

LEFEBVRE & FILS

CONTEMPORARY ART CERAMICS

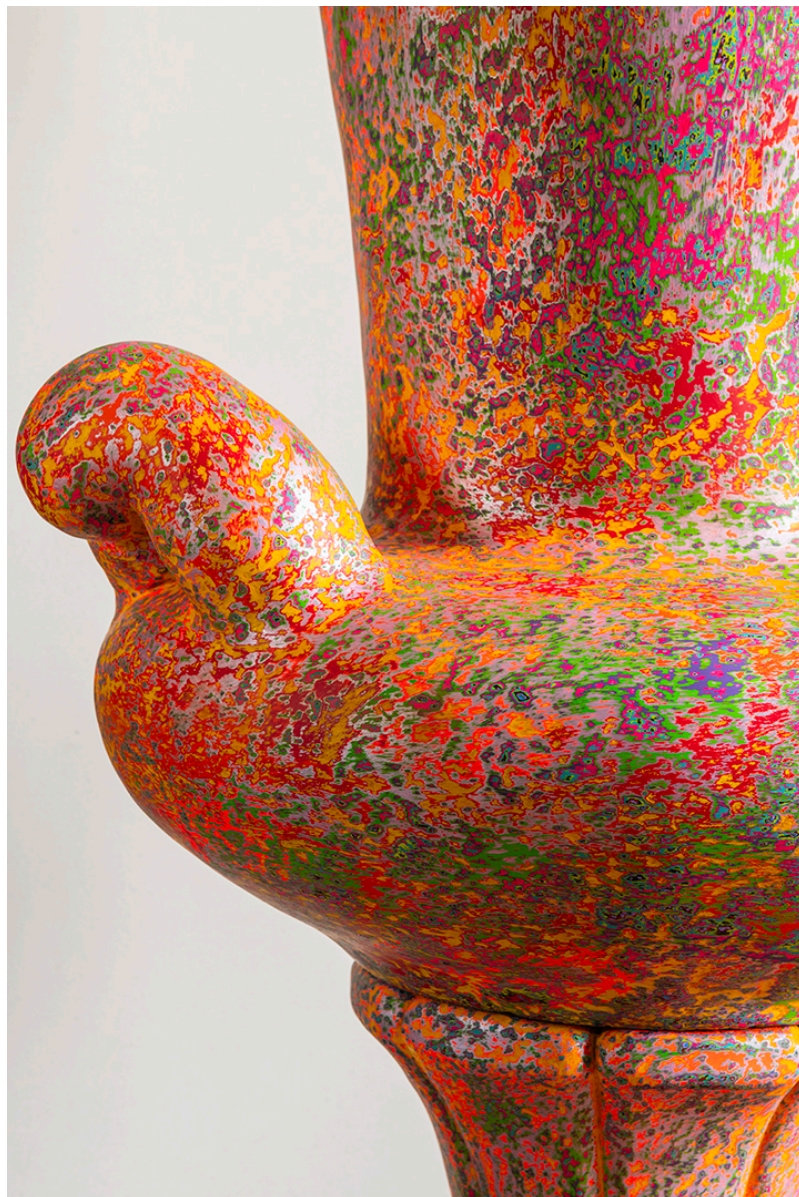
presents

MAXWELL MUSTARDO

RECASTING ROCOCO

September 7 - October 14, 2023

Opening Thursday September 7, 2023 from 5 to 8pm



Galerie Lefebvre & Fils
24, rue du bac - 75007 Paris
www.lefebvreelfils.fr

Krater Vase, 2023
Painted stoneware
147,3 x 68,6 x 61 cm
58 x 27 x 24 in.
Copyright Yannick Labrousse

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Lefebvre & Fils gallery is happy to present the first solo-show in Paris of the American artist Maxwell Mustardo, following his Residency in Versailles between June and August 2023.

"Exhibiting works made at the Lefebvre & Fils residency, which neighbors the Palace of Versailles, Recasting Rococo uses vases to organize & illustrate some of the precursors and derivations of mid-18th century French ceramics.

During this period, porcelains made at the Sevres Manufactory for the court at Versailles attempted to consolidate and capitalize on a tumult of cultural changes to create products suited to a fabulously wealthy class whose conspicuous consumption was vital to demonstrating affluence. Those designers explored the recently developed technology of domestic European porcelain, drew from a renewed interest in Classical antiquities following excavations at Pompeii, and attempted to rival and outshine East Asian export porcelains. The objects that emerged from synthesizing these disparate cultural sources were shockingly novel and superbly excessive.

