corp.**, New Jersey; limited production, sold locally.  
Begins teaching at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, establishing industrial ceramics curriculum.  
Laura Stricker emigrates to the U.S.
- 1940 Arranges industrial design experience for students at Bay Ridge Specialty Corp; designs **Stratoware** dinnerware with students, based on a design by student Frances Blod; later manufactured by **Universal Potteries**, Ohio, and sold through the **Sears** catalog.  
  
Daughter Jean born in September.
- 1942 Designs Utility Ware; never produced, but displayed at Museum of Modern Art.  
Designs Museum Shape for **Castleton China**, New Castle, Pennsylvania, and the Museum of Modern Art; designs completed in 1945.
- 1944 Son John born in July.
- 1946 Designs **Town and Country** dinnerware for **Red Wing Potteries**, Minnesota; released 1947.  
Castleton Museum dinnerware presented at one-woman show at MoMA, "New Shapes in Modern China Designed by Eva Zeisel" (April 7-June 9), sold through select stores; after years of testing and adjustments, Castleton went into production and reintroduced the Museum Shape on September 15, 1949 for wider consumer sales.
- 1947 Designs dinnerware, giftware for **Riverside Ceramic Company**, California.  
Creates **Norleans China** for **United China and Glass** of New Orleans; produced by Meito, Japan.  
Designs dinnerware for **Sears, Mexico**; sold in Mexico only.  
Designs dinnerware for Butler Brothers, Chicago; not produced.  
Creates **Cloverware**, a line of plastic serving pieces for **Clover Box Co.**, New York.  
Creates perfume bottles for Charles of the Ritz and Richard Hudnut; not produced.  
Designs picture frames, mail boxes, tape dispensers for Metal-Craft, Chicago; not produced  
Designs glass syrup jar for **Federal Tool Corp.**, Chicago.
- 1948 Designs line of stainless steel vessels with plastic handles for General Mills; not produced.
- 1949 Designs line of baby dishes, child care products for Ohio Potteries; not produced at this time.

- 1950 Designs **Tomorrow's Classic** dinnerware for **Hall China Company**, Ohio; promoted by Hall in 1951, marketed by **Midhurst China**, NY and available commercially in 1952.  
Eva Zeisel Resilient Chair designed, patent application submitted, patent granted in 1951; prototype production by Peekskill Fixture Co., Peekskill, NY, displayed by Richards Morgenthau, New York. (Intended large-scale production in Oscaloosa, Iowa was not completed when the die was destroyed by an employee of the factory).  
Designs Ranch House teaset for Charm House, NY; not produced.
- 1951 Designs rosewood and ceramic giftware for **Salisbury Artisans**, CT; limited production.  
**Wee Modern** children's service manufactured by **Goss China Company**.
- 1952 **Silhouette Glassware** designed for **Bryce Bros.** Co., PA; marketed by Sun-Glo Studios.  
Dinnerware and kitchenware designed for **Western Stoneware Co.**, Illinois, marked as **Monmouth Pottery Co.**, distributed 1953.
- 1953 Glassware designed for **A. H. Heisey and Co** in Town and Country, Hourglass, Crystal Buds and Roundelay patterns, completed 1954.  
Designed **Kitchenware** in Tritone and Casual Living patterns; produced by **Hall China Co.**, Ohio, in 1954.  
Resigned teaching position at Pratt Institute to move to Chicago, where Hans Zeisel becomes professor at the University of Chicago.
- 1954 **Prestige Glassware** produced by **Federal Glass Co.**, Ohio; early use of mass production at an automated glass factory, produced at the rate of one per second.  
Re-establishes New York studio and continues dual residency until the death of Hans Zeisel in 1992.
- 1955 Designed 18 pieces of kitchenware for **Watt Pottery**, Ohio; produced ca 1959.
- 1956 **Century Dinnerware** designed, produced by **Hall China Company**; marketed by Midhurst Co., NY mid-1957.
- 1957 **Hollydale Pottery**, Inc. produces dinnerware using the molds from Monmouth Pottery.  
Zeisel travels to West Germany and designs tea and coffee services and dinnerware line for **Philip Rosenthal**; produced as "Eva" **Dinnerware** from 1958-1972 with Rosenthal's **Thomas and Johann Haviland**/Bavaria bottom stamps.
- 1958 Dinnerware and space dividers designed for Manciola Pottery, Italy; not produced.  
Laura Stricker dies in December, age 77.
- 1960 Teaches one year at Rhode Island School of Design.
- 1961 Designs **Stockholm Glassware** for **Federal Glass**, released 1962.  
Designs logo, graphics for. **Tea Council of the U.S.A.**, New York
- 1963 Designs tea set, dinnerware, for Noritaki, Japan; not produced.  
Dinnerware prototypes created for Bengal Potteries, Calcutta; not produced.
- 1964 Creates **High Fashion** giftware and dinnerware line for **Hyalyn Porcelain**, Hickory, NC.  
Zeisel's Tubular Metal Chair receives acclaim at the thirteenth Milan Triennale.  
**Schmid Dinnerware** and giftware produced by Nikko Toki of Japan, with molds made from Monmouth

