

FERRIN

CONTEMPORARY



LINDA SORMIN

Statements

ON HER WORK

Linda Sormin, a leading installation artist, is known for pushing the extremes of material and concept. The large size and delicacy of her work challenge the clay's intrinsic strength. She combines found and built objects with internal imagery in multiple complex forms. Scale, color, and variety of references expand in her work to create a layered unity made of disparate fragments.

"The site looms above and veers past, willing me to compromise, to give ground. I roll and pinch the thing into place, I collect and lay offerings at its feet. This architecture melts and leans, hoarding objects in its folds. It lurches and dares you to approach, it tears cloth and flesh, it collapses with the brush of a hand.

Nothing is thrown away. This immigrant lives in fear of waste. Old yogurt is used to jumpstart the new batch. What is worth risking for things to get juicy, rare, ripe? What might be discovered on the verge of things going bad?"

ON NURTURE

Fracture, "unbuilding" and re-situating ceramics are part of my process in creating large scale, site-responsive installations. Aggressive physical interactions with material and form embody the ways that humans de-construct and re-shape our lives in situations of upheaval, change and trauma. My sculptures and installations alternately hold and release these points of tension and precariousness.

At a time when many of us are experiencing insecurity, loss, fear, anger and/or disappointment, it's hard to know what to do with all these feelings. Anger, in particular, is tricky to negotiate – especially when the last thing I want to do is add more hostility to the mix.

The title of my sculpture in this exhibition, Reshaping Rage (when revenge makes perfect sense), is drawn from a recent New Yorker interview of Judith Butler. I am inspired by how Butler talks about rage as something that can be crafted:

"People in the world have every reason to be in a state of total rage. What we do with that rage together is important. Rage can be crafted—it's sort of an art form of politics. The significance of nonviolence is not to be found in our most pacific moments but precisely when revenge makes perfect sense."



Detail of "Reshaping Rage (when revenge makes perfect sense)", 2019, glazed ceramic, found shards, epoxy, gold leaf

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