

Bethany Krull: *Where are the Wild Things?*

January 26-May 4, 2014

Opening reception, with artist talk at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 26, 2:00-4:00 p.m.



Embedded, 2014, porcelain, concrete, wood, synthetic grass, 7 x 9 x 13 inches.



Pretty Please, 2012, porcelain, paper, h 22 x w 14 x d 14 in.



Dwelling (detail), 2013, porcelain, wood, hay, h 55 x w 10 x d 15 in.

Bethany Krull: *Where are the Wild Things?*

Where are the Wild Things? investigates the integration of non-human animals into our own built environments, specifically the home and its surroundings. The home can be seen as a place that functions to hold nature at bay, keeping everything wild and unpredictable outside its walls. However, there are always creatures that find their way in and take up residence whether unwanted or invited. Although humans take great measures to separate themselves from nature, and to keep the “pests” away; we also cannot resist the need to be connected to that which we came from. In and around our homes the evidence of both our unease and our desire to be connected to the natural world is everywhere, however contrived and controlled it may be.

How has this new body of work, created for your exhibition at the Castellani Art Museum, grown out of your *Dominance and Affection* series?

I feel like this new body of work is intimately connected to *Dominance Affection* in that it, too, questions the complicated and often contradictory aspects of our interactions with, and perceptions of, the rest of the natural world. *Where are the Wild Things?* explores wild animals that live in conjunction with humans, as well as the human tendency to exclude the problematic aspects of nature while simultaneously

surrounding ourselves with controlled and contrived versions of it in order to satisfy our innate need to feel connected.

Explain the monochromatic treatment of your works?

I always strive to create works which are formally both simplistic and clean. I feel that color tends to distract and push the work too far into the realm of pure representation. Porcelain is such a beautiful material to work with in that it can be pushed and pulled into countless forms, easily embodying the complexity and variety that exists in nature. Like nature itself—it is both fragile and precious.

Surrogate (Birdie Topiary), 2012, porcelain, paper, h 24 x w 10 x d 10 in.



Surrogate (Birdie Topiary) (detail), 2012, porcelain, paper, h 24 x w 10 x d 10 in.



Surrogate (Ducky Duck), 2012, porcelain, h 5½ x w 8 x d 5 in.

Are you representing animals as passive and vulnerable or as reclaiming their own existence?

My animals are generally presented as vulnerable in an effort to evoke an empathetic reaction from the viewer. So often it seems as if the natural world is subject to our every whim and it is unfortunate but, with humans at the helm, I think the likelihood of non-human animals reclaiming their own existence is low.

Your works range from literal renderings of animals, made to scale, to more stylized representations of animal shapes and forms; how do these different representational methods affect your work?

I think all of my sculptures are stylized, although some move further away from the literal than others. I tend to simplify forms and leave out details I feel are unnecessary to the

understanding of the form. The pieces that are most highly stylized tend to illustrate an animal or animal representation that has been altered, acted upon or created by man. The *Toy* series and the *Topiary* series are two examples.

What is the message you want visitors to leave with?

People are going to interpret the work differently depending on their own experiences and backgrounds. I hope my work inspires the viewer to see their own relationships and perceptions of the creatures they come in contact with in a new light, and they begin to evaluate their own personal impact on those creatures.

Michael J. Beam, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions

Interview with the artist conducted November 2013

Bethany Krull

Bethanykrull.com

Bethany Krull, b. 1981, is a Buffalo, NY based sculptor whose porcelain and mixed media animal sculptures illustrate our species complex and often complicated relationship with the rest of the natural world. Her work has been included in many regional, national and international exhibitions including *Beyond the Brickyard* at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT; *The Ceramics Biennial* at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, NH and *Hot Rookies*, at the Gyeonggi International Ceramics Biennial in Seoul, South Korea. Krull's most recent museum solo show was held at the Meadows Museum in Shreveport, LA. She received her Master of Fine Arts from the School for American Crafts at Rochester Institute of Technology and went on to participate in residencies at Genesee Pottery, The Armory Art Center, Goggleworks Center for the Arts and the Archie Bray Foundation. Krull maintains an active studio in Buffalo, NY

EDUCATION

2007 Master of Fine Arts, School for American Crafts, Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
2004 Bachelors of Fine Arts, State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

