

# JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE



## THE JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY AT GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY PRESENTS

### ***CERAMICS NOW***

**GHADA AMER | JUDY HOFFMAN | ALICE MACKLER | ELLEN ROBINSON**

Opening Reception | Thursday, July 21, 2017 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**NEW YORK** – July 21 – August 18, 2017. The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present work by Ghada Amer, Judy Hoffman, Alice Mackler and Ellen Robinson exhibiting their research as Artist-in-Residence at Greenwich House Pottery. The residency at GHP is a distinguished program offering artists an environment to explore and generate new bodies of work in ceramics.

**Ghada Amer** returned this year to complete her second residency at GHP, spending rigorous hours in the studio and developing a tactile expertise with clay. Using this knowledge, she generated a body of ceramic sculptures, both large-scale paintings and miniatures, thoroughly investigating the marriage between the sensual nature of clay and her message of female empowerment. She continues to cultivate this theme further, bridging the span between her painting and ceramic work.

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 held solo exhibitions at the Brooklyn Museum of Art; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal; and the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome among others. Ghada Amer is represented by Cheim & Read in America, Kukje in South Korea and Goodman Gallery in South Africa.

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With a studio practice that reflects the characteristics of her work, **Judy Hoffman** took full reign in experimenting with new forms, parts and surfaces, creating a database of urban, organic sculptures. Hoffman meticulously organized shapes and surfaces from this playful chaos. Her sculptures are constructed by assembling these individual parts. Hoffman utilized the residency as a place to focus and reflect, dedicating time to technical problem solving and conceptual evolution. As a result, her work presents a dream of playful environments that are other-worldly, lively, biological and urban.

Judy Hoffman is an American artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. Hoffman attended the New York Studio School and received her BA from Grinnell College in Iowa. She is a recipient of grants from the Women's Studio Workshop and the Brooklyn Arts Council. Her work has been included in *Sculpture Magazine* and the *New York Times*. She has exhibited in numerous exhibitions including the Museum Frauenkultur, in Fürth, Germany and Bric House in New York, NY.

During her residency, **Alice Mackler** created female figures vibrant in color and grotesque in texture. Mackler immersed herself in the work, connecting instinctually with the tactility of the material. Her background in painting informs her eye for color and source of expression. The residency provided her with the opportunity to further develop eccentric forms and radiating surfaces. Experimenting with scale, Mackler challenged herself to move beyond her 12 inch tall figures, doubling their size. Mackler continues to allure viewers with the quizzical nature of her ruby-lipped females, communicating a body language that is their own.

Alice Mackler is an American artist born in 1931 in New York and received her BFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York. Mackler has exhibited in the group exhibitions *Unorthodox* at The Jewish Museum, New York, NY, *The Avant-Garde Won't give Up: Cobra and its Legacy*, at Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA and *Gardens of the Pure* at MOCA Tucson. She has also held solo exhibitions at the Independent Art Fair and Kerry Schuss Gallery in New York, NY, 2017. Alice Mackler's work will be included in the upcoming book from Phaidon, *Vitamin C*, (ceramics).

**Ellen Robinson's** residency served as a place of quiet contemplation for textural assemblages and soft surfaces. Her invented constructions, at first glance, pass as organic natural forms, but further looking reveals these forms as abstractions of those ideas. Yet, Robinson transforms these associations into objects full of dichotomies and contrasting impressions. The work invites either a quiet or intense response through her use of monochromatic tones and whimsical arrangement. During the residency, Robinson was able to explore a variety of surface treatments and assemblage choices, working through new forms and ideas.

Ellen Robinson is an American artist living and working in Brooklyn, NY. She received her MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York, NY, where she began working in ceramics. She has been an Artist-in-Residence at the Henry Street Settlement and has shown her work at galleries such as Alona Kagan Gallery in New York, NY, One Main Street Gallery in Buffalo, NY and Diamantina Gallery in Brooklyn, NY.

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## CONTACT

JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY  
GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY  
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Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

## 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

### CERAMICS NOW

**Ghada Amer, Judy Hoffman, Alice Mackler, Ellen Robinson**  
July 21 – August 18, 2017

### Teapot: A National Juried Exhibition

September 9 – October 6, 2017

### Andrew Casto, Evan D’Orazio, Hilary Harnischfeger

October 20 – November 17, 2017

### Bandana Pottery

November 2 – December 22, 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.

