

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2016

For more information, contact

Leslie Ferrin, Director, [leslie@ferrincontemporary.com](mailto:leslie@ferrincontemporary.com)

413.446.0614

Ferrin Contemporary [ferrincontemporary.com](http://ferrincontemporary.com)

1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA 01247

[link to online exhibition](#)

Ferrin Contemporary presents

[EXPOSED: Heads, Busts, and Nudes](#)

at 1315 MASS MoCA Way in North Adams, Mass.

June 18–August 7, 2016

North Adams, Mass. – Ferrin Contemporary presents “[EXPOSED: Heads, Busts, and Nudes](#),” an exhibition of figural ceramic sculpture from 1970 to the present, at its gallery located at 1315 MASS MoCA Way. The exhibition features masterworks from estates and private collections alongside recent work direct from artist studios.

The group of noted American and British sculptors explores themes that range from social realism to otherworldly surrealism to abstraction of form. The overview illustrates how early practitioners in California’s Bay Area during in the 1960s and 1970s, such as Robert Arneson, Viola Frey, and Stephen De Staebler, continue to inspire artists today. Known for their use of clay in combination with painted glaze surfaces, these artists challenge presumptions and their work defies easy categorization as sculpture, decorative arts, or studio craft.

The exhibit that takes place at Ferrin Contemporary’s gallery in western Massachusetts presents a selection of available works by living and deceased artists featured in the accompanying catalog *EXPOSED: Heads, Busts, and Nudes*. The publication includes an introduction by curator Leslie Ferrin and an informative essay by author and independent curator Mark Leach highlighting the seminal moments and interplay between artists and their mentors.

“The exhibition brings together a varied group of artists working in clay and for whom the figure has been a rich and enduring motif. Each explores or expresses aspects of our human

nature—its dark and horrific impact and its uplifting and triumphant accomplishments,” states Leach.

Leslie Ferrin, gallery director and curator of this exhibition explains, “We are focusing on the lineage between generations of contemporary artists who are working within the figural genre. The first generation of post WW II artists inspired a second and now a third generation of contemporary artists exploring figural sculpture through their work, teaching, and the educational programs they established. Likewise, the first generation of collectors is actively feeding new and established collections through gifts and sales of masterworks collected during their lifetimes.

“By exhibiting works from artist studios, estates, and private collections that together span five decades, we are creating a generational investigation that explores the work of contemporary artists who were educated in the programs founded by the master artists.”

Responding to a renewed and growing public interest in realism, this show offers an opportunity to view important works by three generations and showcases masterworks made by living artists at mid-career. Provoked by their personal response to the times in which they live and their unique relationship with the medium, these artists are at a pivotal moment, exploring scale and the development of ideas.

This exhibition, catalog, and related programming provide collectors and artists with an opportunity to survey and reflect on fifty years of the figure.

The artists in the project include Robert Arneson, Rudy Autio, Christie Brown, Beth Cavener, Cristina Córdova, Claire Curneen, Stephen Dixon, Jack Earl, Edward Eberle, Philip Eglin, Viola Frey, Alessandro Gallo, Georges Jeanclos, Gerit Grimm, Coille Hooven, Sergei Isupov, Doug Jeck, Michael Lucero, Kadri Pärnamets, Esther Shimazu, Dirk Staschke, Akio Takamori, Tip Toland, Patti Warashina, Kurt Weiser, Beatrice Wood

#### OPENING RECEPTION

The public is invited to the opening reception on Saturday, June 18, 4–6 p.m.

#### CLAY IS HOT! CONNOISSEURSHIP: BUY, SELL, GIVE

The public is invited to join Ferrin Contemporary’s panel discussion series CLAY IS HOT! on July 10, 3–5 p.m. “Connoisseurship: Buy, Sell, Give” will be the topic covered by experts Doug and Dale Anderson, art collectors; Mark Leach, independent curator and author; and

Emily Zilber, Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, MFA Boston; in their discussion focusing on the value and future of private art collections. Reservations requested. RSVP to [info@ferrincontemporary.com](mailto:info@ferrincontemporary.com)

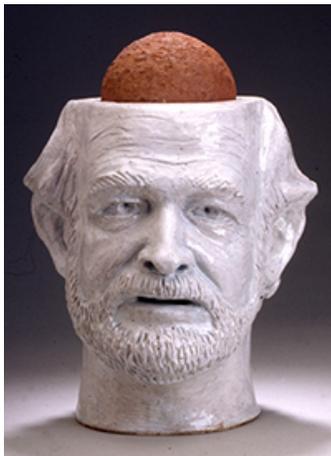
#### ABOUT FERRIN CONTEMPORARY

[Ferrin Contemporary](http://ferrincontemporary.com) specializes in ceramic art circa 1950 to the present. For more than 30 years, private collectors, institutions, and the media have made it their preferred source for artwork by established and emerging artists whose primary medium is clay. Based in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts, Ferrin Contemporary exhibits curated projects and solo shows in their year-round gallery space and through innovative partnerships with leading museums and galleries throughout the US and abroad.

###

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Contact Leslie Ferrin at [info@ferrincontemporary.com](mailto:info@ferrincontemporary.com)



Robert Arneson, "Advanced Stage of Ceramophilia," 1991, glazed ceramic, 16 x 11 x 11".

REQUIRED CAPTIONING: "Advanced Stage of Ceramiophilia © Estate of Robert Arneson / Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY



Viola Frey, "Untitled" (Horse, Bird, Monkey and Arms), 2001–2002, ceramic, glaze, 26 x 26 x 6".  
REQUIRED CAPTIONING: "Untitled" © Artists' Legacy Foundation / Licensed by VAGA, New York. Photographed by Chris Watson



Gerit Grimm, "Female Head," 2015, wheel-thrown stoneware, 11 x 18 x 13".



Sergei Isupov, "Risen," 2016, stoneware, slip, glaze, 8'.  
Photo: John Polak



Takahiro Kondo, "Untitled," 2010, porcelain, glaze, 9.5 x 5.5 x 8".  
Photo: John Polak.



Cristina Córdova, "De mi isla salvaje (from my wild island)" 2015, ceramic, resin, pigments, tiles: 93 x 70", figure: 53 x 25 x 17".  
Photo: John Polak