

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERIOR'S PORCELAIN FEATURED IN SOLO SHOW IN LINCOLN

CUMMINGTON, Mass. -- Mara Superior's solo show *A Porcelain Menagerie* is on view at Clark Gallery at 145 Lincoln Road in Lincoln, through March 29, 2015. The show features painted porcelain platters, teapots, and sculptures celebrating the beauty and fragility of the animal world.

Superior is known for her contemporary porcelain that uses imagery and form to convey theories of beauty and subtle social commentary. Her vocabulary is drawn from the surfaces, images, forms, and typography found in decorative and fine art as well as historical maps and documents and is used to articulate her thoughts on today's issues.

"Mara's choice of porcelain, a medium known for its fragile beauty, is analogous to the subject of her work in the show," says Leslie Ferrin, director of Ferrin Contemporary and one of the curators of the show. "Porcelain embodies the fragility of this planet with its diverse environments, all the flora and fauna, and the delicate balance in which they survive."

Using various forms of plates and constructed forms of teapots and tile relief, Superior creates commemoratives that deliver a message to preserve and appreciate our living world. They are a plea for attention to a world out of control. Both porcelain and nature are fragile, breakable, and need careful handling to survive. Her piece, *Mother Nature*, exhorts viewers to "Wake up people! Preserve your planet!"

In a review published in *Ceramics Magazine*, the late potter and author Angela Fina emphasized that Superior's work is both classical and contemporary and presents a sensibility that cannot be found outside of the discipline of ceramic art. "Superior's work is firmly grounded in the ceramic tradition; the ancient Greeks, too, decorated their ceremonial pots with narrative drawings," Fina wrote. "The fascinating physical beauty of [Superior's] glazed porcelain, with its copper-red blushes and floating cobalt blues, is of central value. They could not exist with the same impact in any other material. They are about ceramic art."

Superior has lived and worked in western Massachusetts since 1980. Her work has been shown and is in the collections of the New Britain Museum of Art, Peabody Essex Museum, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Newark Museum of Contemporary Arts & Design, among many others.

Mara Superior is represented by Ferrin Contemporary, which specializes in ceramic art circa 1950 to the present. For more than thirty years, Ferrin Contemporary has been the preferred source for artwork by established and emerging artists and designers whose primary medium is clay, for private collectors, institutions, and the media. More of samples of Superior's work can be seen at <http://ferrincontemporary.com/portfolio-items/mara-superior/>

Co-curated by Ferrin and Dana Salvo, the show includes work from 2000 to the present. Dana Salvo is a nationally recognized photographer who has received numerous awards and grants. He owns Clark Gallery with his wife, Dawn Southworth. Clark Gallery exhibits contemporary art in all media by emerging, mid-career, and established artists from the Northeast and nation-wide.

Also at Clark Gallery at the same time is a second show, *Ceramics at Clark*: a group show of work by Bruce Barry, David Furman, Linda Huey, and Allison Newsome. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The gallery will be open extended hours during the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference in Providence, R.I. From March 22 to 29, it will be open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will host a special reception on Monday, March 23 from 5 to 7 p.m.



"Mother Nature Says, Wake Up!" 2010, porcelain, wood, pearls, gold leaf, 17 x 22 x 2".



"Smart Planet: Homage to Science" 2009, porcelain, wood, gold leaf, tin pencil-sharpener (feet), 20 x 10.5 x 10.5".



"Ornithology" 2011, porcelain, 16 x 2.5".