

Greenwich House Pottery Residency and Fellowship

SHEILA PEPE

Residency: September 21 – November 24th, 2015

New York, NY – Greenwich House Pottery is pleased to announce the launch of the *Greenwich House Pottery Residency and Fellowship*, a program designed to support artists' projects. Our goal is to open up our facility to raise awareness around the importance of the creative engagement with ceramics. These two new opportunities add to our long history of resident artist and artist-in-residence programming. Ultimately, these efforts introduce more artists to the pleasure of clay and new perspectives that ceramics uniquely provides.

Sheila Pepe is the first in this new Residency. Pepe is best known for her large-scale, ephemeral installations and sculpture made from domestic and industrial materials. Since the mid-1990s Pepe has used feminist and craft traditions to investigate received notions concerning the production of canonical artwork as well as the artist's relationship to museum display and the art institution itself.

Pepe has exhibited widely throughout the United States and abroad in solo and group exhibitions as well as collaborative projects. Pepe's many solo exhibitions include the Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, and the Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina. Her work has been included in important group exhibitions such as the first *Greater New York* at PS1/MoMA; *Hand + Made: The Performative Impulse in Art & Craft*, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Texas, Artisterium, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia and the 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale. Pepe's commission "Put me down Gently," 2014+ was recently featured in the ICA/Boston's traveling exhibition *Fiber: Sculpture 1960-present*.

Nonprofit arts organizations, like Greenwich House Pottery, play a vital role in community building and providing access to the arts. Centers like GHP are regaining in popularity because our society is rediscovering the amazement in observing someone create a work of art or engaging some material directly to create a work of one's own. The Greenwich House Pottery Residency and Fellowship is a chance to engage and learn from the Pottery in a direct way, particularly the Pottery's community in the West Village, and to foster a creative dialogue between artists, the material, and the ceramic community. Greenwich House Pottery's goal is to strengthen our relationship to communities and to develop processes that nurture creative work within them.

Greenwich House Pottery fosters and facilitates relationships where artists come together to work out ideas and create new works through a period of in-depth immersion in a social context which is rich in history, culture, expertise and ideas. Community and collaboration at Greenwich House Pottery are fostered through discussions between faculty, students and staff. To inquire and to create, these are core values of Greenwich House Pottery. This has been demonstrated over 100 years of experimentation via creative use of clay with the goal to innovate. This approach results both in the development of creative and exciting works of art.

Greenwich House Pottery, a non-profit (501 c3) organization, is New York City's premier ceramic facility. Founded in 1909 to teach immigrants a marketable skill in the spirit of the Arts & Crafts Movement to promote the handmade as an alternative to industrialization.

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HEADshot photo Credit: Rachel Stern



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