CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES EXPLORED IN EXHIBITION OF DRAMATIC FIGURATIVE CERAMICS OPEN SEPT. 24, 2013 AT THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN

Twenty-Four International Artists Featured, Many for the First Time in the United States

Thirty-one artists from more than 15 countries and six continents will be featured in “Body & Soul: New International Ceramics,” an exhibition that opened Sept. 24, 2013 at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. The show, which continues through March 2, 2014, examines the power of figurative ceramics to express emotion and address serious social, political and personal issues.

“Body & Soul explores the human figure as a subject for contemporary artists around the world, and how they use it to convey strong emotions and to the convey the figure to communicate ideas,” said William and Mildred Lasdon Chief Curator, Museum of Arts and Design, Wendy Tarlow Kaplan. “By engaging with our times, this exhibition will offer a refreshing look into the limitless potential of materials and techniques when used by gifted artists from around the world.”

Exhibition highlights include:

● Mount Faits (Monaco, b. 1970) lives in FR), 2010, an installation of several ceramic skulls wearing hats and comments on the fragility of both body and brain and the hard demands of physical labor and work.

● Teresa Girotte (SP, b. 1941), Volta [Volti], 2012, a poignant representation of a woman unable to speak out on the treatment of her children. The new treatment of the clay expresses the anger of the incident.

● Michel Guay (FR, b. 1950/R, b. 2000), a sardonic pair of seated female bodies with no distinguishable facial features: empty voids without identity, ensnared in a restricted armor, and rendered powerless.

● Elke Sahne (FR, b. 1976) Peque Ficks [Black Pearl], 2010, depicts the memory of bias and hostility by the French people to French immigrants from North Africa.


“From ancient Graeco through the Etruscans to Romans to the Renaissance and, ultimately, to the human figure in contemporary art, the human figure has remained a powerful and immediate way of expressing ideas,” added David Revere McFadden, William and Mildred Lasdon Chair Curator, Museum of Arts and Design.

“Since 1956, when the Museum of Arts and Design opened as the Museum of Contemporary Craft, we have underscored our commitment to ceramics in general, and ceramic sculpture in particular. The MAD collections include landmark works by such luminaries as Robert Arneson and Vito Acconci, both of whom concentrated on the human figure and its expression.

"The artist with a social conscience who models in clay strives to capture an immediacy and to use a passionate medium with a focused purpose," he or she creates a specific message of historical or current purpose, he or she creates a specific message of historical or current concern, giving voice to a cause," said William and Mildred Lasdon Chief Curator, Museum of Arts and Design, Wendy Tarlow Kaplan. "Body & Soul underscores the ability of the human form to convey intense emotions, and we feel privileged to bring this important work together for the first time, and to address the human condition with raw power and pathos."

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated 128-page color publication, featuring interviews and works by each of the artists. The publication, which is provided by The Orchard, will offer visitors a window into the legacy of these artists and the story of the contemporary ceramic movement worldwide.

“Body & Soul: New International Ceramics” features the work of 24 international ceramic artists addressing critical social and political issues and is provided by The Orchard. The Orchard, which specializes in the representation and promotion of artists internationally, is dedicated to supporting and engaging visitors in the creative processes of artists at work and enhances the exhibition programs. Luminary and renowned collectors are invited to participate in the Museum’s collection and subject artists affecting the world of contemporary art, craft, and design are held in a special 144-seat auditorium.

Fourth floor installation highlights:

Moun N’Goum [Chamaleon], 2006, a sardonic pair of young men with empty voids without identity, ensnared in a restricted armor, and rendered powerless.


Elsa Sahne (FR, b. 1976) Peque Ficks [Black Pearl], 2010, depicts the memory of bias and hostility by the French people to French immigrants from North Africa.

Kim Simonsson’s work explores the power of the human figure to convey strong emotions and to address serious social, political and personal issues.

*Body & Soul: New International Ceramics* is organized by the Museum of Arts and Design and curated by guest curators Wendy Tarlow Kaplan, Museum of Arts and Design, Director, Ceramic and Glass; Laurent de Verneuil, and Martin S. Kaplan with David Revere McFadden, William and Mildred Lasdon Chair Curator, Museum of Arts and Design.

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MAD PRESS RESOURCES

press release as .pdf

BODY & SOUL: NEW INTERNATIONAL CERAMICS OPENS SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 AT THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN

New York, NY (June 27, 2013) – The Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) will present Body & Soul: New International Ceramics, an exhibition that explores the power of the human figure to convey strong emotions and to address serious social, political and personal issues.

Thematic explored in the exhibition include gun violence, bullying, sexual abuse, anxiety, and identity. The exhibition will highlight several artists who will be shown in New York for the first time. Many of these artists came to clay as painters, craftsmen, and sculptors. Adopting the medium of clay, they create powerful, engaging, and provocative work each inspired by their own experience as a participant or observer of contemporary society and culture.

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN

The Museum of Arts and Design explores the intersection between art, design, and craft by focusing on contemporary creativity in the ways in which artists and designers from around the world transform materials through processes that extend beyond digital. The Museum’s exhibition program explores and illuminates issues and ideas, highlights creativity and craftsmanship, and celebrates the limitless potential of materials and techniques when used by gifted and innovative artists.

MAD’s permanent collection is global in scope and focuses on art, craft, and design from 1950 to the present day. The Museum’s collection features landmark works by such luminaries as Robert Arneson and Vito Acconci, both of whom concentrated on the human figure and its expression.

"The artist with a social conscience who models in clay strives to capture an immediacy and to use a passionate medium with a focused purpose," he or she creates a specific message of historical or current purpose, he or she creates a specific message of historical or current concern, giving voice to a cause," said William and Mildred Lasdon Chief Curator, Museum of Arts and Design.

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