- Pottery original pieces.
- 1965 Moves in the direction of family, scholarly work, political activism.
- 1983 Receives Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.  
Designs giftware line for **Zsolnay Factory** in Pecs, Hungary; sold in Hungary through Zsolnay gift store.
- 1984 Returns to Kispester-Granit in Budapest, designs teaset and giftware; not produced.  
Retrospective exhibition “Eva Zeisel: Designer for Industry,” with a comprehensive catalog, organized by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Montréal in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution.  
Exhibition travels to several sites in the U.S. including the Brooklyn Museum, the Chicago Art Institute, New Jersey State Museum, Everson Museum of Art, St. Louis Art Museum and Flint Institute of Art; subsequently travels to several European museums.
- 1985 Designs **Pinnacle Dinnerware** for **International China**, Japan.
- 1987 New Yorker profile appears.
- 1988 Awarded honorary doctorate by the Royal College of Arts, London.
- 1991 Awarded honorary doctorate by Parsons New School, New York.
- 1992 Begins designs for wooden tables – developed over the next few years.  
Hans Zeisel, long-time distinguished professor at the University of Chicago, dies.
- 1995 Designs interiors for three Original Leather Stores, New York.  
Receives patent for receptacle for storing household recyclables.  
Designs crystal candlesticks, vases and bowls, made in 1997 by the **Orange Chicken Gallery**, NY.  
Ceramic room divider units and tiles, based on 1958 prototypes from Manciola (Italy), made by the **Orange Chicken Gallery**, NY.  
Eva officially “rehabilitated” in Russia, when the former charges against her are overturned following glasnost, making it possible to resurrect her designs, which had been suppressed or attributed to others.
- 1996 Designs wooden office furnishings for Brownstone Publishers, New York.  
**World of Ceramics**, NC, reissues selected earlier designs which are sold at MoMA-NY, the Brooklyn Museum and other select gift shops.
- 1997 **The Metropolitan Museum**, NY, reissues **Red Wing Town and Country** dinnerware for their gift shop, and other museum shops.  
Receives Personal Recognition Award from the Industrial Designers Society of America, as “a special friend of the profession and major contributor to its long-term welfare and importance.”  
Designs glass tiles, bowls, vases made by the **Orange Chicken Gallery**, NY.  
Wooden tables and bookshelves, based on 1996 prototypes created for Brownstone Publishers, and wooden adaptations of some Hyalyn designs made by the **Orange Chicken Gallery**, NY.  
First production of baby-care pieces designed in the 1940’s, and reissues of many earlier ceramic designs, by the **Orange Chicken Gallery**, NY.
- 1998 Receives Binns Medal from New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University, NY, for Excellence in Ceramic Art.

- 1999 **The Orange Chicken Gallery**, NY, opens with an extensive collection of new designs and reissues of furniture, and other earlier designs in glass, ceramic and wood; and featuring the first U.S. issue of **Zsolnay** giftwares.  
 Eva Zeisel Day in Alfred, NY, in conjunction with the opening of the “Lost Molds and Found Dinnerware: Rediscovering Eva Zeisel’s Hallcraft” exhibit at the Schein Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University.  
 Designs “Eva” line of porcelain vases for **KleinReid**, NY.  
 Designs line of metal and crystal giftware, lamps and bowls for **Nambe**, New Mexico.  
 Eva Zeisel Collectors Club formed by Pat Moore and Gene Grobman, for the purpose of education, communication and information exchange among Zeisel collectors.
- 2000 **The Metropolitan Museum**, NY, reissues **Schramberg** tea set in polka dot pattern, manufactured in Italy.  
 Eva is visited in NY by a delegation from the Lomonosov Factory in Russia, who present her with a recently discovered commemorative medallion which had been made, and hidden, by her fellow artist, Natalya Dan’ko, while Eva was in prison.. Zeisel travels to Russia later in the year and revisits the factory where she had worked and the city where she had lived. Casts of the **Zeisel Medallion** made by **Lomonosov Manufactory**, to be sold through the Eva Zeisel Collectors Club.  
 Designs a porcelain tea set for **Lomonosov Manufactory**, Russia.  
 Designs martini glass “Reign” for Bombay Sapphire Gin; used in advertising only.  
 Receives Industrial Design Society of America Bronze Apple Award.
- 2001 Made an Honorary Member of the American Ceramic Society.  
 A small street in Schramberg, Germany is renamed Eva-Zeisel-Strasse.
- 2002 Designs pens, desk sets for **Acme Studios**, Hawaii.  
 Designs teaset and pitchers for **KleinReid**, NYC.  
 Receives Living Legend Award at Pratt Institute, New York.  
 Receives Russel Wright Award for Design Excellence.  
 “Throwing Curves: Eva Zeisel” a one-hour documentary film released by Canobie Films, San Francisco.
- 2003 Lecture and exhibit, San Francisco, sponsored by American Institute of Graphic Arts and SFMOMA.  
 “Eva Zeisel” by Lucie Young, published by Chronicle Books, San Francisco.  
**Magic Language** prints created with **KleinReid**, NYC, released 2005.  
 Eva Zeisel Collectors Club renamed Eva Zeisel forum, in recognition of wider interest in Zeisel among designers, museums, and others, in addition to collectors.
- 2004 Designs vases and bowls for **Mglass**, New York (produced in Portugal).  
 Designs fine crystal wine glasses for **Nambe**, NM.  
 KleinReid 1999 vase designs released in crystal.  
 The **Raindrop Table**, a cast resin version of an earlier turned wood design (based on a Hyalyn shape sold by the Orange Chicken Gallery), is released in three colors by **Dune, NY**.  
 Opening of “Eva Zeisel: the Playful Search for Beauty” exhibit at Knoxville, curated by Karen Kettering; later travels to Milwaukee, Atlanta, Washington, D.C. (Hillwood Museum).  
 Awarded the Middle Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.