The works exhibited interpret a relevant selection of vessels involved in this synthesis, with anachronistic liberties taken to distort their original likenesses with contemporary vocabularies of form and surface. Primary subjects include the monumental Greek Krater vase, perfumed Sevres Pot-Pourri vases, modular Delft tulipieres, anthropomorphic Roman storage amphorae, & rhythmic polychrome garnitures of Chinese porcelains."

Maxwell Mustardo, September 2023



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Maxwell Mustardo was born in 1993 in rural New Jersey. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Art History and Theory from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in 2017. His dual theses focused on issues of materiality in ceramics.

Max has earned multiple awards for his work including an Award of Excellence from the James Renwick Alliance, Ceramics Monthly Emerging Artist, an ARGUS grant for materials research, a Levine Endowment grant to study material culture in Japan & South Korea and was the SUNY finalist in the visual arts category for the Thayer Fellowship in the Arts as an undergraduate student. His current practice encompasses scholarly writing, curation, teaching, design, and sculpture. He has been a resident artist at the Takaezu Studio, the Mendocino Art Center, the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, the Sonoma Community Center, the New Harmony Clay Project, & at the C.R.E.T.A. Rome International Center.

EDUCATION

2017

Bachelor of Art History and Theory, NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Alfred,
Bachelor of Fine Arts, NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Alfred, NY.

SOLO SHOWS

2023

Maxwell Mustardo, Galeria Mascota, Mexico City, Mexico

2022

Substance of Style, Culture Object, New York City, NY

Aposematic, Puls Ceramics, Brussels, Belgium
Dish-Oriented, Hunterdon County Museum of Art, Clinton, NJ

Quasi-Neoclassical-Ish, Odem Atelier, Stockholm, Sweden

2021

Deform Follows Defunction, Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster, NJ

2020

Voluminous Mute, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma, CA

2016

BFA Show, Robert R. Turner Gallery, Alfred, NY

SELECTED RECENT GROUP SHOWS

2023

Fresh-Faces' April, Newzones, Calgary, Canada

2022

"Vanguards" May-June, Unit, London, UK

"Radical Pots" March, Duane Reed Gallery, St. Louis, MI

2021

Filled Up, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, New Harmony, IN

Adaptation, Culture-Object, New York, NY

CUPS, Galerie Mascota, Mexico City, Mexico

Amphorae, C.R.E.T.A. ROME, Rome, Italy

Craft Forms 202, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA



Endless Blue & White Tulipiere, 2023

Painted stoneware

213,4 x 50,8 cm

83.8 x 20 in.

Copyright Yannick Labrousse



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.

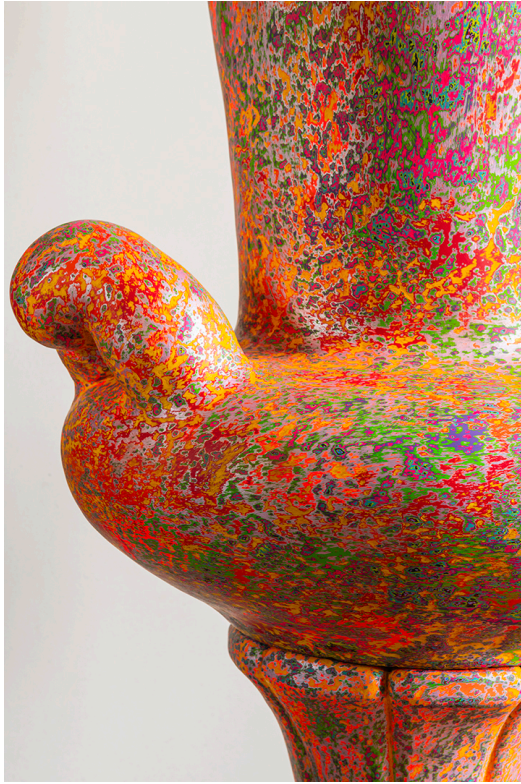
In addition, the gallery offers the residency artists a high quality of visibility through the participation in innovative international fairs, for example in AAAH Paris Internationale.

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 2023, which demonstrates that the gallery has opened a new chapter and that the story continues.

THE RESIDENCY



Practical Informations



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Galerie Lefebvre & Fils
24, rue du Bac
75007 Paris

From Tuesday to Saturday
11am - 1pm and 2pm - 7pm
Monday by appointment

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www.lefebvreetfils.fr