

LEFEBVRE & FILS

CONTEMPORARY ART CERAMICS

presents

DEREK WEISBERG
YOUR SOUL IS A CHOSEN
LANDSCAPE

November 21, 2019 - January 11, 2020

Opening Thursday 21st November from 6 to 8pm



DEREK WEISBERG

November 21, 2019 - January 11, 2020

"I have spent the last several weeks living and working a mere 800m from one of the greatest architectural and cultural complexes in history. Vibrations from the "Le Grand Siècle" pulsate down the avenue, into my studio. It is impossible to escape the eclipse of the Sun King's kiss. His radiation moves beyond the guided mirrored halls, through the acres of pristinely manicured gardens with its monumental outdoor sculptures, and past the massive golden entry gates. I am an American in France, with an outsiders perspective. The incredible grandeur and cultural accomplishment is fascinating, even admirable; but as an outsider it is hard to not compare the reign of Louis the XIV, his heirs, and their wealthy nobility to the current world, especially the USA with its billionaire class.

How does one make figurative sculpture with the baggage of history and the incredibly rich artistic accomplishments found at Versailles, and in France? In addition, how does one do this with the heavy comparison to the economic/ social landscape of today's world? If anything it has fortified my interest in the portrayal of humanity and the human condition. It is a reminder of what it means to be a human with all our flaws and dysfunctions, living life with the acknowledgement and awareness of our own finitude. It has reinforced my thinking about "the people," the non ruling class, the underdogs, and the actual power we hold.

With the individual in mind, inspiration for this show was not only drawn from the Bourbon dynasty but also from significant French individuals: thinkers and artists such as David, Rodin, Delacroix, Géricault, Bonnard, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, and Verlaine. In fact the title of the show comes from the opening line of a Verlaine poem, titled Claire de Lune. This poem also includes the line: "masque and bergamasque" which is the title of the 200 page catalogue produced by Laurent de Verneuil which accompanies the exhibition. I have chosen French history, the current state of the world and my own personal landscape to provide the frame for this exhibition."

Derek Weisberg, October 2019

Derek Weisberg

Born in 1983, lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Derek Weisberg studied at California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, CA where he received a BFA in 2005. Gallery Lefebvre et Fils is pleased to be presenting Weisberg's first solo show in Europe. Weisberg has shown extensively throughout the United States and is a recent alumni of the Sharpe Walentas Studio program, a highly prestigious residency program in NY. He has created most of the large scale figurative sculptures in porcelain. His mastery and control of the material has evolved into a more collaborative way of working with clay; allowing the material to express its own voice and vocabulary. This approach is something akin to the Zen expression of Wabi Sabi; a connection to materiality and spiritual principals through the acceptance of reality, chance, imperfection.

DEREK WEISBERG

Derek Weisberg, was born in 1983. He began sculpting at a very early age starting with the medium of mashed potatoes as soon as he could hold a fork and knife, moving onto action figure assemblage when he could load a hot glue gun, and at age 7 he turned to the medium of ceramics, which was the beginning of his lifelong love and ultimate passion. He unwaveringly pursued ceramics sculpture throughout his childhood and teens, in Benicia, CA, where he was raised. At age 18 he moved to Oakland, CA, to pursue his love for ceramics and art in general and attended California College of Arts and Crafts. At CCAC he received several awards and graduated with high honors in 2005 with a BFA. Since then Weisberg has co-owned his own gallery, Boontling Gallery, as well as curated numerous other shows. He has also worked with highly esteemed artists such as Stephen De Staebler, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Manuel Neri, and Peter Lane, among others. In addition Weisberg has maintained a strong and demanding studio practice, exhibiting nationally, and internationally. Weisberg currently lives and works in NY and is faculty at Greenwich House Pottery.

Education

2005

BFA in ceramics, California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland CA

Awards

2012

Individual Grant Recipient, Belle Foundation

2008

Searchlight Artist, 1 of 10 nationally selected emerging Craftsmen/women

2004

Best of Junior Review

All College Honors Marjorie Benedict Scholarship
Clayfolk West Coast Regional Scholarship

2003

Honorable mention at "Visions in Clay," Reynolds Gallery, Stockton, CA

Solo Exhibitions

2019

"Your Soul is a Chosen Landscape" Galerie Lefebvre et Fils, Paris, France

2018

Alice Mackler and Derek Weisberg, Kerry Schuss, New York, NY

2017

"Yesterday Clouds", with Ivana Popov, Underdonk, Brooklyn, NY "Knowing Autumn", Fine Arts Building, Los Angeles, CA

2014

"Life Blood", Church Boutique, Los Angeles, CA

"Intertidal Zone", Goosebarnacle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY "Saving Face", Lyons Weir Gallery, New York, NY

2012

"Porcelain Promises", Greenwich House Pottery, New York, NY

2011

"Auroral Dreaming", Anno Domini Gallery, San Jose, CA,

"You Were Almost Extinct Again", San Francisco University High, San Francisco, CA

2010

"You Were Almost Extinct Too", Florida Atlantic University, John D. Macarthur Library Gallery, Jupiter, FL

2009

"Mine Us One", with James Kirkpatrick, Hatch Gallery, Oakland, CA

"The Moth, The Flame, and The Returning Comet" with Matt Rebholz, Space 1026, Philadelphia, PA

"Olam Haba The World To Come," Rowan Morrison Gallery, Oakland, CA

"The Moth, The Flame, and the Returning Comet, part 2", Stumble Upon Office, San Francisco, CA

