BerkshiresWeek

FERRIN CONTEMPORARY

Ceramics artist draws inspiration from LeWitt retrospective

By Jennifer Huberdeau
The Berkshire Eagle

NORTH ADAMS — A day spent exploring in the Sol LeWitt retrospective at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art has inspired a new show by ceramicist Peter Pincus.

"Art in the Age of Influence: Peter Pincus | Sol LeWitt," which reopened Ferrin Contemporary on Saturday, features new works inspired by three of LeWitt's wall drawings, "No. 340," "No. 422" and "No. 289." The show is the first of "Art in the Age of Influence," a series of solo exhibitions, presented by the gallery, which considers the impact of artists' source materials on their artistic process and practice.

"Pincus' work in this exhibition began during his first visit to our gallery located on the Mass MoCA campus for the opening of a group show, 'Glazed and Diffused' [in 2015]. After a full day exploring 'Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective,' we had an animated discussion of how the LeWitt works related to his creative practice," Leslie Ferrin, gallery director, said in a release. "Like LeWitt, Pincus often begins a new series using a premise to explore various possibilities of form and color within a shared framework."

In this series of work, Pincus presents brightly-colored vessels and expansive tile murals that are fully inspired by LeWitt's distinctive style, as expressed in their vibrant patterns and forms, The exhibition's centerpiece, a series of 15 large-scale columns that carry colors across the surface of each form, which create a large-scale painting when aligned together, is specifically influenced by LeWitt's "Wall Drawing No. 422."

"There is a big difference between being influenced by and being in conversation with. As an artist and educator, I am eager to acknowledge those who have elevated my thinking through their work, and to consciously engage with influence as a productive, and insightful element of studio practice," Pincus said in a release. "This exhibition is an opportunity to celebrate LeWitt's approach to making, as a foundation, from which I can challenge myself to see new things and grow."

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FERRIN CONTEMPORARY

Peter Pincus, "Scratch Spin Amphora" 2020, colored porcelain, gold luster.

Pincus's last solo exhibition at the gallery, "Channeling Josiah Wedgwood," in 2018, was a result of direct research into the extensive collection at the Birmingham Museum of Art that informed a series of complex forms based on urns and chalices.

"Art in the Age of Incluence: Peter Pincus | Sol LeWitt" is on view at Ferrin Contemporary, 1315 Mass MoCA Way, North Adams, through Sept. 5 by appointment only. Time slots, for visiting the gallery, can be reserved online at ferrincontemporary.com, emailing info@ferrincontemporary.com or by calling 413-346-4004. Make arrangements for in-person visits 24 hours in advance. A gallery talk and studio visit with the artist will be held virtually, as time to be announced.