

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ferrin Contemporary presents
[RE—Reanimate, Repair, Mend and Meld](#)
at 1315 MASS MoCA Way in North Adams, Mass.

North Adams, Mass. – [RE—Reanimate, Repair, Mend and Meld](#) will be presented at Ferrin Contemporary's gallery at 1315 MASS MoCA Way in North Adams, opening February 13 and continuing through April 17, 2016. The show, co-curated by Paul Scott and Andrew Baseman, focuses on the work of contemporary ceramic artists [Stephen Bowers](#), [Bouke de Vries](#), Noelle Horsfield, Ruan Hoffman, [Sergei Isupov](#), [Garth Johnson](#), Adam Lefebvre, Frances Palmer, [Paul Scott](#), [Caroline Slotte](#), [Mara Superior](#), and Ai Weiwei. It was originally presented as a special exhibition at the New York Ceramics & Glass Fair 2016.

The exhibit at Ferrin Contemporary features work by these contemporary artists whose pieces imitate, replicate, or honor inventive repairs of the past. Reanimate, Repair, Mend and Meld examines the current interest in materially related forms and graphic material by leading artists who exploit and explore surrounding issues.

Andrew Baseman, whose extensive personal collection was presented side by side at the fair with works by contemporary artists who intentionally use repair techniques, explains, "my collection of Make-Do's is made up of broken pieces that were repaired in inventive ways." Staples, wires, rivets, and metal bands were used to reassemble and restore teapots, cups, plates, and platters. "Before the invention of Crazy Glue, broken household items were brought back to life with flair and ingenuity," Baseman said. "My collection gives new meaning to the 'Bull in the China Shop' dilemma."

Paul Scott, co-curator, author, and contemporary artist whose own practice involves the reanimation of historic ceramics is interested in the broader concept of "RE-use" through his own work and the artists selected for the exhibition. He writes, "In more recent times, as we struggle to come to terms with our over-consumption of finite resources, the concept of recycling has become a central tenet of modern life. There is an increasing interest for crafted, restored, once-loved objects so that the obviously-repaired, 'traditional' processes again appear beautiful, functional, and intriguing. For many artists, recycling and reuse has long been a natural part of practice; as well as ecological soundness—trash is generally cheap (if not free).

Existent, damaged, worn, or broken objects carry messages; they have already had a life and carry evidence of their journey in material fabric. This realised physicality can be used or exploited in aesthetic form, as conceptual device or collateral evidence. Discarded graphic material has long been used in collage and more recently material from industrial archives are also being used to create new iterations."

Included in the exhibition is a contemporary repaired artwork that was a by-product of an insurance claim. While organizing the exhibition, Ferrin Contemporary became aware of a damaged work by Ai Weiwei that was repaired using the kintsugi technique. The object provokes the question of value when restoration is made obvious and is not done directly by the artist. Leslie Ferrin asks, "If it is unique and repaired beautifully, is it more or less valuable than the 100 identical ones?"

ABOUT PAUL SCOTT

Paul Scott is a Cumbria, England, based artist with a diverse practice and an international reputation. He is well known for his research into printed vitreous surfaces, as well as his characteristic blue and white artworks in glazed ceramic. His work with ceramic repair has helped build the awareness and appreciation of this lost art. Author of *Horizons* and *Ceramic in Print*, his own artwork is featured in the exhibition at [Ferrin Contemporary](#) and [Mending Revealed](#) in the UK.

ABOUT ANDREW BASEMAN

Andrew Baseman is an interior designer, author, and set decorator with a passion for antiques and collecting. He specializes in the art of repair of ceramics and glass. Since 2010, Baseman has shown and described many examples of creative repairs and tracked the new trend in appreciating these "make-dos" in his blog, "[Past Imperfect, The Art of Inventive Repair.](#)"

ABOUT FERRIN CONTEMPORARY

[Ferrin Contemporary](#) 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.

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HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Contact Leslie Ferrin at info@ferrincontemporary.com



Paul Scott, "Scott's Cumbrian Blue(s), Fukushima No: 5," 2015, in-glaze decal collage on broken and re-assembled Willow pattern platter marked Japan (c.1965) with brass pins, gold leaf, tile cement and epoxy resin, 14" x 18.75" x 2".



Bouke de Vries, "The Repair II," 2014, 18th century Chinese porcelain tureen stand, tureen cover, and mixed media, 14 x 10.5 x 10".



Ai Weiwei, "Blue Bubble," 2008, porcelain, glaze, kintsugi repair using lacquer and gold leaf, 20 x 30".