- Receives honorary doctorate from the University of Craft and Design, Budapest, Republic of Hungary.  
 “Eva Zeisel on Design” published by Overlook Press.  
 Named Honorary Royal Designer by the Royal Designers for Industry, London, a part of the Royal Society of Arts.
- 2005 **Classic Century Dinnerware.** made by **Royal Stafford**, England, primarily from the original molds from Hall China’s Tomorrow’s Classic and Century lines, distributed by Crate and Barrel in the U.S., and worldwide in 50 countries.  
 Receives honorary doctorate from the Rhode Island School of Design.  
 Erie Art Museum opens “Eva Zeisel: The Shape of Life” exhibit on November 18, ran until December, 2007.  
 Lecture and exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago, sponsored by the Architecture and Design Society.  
 Eva Zeisel Day at the Hillwood Museum, Washington, D.C.  
 Receives the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Lifetime Achievement.  
 Opening of Formens Hus, Hellefors, Sweden, featuring Town and Country salt and pepper set as the Formens Hus mascot. [schwebewahn](#)
- 2006 Designs metal teakettle for **Chantal**, Texas.  
 Reissue of **Pinnacle** tea set with newly designed mug, also by **Chantal**.  
**Eva Zeisel Originals** (owned by grandson Adam Zeisel) releases Zeisel-designed tables, candelabra, jewelry trees, giftware.  
 Has luncheon at the White House with Laura Bush, for recipients of National Design Awards..  
 Exhibit “Eva Zeisel-My Century” by Ronald T. Labaco at the Armory, New York, under the auspices of the Bard Graduate Center, NY.  
 “Eva Zeisel at 100: A Lifetime in Design” exhibit at Pratt Manhattan Gallery, NYC, Oct-Nov.  
 “Eva Zeisel: Extraordinary Designer at 100” retrospective exhibit, curated by Joyce Corbett, opens in December at Mingei International Museum in San Diego, CA for eight-month run. .
- 2007 “Eva Zeisel: Extraordinary Designer at 100” exhibit moves to Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, in September, for three-month run.  
 Coffee table by **Eva Zeisel Originals** sold by **Design Within Reach**.
- 2008 **One-O-One Dinnerware and vases** by **Royal Stafford**, released through Bloomingdale’s Dept. Store.  
**Nambe’** produces **Eden Dinnerware** in porcelain and metal.  
 Rugs produced by **The Rug Company**, England and sold in NY, Los Angeles, Miami, and London.  
 Hanging lamps designed for Tazza Mia tearoom in Cincinnati.  
 Baby feeder, with added spoon, and Hall China icebox pitcher in red, white and blue, reissued by **Neue Galerie**, New York  
 Fourth brass candlestick added to earlier set of three by **Eva Zeisel Originals**.  
 Erie Museum exhibit “Eva Zeisel: the Shape of Life” moves to the Tyler Museum of Art, Texas, from September 12 to December 7, 2008.  
 Stainless steel flatware in development by Royal Stafford.  
 Reproductions of 1984 **Kispester-Granit** tea and dinnerware sets designed for **Design Within Reach**, released in 2009.  
 Several tile designs, some in bas relief, refined for Trikeenan Tile.

- Designs for hand-blown bowls and vases developed for **Gumps**, released in 2009.  
Colored glass Christmas ornaments in bell shapes designed for **MoMA**, NY, released in 2009.
- 2009      Erie Museum exhibit moves to Ashville, NC from 1/20-5/15.  
National Art Club, NY, awards Gold Medal to Eva on her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.  
Museum of Arts and Design, NY, bestows Visionary Award.  
Lounge chair prototype completed by Eva Zeisel Originals, and approved.  
New Eva Zeisel Resilient Chair prototype manufactured by Gratz Industries.  
Designs for children's toys (originally created for her own children) shown by Eva Zeisel Originals.

\*Highlighted designs are those that were manufactured for release to consumers.

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