2008

"Sugar and Spice and Everything's Not So Nice" with Crystal Morey, Young Blood Gallery, Atlanta, GA

"Victoria Everlasting," Anno Domini, San Jose CA

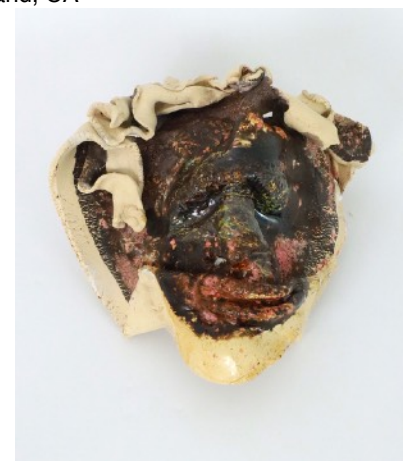
2007

Two-person exhibit with Stan Welsh, 12 and Taylor Gallery, San Jose, CA

"Often Forgotten" with Mike Simpson, Boontling Gallery, Oakland, CA

2004

"Waiting Heavy," Center Gallery, Oakland, CA



Life Mask LXIX, 2019

Stoneware and glaze - Signed and dated
21 x 21 x 11 cm
8 x 8 x 4.5 in.



Portrait of Louis Lefebvre
© Paul Jacob Bashour

About Louis Lefebvre

Born in Paris.

Louis Lefebvre left to study in Cambridge, England.

On his return, he began working at Christie's in the European Ceramics department, followed by the Asian Ceramics department.

During the 1980s, Louis Lefebvre started working with his father in his role as a respected expert in Ancient Ceramics. He specialized in historical and large decorative pieces, and later Modern and Contemporary ceramics.

In 2009, Louis Lefebvre chose to re-focus the family gallery, created in 1880. He put in place the gallery's first exhibition of new ceramics. Since, the gallery has explored contemporary ceramics and accompanied artists such as Roger Herman, Eric Croes and Cammie Staros in their interrogation of the medium with a leitmotiv and passion to show the real permanence and renewal of Ceramics as a medium in contemporary art.

Presentation of the Residency Project Interview with Louis Lefebvre

“The residency grew from a desire precious to my family; that is to know and promote a know-how passed down many generations, enabling the creation of complex and unique art works.”

In 2015, you opened the “The Residency” in Versailles for artists specialized in ceramics. What is involved in this initiative?

En 2006, I had the chance to acquire a house in Versailles classified for its historical heritage, once the music room of the princess Elisabeth, sister of Louis XVI.

“The Residency” grew from a desire precious to my family; that is to know and promote a know-how passed down many generations, enabling the creation of complex and unique art works.”

The residency is kitted out with two kilns to make production as easy as possible for artists.

The duration of the residencies vary between 6 weeks and 3 months. Part of the package is that your gallery is the stage for a solo show at the end of the residency. Are all the pieces are exhibited being shown exclusive?

On average, the residency lasts two months for each invited artist. Each exhibited work is unique and unseen. There are no multiple editions.

Each residency is an opportunity to share, experiment and live a human adventure. The resulting solo show is the fruit of work that comes from a strong link between the artist and the gallery.

Not all the artists in “The Residency” are artists of the gallery. How do you choose which artists benefit from the residency?

It would be impossible to establish an admissions process to participate in “The Residency”.

I am particularly susceptible to the production of a number of artists from the West Coast of America. I find their outlook, when it comes to techniques and the work produced, of a very high level. There is a really unique style that comes from Los Angeles.

I trust my eye and my aesthetic sensitivity. I owe many artistic encounters to Roger Herman, a professor friend at UCLA and ceramist artist, and to Danny First, an Israeli philanthropist friend.

“The Residency” has existed for two years, could you tell us your first impressions of how it’s gone so far, and your goals for the future?

I had given myself two years to make the project viable. I’ve achieved this, as well as doubling the turnover for the gallery.

The solo shows have been a great success, enabling me to confirm my role as a gallery owner by placing the artists’ pieces. I also advise and accompany them in introductions to great collectors and museums. Such as Anabel Juarez, a Mexican artist, or Eric Croes, a Belgian artist, who have works in the collections of the Museum of Sèvres.

In addition, the gallery offers the residency artists a high quality of visibility through the participation in innovative international fairs, for example in AAAH Paris Internationale.

This project, dedicated to the red arts, which started with the artist Ulrika Strömbäck continues today with many more artists. “The Residency” has a booked-up program until 2020, which demonstrates that the gallery has opened a new chapter and that the story continues.

Program The Residency 2019

Shoshi WATANABE

RESIDENCY



Available pictures for Press



Beneath Their Fantastic Disguise, 2019

Porcelain - Signed and dated

78 x 48 x 41 cm

30.5 x 19 x 16 in.



Life Mask LXXI, 2019

Porcelain and stoneware - Signed and dated

20 x 15 x 7 cm

8 x 6 x 3 in.



Souls Aren't Like Reptile Tails I'm Afraid II, 2019

Porcelain, stoneware and glaze - Signed and dated

78 x 40 x 27 cm

30.5 x 16 x 10.5 in.

Practical Informations



DEREK WEISBERG ***YOUR SOUL IS A CHOSEN LANDSCAPE***

November 21, 2019 - January 11, 2020

Next exhibition

Shoshi WATANABE



Galerie Lefebvre & fils **24, rue du Bac** **75007 Paris**

From Tuesday to Saturday

from 11am to 1pm and from 2pm to 7pm

And on Mondays by appointment

01 42 61 18 40
lefebvreelfils@gmail.com
www.lefebvreelfils.fr