

JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE



**THE JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY
AT GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY PRESENTS**

VIBRANT THINGS

ANDREW CASTO | EVAN D'ORAZIO | HILARY HARNISCHFEGER

Opening Reception | Thursday, October 19, 2017 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

NEW YORK – October 19 – November 17, 2017 – The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present *Vibrant Things*, a three person exhibition featuring Andrew Casto, Evan D'Orazio and Hilary Harnischfeger, curated by Aimee Odum. Undertaking the near-impossible and intricate task of absorbing the world around them, the artists transform ephemeral events from their environment into tangible and vivacious ceramic assemblages. Each creates their own distinct aesthetic using layers of clay slip, encrusted hydrostone or brightly colored ceramic mounds. Casto, D'Orazio and Harnischfeger are influenced by geological processes, banal spaces or personal moods or relationships. They channel day-to-day experiences into objects that preserve the gestures that made them, giving these static forms a sense of movement. *Vibrant Things* connects these lively ceramic forms with stress, humor and memory – provoking us to evaluate the forces that shape us.

Andrew Casto's forms are loosely structured branches that seem to divide infinitely, rising and gracefully melting into their own formations. Casto builds strata with soft hues and flecks of gold that flow over mounds of fluid slip and glaze. He extracts a visual language from geological processes like erosion, linking these dynamic changes to the repercussions of stress and how it shapes us physically, mentally and emotionally. Creating a tempo with his work, Casto repeats and evolves each ceramic form, relating these transformations to our fluctuating surroundings.

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Casto presented solo exhibitions at Galleria Salvatore Lanteri (Milan, Italy); and Mindy Solomon Gallery (Miami, FL). His work has been included in national and international group exhibitions at Puls Contemporary Ceramics (Brussels, Belgium); Patricia Swaton Gallery (Oakland, CA); Gallery 8 and Cynthia Corbet Gallery (London, UK); and Sight Unseen Offsite for Design Week (New York, NY). His work is in numerous permanent collections such as the Regidoria de Cultura (El Vendrell, Spain); The Arizona State University Museum of Art Ceramics Research Center (Tempe, AZ); and The Archie Bray Foundation (Helena, MT). Casto currently serves as the Assistant Professor of Art in Ceramics at The University of Iowa. He received his MFA from the University of Iowa and is represented by Mindy Solomon Gallery in Miami.

Evan D’Orazio’s objects serve as actants for his interests, identity and physical and mental stress. Through a cathartic process, the work become manifestations of D’Orazio’s anxieties as he piles, throws and manipulates clay into heaps, often resembling debris. D’Orazio brings lightness to his work by incorporating colors of the 1980s and processed and artificial foods. Bright, saturated surfaces act as a counter response to his negative day-to-day experiences. The objects pulsate with a sense of liveliness and humor, pushing and pulling the viewer through D’Orazio’s responses to his daily routine.

D’Orazio has held solo exhibitions at Morpho Gallery (Chicago, IL) and Pleasant Street Gallery (Dekalb, IL). He has been invited to show his work in group exhibitions at Forum Gallery (Bloomfield Hills, MI); Museum of Contemporary Art (Detroit, MI); Galleria Salvatore Lanteri (Milan, Italy); Palazzo Cisterna (Turin, Italy); and Morpho Gallery (Chicago, IL). D’Orazio currently lives and works in Ferndale, MI. He received his MFA from The Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Perceptive of the subtleties in her environment, **Hilary Harnischfeger** uses spaces and events to inform her raw, yet intricate forms. Mounted on the wall and in the round, the works are filled with dichotomies, acting as a truthful, yet mystical memory of her surroundings. Harnischfeger’s process involves taking molds of objects from her daily life and casting their likeness in hydrocal, further pairing them with colored porcelain, minerals and handmade paper. She finds inspiration from the architectural maquettes of German Expressionist, Hermann Finsterlin, her children’s interest in animated cartoons and a broken cliff face. Both entrancing and quiet, the objects act as passages for us to understand our own environments in a way that is fleeting, yet grounded.

Harnischfeger has had solo exhibitions at Rachel Uffner Gallery (New York, NY); American University Museum (Washington DC); Halsey McKay Gallery (East Hampton, NY); Neverwork (New York, NY); and Moody Gallery (Houston, TX). She has participated in numerous group exhibitions, among them shows at Cleveland Museum of Art (Cleveland, OH); MOCA Cleveland (Cleveland, OH); James Cohan Gallery (Shanghai, CH); James Fuentes (New York, NY); and Grimm Fine Art (Amsterdam, NE). Selected press includes reviews by Jerry Saltz in New York Magazine and Roberta Smith in The New York Times, among others. Harnischfeger lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her MFA from Columbia University and is represented by Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York.

Casto, D’Orazio and Harnischfeger will present an artist talk about their work, October 20, 2017 at Greenwich House Pottery, 2nd Floor, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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CONTACT

JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY
GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY
16 Jones Street, (between Bleecker & West 4th)
New York, NY 10014
www.greenwichhousepottery.org
Aimee Odum, aodum@greenwichhouse.org
(212) 242-4106 ext., 25
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 established in 1909, 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, dedicated to showcasing the work of contemporary 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 and to foster connections between artists, material and the larger ceramics community.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Vibrant Things | Andrew Casto, Evan D’Orazio, Hilary Harnischfeger
October 19 – November 17, 2017

Bandana Pottery
December 2 – December 22, 2017

A. M. Martens
January 12 – February 9, 2018

Daniel Bare
February 23 – March 23, 2018

This program is supported by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the Allan Buitenkant 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.

