

JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE



Christopher Staley, work in progress, 2019. Photo: courtesy of the artist.

THE JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY AT GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY PRESENTS **TOUCHING TIME** **CHRISTOPHER STALEY**

Opening Reception | Saturday, September 7, 2019 | 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Exhibition on view August 30 through September 27, 2019

NEW YORK – The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present new work by Christopher Staley. In the artist's first solo exhibition in 10 years, Staley uses introspection to locate creativity and selfhood within his artistic process. The work in this exhibition was inspired by Staley's 2019 return to the Archie Bray Foundation and Greenwich House Pottery—two ceramics centers that had a significant impact on his career—30 years after he first encountered them. Re-encountering these spaces made Staley reconsider how his life experience has affected his work. Like the Process Artists of the '60s and '70s, he began to reevaluate where "art" occurred in his making process. Was it the finished object or the steps along the way? By analyzing his work as metaphor and interrogating his creative process, Staley leads by example and encourages other artists to do the same, raising the question: Are the objects in this exhibition the art, or is the introspection Staley sparks in others his true art?

Christopher Staley is an artist based out of Pennsylvania. He has been a Professor of Ceramic Art at Penn State University since 1990. He received his MFA from Alfred University and his BFA from Wittenberg University. Staley has shown his work across the United States, including at Museum of Contemporary Crafts (Portland, OR; 2013) Santa Fe Clay Gallery (Santa Fe, NM; 2009), and Garth Clark Gallery (New York, NY; 2000). He has been artist in residence at Ceramic Art Museum (Fuping, China; 2007), EKWC (The Netherlands, 2005), and the Archie Bray Foundation (Helena, MT; 2019, 2004, 1998-99). Staley has previously served as President of the National Council on Education of the Ceramic Arts (2016), on the Board of Directors for Haystack School of Crafts (Deer Isle, ME; 2005-14), and

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on the Advisory Board for Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts (Edgecomb, ME; 1991-94).

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 ceramics center that has been supporting artists and promoting the field of ceramics for over 110 years. 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 strives to increase public recognition 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.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Breaking the Plane

Shannon Goff, Lauren Mabry, Peter Christian Johnson

October 11 – November 8, 2019

Janice Jakielski

November 22 – December 20, 2019

City Wide

Carly Slade

January 10 – February 7, 2019



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