*Solo exhibitions indicated with asterisk

2013
Small Favors VII, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Hot Rookies, The Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale, Seoul, South Korea

Ceramics Invitational, Edinboro University, Bruce Gallery, Edinboro, PA

Beyond the Brickyard, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT

Science as Muse, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Art Toronto-International Art Fair, represented by BlueLeaf Gallery, Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto, Canada

Art Miami-International Contemporary and Modern Art Fair, represented by BlueLeaf Gallery, Miami, FL

2012
Tamed: Recent work by Bethany Krull, Indigo Art, Buffalo, NY*

Entomos, Exhibit A Gallery, Corning, NY

Bounty, Indigo Art, Buffalo, NY

Art Toronto-International Art Fair, represented by BlueLeaf Gallery, Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto, Canada

Artists & Models: Showoffs, Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo, NY

Contemporary Clay Invitational, J. Ferguson Gallery, Farmville, VA

Eureka!, BlueLeaf Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

X-change Ireland, White Space, The Mordes Collection, West Palm Beach, FL

Art Wynwood-International Contemporary Art Fair, represented by BlueLeaf Gallery, Art Miami Pavilion, Miami, FL

Art Palm Beach, represented by *White Space*, Palm Beach Convention Center, West Palm Beach, FL

Precipice Earth, NCECA, Seattle Design Center, Seattle, WA
Small Favors VI, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

2011
Bethany Krull: Selected Works, The Meadows Museum, Shreveport, LA*

Regarding Nature, Jesse Walp and Bethany Krull, Cohen Gallery, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Reading, PA

Archie Bray Foundation Residents and Visiting Artists from 2010, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Train Station, St. Petersburg, FL

Natura, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, West Tampa Center for the Arts, Tampa, FL

Florida Souvenirs: Sand, Surf and Sin from the Sunshine State, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Mindy Solomon Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL

Banana Factory Exchange Exhibition, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Reading, PA

Mentors and Makers, Wendell Castle, Nancy Jurs, Bethany Krull, Tom Lacagnina, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY

2010
Bethany Krull: Dominance and Affection, The Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY*

GoggleWorks 6th Annual Artists Exhibition, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Reading, PA

Archie Bray Foundation Permanent Collection Exhibition, Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT

Archie Bray Foundation 2010 Artist in Residence Exhibition, Kolva Sullivan Gallery, Spokane, WA

It Came From the Drawing Board, James Oliver Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

DCG open, David Castillo Gallery, Miami, FL

The Artist in Residence Exhibition, Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL

Approaching Nature, White Box/ White Space: The Mordes Collection, West Palm Beach, FL

Bright and White, Mindy Solomon Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL

2009
Bethany Krull: Dominance and Affection, Mulry Fine Art, Palm Beach, FL*

Art in Craft Media, the Burchfield Penney Art Center, State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Summer at the Paramount, Mulry Fine Art, Palm Beach, FL

Revolve: Ceramic Interpretations, EG2 Gallery, Northwood District, West Palm Beach, FL

Trump in the Dark, Trump International Space, West Palm Beach, FL

Shake n Bake, Gallery at the Art Institute of Phoenix, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Phoenix, AZ

Clay Energy, Eaton Fine Art Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL

Food for Thought: Second Course, Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Mad Hatters Tea Party Exhibition, Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL

2008
Signal: Sculpture by Bethany Krull, Genesee Center for Arts and Education, Rochester, NY*

Currents: Contemporary Florida Ceramics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Artists with Attitude, Greenfield Gallery, Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL

5X5(5), Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA

Endangered?, Gloria Kennedy Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

Clay3, Clay Space, Warrenville, IL
Ceramics Biennial, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester, NH

Feral Instincts, University of Miami, Miami, FL

The Edge, The Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL

The Armory Art Show, Miami International University, Miami, FL

Art Biologic, Limner Gallery, Hudson, NY
Second International Medallion Sculpture Competition, Medialia Gallery, New York, NY

RESIDENCIES

2010 Archie Bray Foundation, Short Term Fall Residency, Helena, MT

2010-11 GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Ceramics Department, Reading, PA

2009-10 Armory Art Center, Sculpture Department, West Palm Beach, FL

2008-09 Armory Art Center, Ceramics Department, West Palm Beach, FL

2007-08 Genesee Pottery, Rochester, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012
 Adjunct Professor, Ceramics, Foundations, State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Living Legacy Project, Burchfield Penney Art Center, State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

