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CONTEMPORARY



LINDA SIKORA

Statements

ON HER WORK

Service and display are platforms for culture and behavior. To serve, to display – and to store (preserve, hold) – are gestures that are scalable. These gestures occur in close proximity at individual/private levels and, at large scale societal, global levels. They are the conceptual underpinnings of ceramic subjects such as teapot, plate, or jar.

Jars and teapots have been central to my practice for a number of years now. The teapot, more demanding of specific engineering particular to its function, and the jar, a generous canvas, its criteria of containment more permissive. These pieces fuel or act as a counterpoint to other forms, or subjects under consideration. I am interested in pottery form for its familiarity and congeniality, its ability to disappear into private/personal activities and places.

ON NURTURE

In the home-space, service, storage, and display are obvious realms for ceramic pottery form to operate. This trio has become a framework for recent inquiries into specific subjects (teapot, kettle, crock, box) and the groupings they generate, such as the extended series in the Nature/Nurture exhibition. I have been using these realms to think more specifically, about what ceramic work in this genre is trying to do. To serve (provide, assist), to store (hold, contain, preserve), to display (present, offer, remind) – are gestures in the world. To serve, to store, to display are gestures that occur on a small scale: individual, household level. And, they also occur on a large scale: societal, global level. Things and gestures occur in private spaces or highly-visible places. Service, storage and display impact the way use becomes leveraged against (an object's) appearance and subject to influence how it is valued, it's relevance or, whether it remains meaningful. Inquiry into these realms also connects to ideas about the household as a space of freedom. Such associations might influence the way we embody or make meaning of complex conditions ...like existence or time for example: consider a teapot that is 'performative' over a short, finite duration (until the tea is drained), and the storage jar – in which stillness and silence can actively hold for durations longer than a life."



Faux Wood Group, 2014-2018, stoneware, plichrome glaze

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