

JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE



THE JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY AT GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY PRESENTS **GHADA AMER** ***DÉESSE TERRE***

Opening Reception | Thursday, April 6, 2017 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

NEW YORK – April 6 – May 7, 2017. The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present Ghada Amer's solo exhibition *Déesse Terre*. The work in this show was produced during an intensive three-month artist-in-residence at Greenwich House Pottery.

"There is no precedent for Ghada's ceramics beyond her own body of work. Since the 1970's, Figurative art has experienced a renaissance in the ceramics' sphere. Ghada's large wall hangings are undulating curvilinear forms with raised rounded edges framing the image. These 'ceramic paintings' contain portraits of women made bright with color and fierce through their rugged organic forms. These pieces grew in size and formal complexity, one might say, anticipating her sculptures. The sculptural work, zigzagging freestanding slabs she developed are far more conscious of their arrangement. They reference her paintings torn from their stretchers, folded and crumpled. These brilliant and imposing slabs are viewable in the round necessitating larger figures and subsequently more developed narratives.

Ghada set out to close the distance across her mediums in her quest to express a vision and develop a language that is uniquely her own, uniquely female. Ghada's connection with material and her desire to become physically invested in process

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through a medium linked to the politics of domesticity and femininity, achieve ultimate culmination in clay. Ghada's artistic vocabulary relates to painting, however, her crusade to establish an authentic female voice has achieved great strides through her foray into ceramics. Unlike embroidery, her ceramics sever all material connection with painting's patriarchal tradition, liberating her from the hierarchical struggle she experiences while engaged in that milieu. The embroidered canvas, synonymous with woman's work, remains a dialogue with painting. Ceramics affords Ghada the means to disassociate her language from the tradition of masculine authority.

Ghada Amer's ceramics promotes and arguably realizes her mission to attain female empowerment in art. In her work, ceramics captures the sublimity of pleasure and individual fulfillment. Working in clay has given Ghada a great sense of happiness and freedom, and has begun to inform her other work. Ceramics can be an inglorious reminder of physical reality where time, heat, and weight maintain an unmistakable presence. The enduring nature of ceramics often affords archeologists an opportunity to rediscover ancient civilizations. This may also one day be true of Ghada's ceramics, revealing an era when the power of love, desire, humanity, beauty, and women represented the ethos of a people. Artists like Ghada do not always set out to change the ceramics world. They do not come to ceramics to start a revolution, but rather to investigate a medium ripe with potential, liberated from artworld dogma. Undoubtedly, their goal is to leave some kind of legacy through the material. What Ghada and the others do not anticipate is that while they are changing the future of ceramics, clay is changing them."

--Adam Welch, Director, Greenwich House Pottery

Ghada Amer is an American artist, born in Egypt, living and working in New York City. Amer received her MFA in the arts at Villa Arson in Nice, France. She has been featured in many major exhibitions worldwide with solo exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum of Art; Musee d'Art Contemporain de Montreal; and the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome among others. She was included in major group exhibitions at Gwangju Museum of Art, South Korea; and the Museum of Modern Art New York, and PS1. Amer has also exhibited in the Venice Biennale, the Sydney Biennale and the Whitney Biennale. Amer's works are part of major public collections such as Centre Pompidou, Paris; Art Institute of Chicago; Detroit Institute of Art; Mathaf, Doha; Samsung Museum, South Korea; and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.

Ghada Amer is represented by Cheim & Read in America, Kukje in South Korea and Goodman Gallery in South Africa.

CONTACT

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Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

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ABOUT GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY

Greenwich House Pottery is a school that supports artists and their projects with a commitment to teaching and promoting ceramics. Starting with clay modeling classes in the earliest days of Greenwich House as part of its Handicraft School, the Pottery flourished with the help of the community and philanthropic support from patrons like Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. GHP remains a stalwart of innovation and art.

GHP is dedicated to expanding public awareness of the diversity and complexity of ceramics and fostering the development of artists through internships, residencies, exhibitions and classes. Extending our educational mission of making, exhibiting, and learning from contemporary ceramics, GHP operates “Ceramics Now,” an exhibition series in the Jane Hartsook Gallery committed to supporting emerging, underrepresented and established ceramists.

GHP raises awareness of the importance of creative engagement with art. Like so many nonprofit arts organizations, GHP plays a vital role in community building and providing access to the arts. Centers like GHP have become rare but are regaining popularity as society rediscovers the amazement in creating art by engaging physically with materials. GHP offers a chance to learn from clay in a direct way, particularly the pottery community of the West Village, and to foster connections between artists, material and the larger ceramics community.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Ghada Amer

April 7 – May 5, 2017

GHP Artists

May 19 – June 9, 2017

Ceramics Now

July 13 – August 10, 2017

Teapot: A National Juried Exhibition

September 5 – October 6, 2017

This program is supported by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the Allan Buitkant Fund for Ceramic Art & Inquiry, the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Hompe Foundation, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