2011 Adjunct Professor, Ceramics, Foundations, State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Adjunct Professor, Ceramics, the University of the Arts, Professional Institute of Educators, Philadelphia, PA

Reading High School Portfolio Prep, Ceramics, Reading, PA

Artist Talk, Meadows Museum, Shreveport, LA

2010-11 Instructor, Ceramics Department, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Reading, PA

2010 Acting Coordinator of Ceramics Department and Instructor, After School Arts Program, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Reading, PA

Hand Building Workshop, Alvernia University, Reading, PA

2009-10 Instructor, Sculpture Department, Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL

2009 Artist Talk and Demonstration, Ceramics League of the Palm Beaches, Craft Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL

2008-09 Instructor, Ceramics Department Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, FL

2008 Artist Talk, Covered Bridge Community Center, Lake Worth, FL

Artist in Residence, Palm Beach Day Academy, Palm Beach, FL

Artist Talk and Demonstration, Western New York Clay Olympics, State University College at Buffalo, NY

Artist Talk, Arts and Cultural Council, Rochester, NY

Artist Talk, the Elizabeth Foundation, New York, NY

New York Foundation for the Arts, Mark Program, Rochester and New York, NY

2007-08 Instructor, Genesee Pottery, Rochester, NY

AWARDS AND HONORS

2009 Langley H. Kenzie Prize, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

2008 Strategic Opportunity Stipend, New York Foundation for the Arts

2007 School for American Crafts Alumni Scholarship, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

Louise Epstein Award, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

Honorable Mention, Cheongju International Craft Biennial, Cheongju City, South Korea

2005 First Place Award: Sculpture, Allentown Art Festival, Buffalo, NY

2004 Deans Award for Creative Excellence, State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Student Awards Finalist: Sculptural Ceramics, Niche Magazine

First Place Award: Sculpture, Allentown Art Festival, Buffalo, NY

2001 Research and Creativity Grant, Glaze Research and Development, State University College at Buffalo, NY

COLLECTIONS

Burchfield Penney Art Center, State University College at Buffalo, NY
 The Meadows Museum at Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA

State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Medialia, Rock and Hamper Gallery, New York, NY

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

The Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT

Lord and Lady Glentoran, Dublin, Ireland

Mindy Solomon, Dunedin, FL

Gayle and David Levitt, Palm Beach, FL

Donna Long, Palm Beach, FL

Midge Golner, Phoenix, AZ

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

Departed, 2013, porcelain, shoebox, wood veneer, fabric, h 5 x w 15 x d 10 in.

Dwelling, 2013, porcelain, wood, hay, h 55 x w 10 x d 15 in.

Elephant Topiary, 2013, earthenware, paper, h 60 x w 72 x d 26 in.

Embedded, 2013, porcelain, wood, synthetic grass, h 7 x w 13 x d 9 in.

Ornament, 2013, porcelain, wood, cedar mulch, powder-coated steel, h 51 x w 30 x d 30 in.

Precious Pests, 2013, porcelain, clothes line, pillow cases, clothes pins, size variable.

Pretty Please, 2012, porcelain, paper, h 22 x w 14 x d 14 in.

Resurrection of Fluffy, 2013, porcelain, wood, string, h 24 x w 20 x d 10 in.

Resurrection of Gemini, 2013, porcelain, wood, h 51 x w 28 x d 60 in.

Surrogate (Birdie Topiary), 2012, porcelain, paper, h 24 x w 10 x d 10 in.

Surrogate (Ducky Duck), 2012, porcelain, h 5 1/2 x w 8 x d 5 in.

TopSpin

Artists of the Buffalo/Niagara Region

The museum's Tops Gallery—dedicated to the exhibition of work by local and regional artists—presents the **TopSpin** series. **TopSpin** features a broad range of visual expressions, varied in media as well as message, and focuses mainly on new and emerging artists.

TopSpin is made possible through the generous Support of Tops Friendly Markets, LLC.

TOPS



Bethany Krull Where are the Wild Things? is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Catalog design: JCharlier Communication Design



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 OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY
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Castellani Art Museum at the Falls

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Monday to Friday,
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.