

JESSICA STOUBER



Jessica Stoller

Lend Me Your Eyes

March 9th- April 7th, 2012

HIONAS GALLERY

89 Franklin Street, New York, NY 10013
hionasgallery.com Tel: (212) 274-9003



Press Release

Hionas Gallery is pleased to announce **Lend Me Your Eyes**, the first New York solo exhibition by sculptor and ceramicist Jessica Stoller. Stoller's sculptures range from table-top figures and busts to large scale multi-piece works. In this solo endeavor Stoller continues using clay as a vehicle to explore issues of idealized beauty, vanity and the subjugation of the female body using porcelain as her primary media, a material inextricably linked to desire, secrecy and commodification.

A number of Stoller's figurative works are partially masked, their eyes either hidden from view or altogether absent, hence "Lend Me Your Eyes," which calls on us to witness these haunting works of art – each with its own contorted, marred and/or embellished form – adding a degree of empathy for the subject.

From Marie Antoinette's breast cup to the Venus of Willendorf, Stoller evokes forms and objects of the

past, in the process drawing on the vast and complex lineage of the female form rendered in clay. Referencing martyred saints, current events, and contemporary and historical fashion practices, Stoller utilizes otherwise forgotten processes, such as china painting and lace draping (turning fabric into clay) in unconventional ways, both of which have varied roots, from European monarchs to ceramic hobbyists. Stoller employs these practices and techniques to create stunning appliqué: flesh-like fabric ribbons, oozing painterly drips, and tiers of lace, doilies, and ceramic chain allow these demure works to possess a sense of powerful complexity. Stoller actively mines the parallels of porcelain's role in the decorative arts as a coveted object and portrays the female body as an akin site filled with desire and manipulation at the hands of history, personal and cultural request.

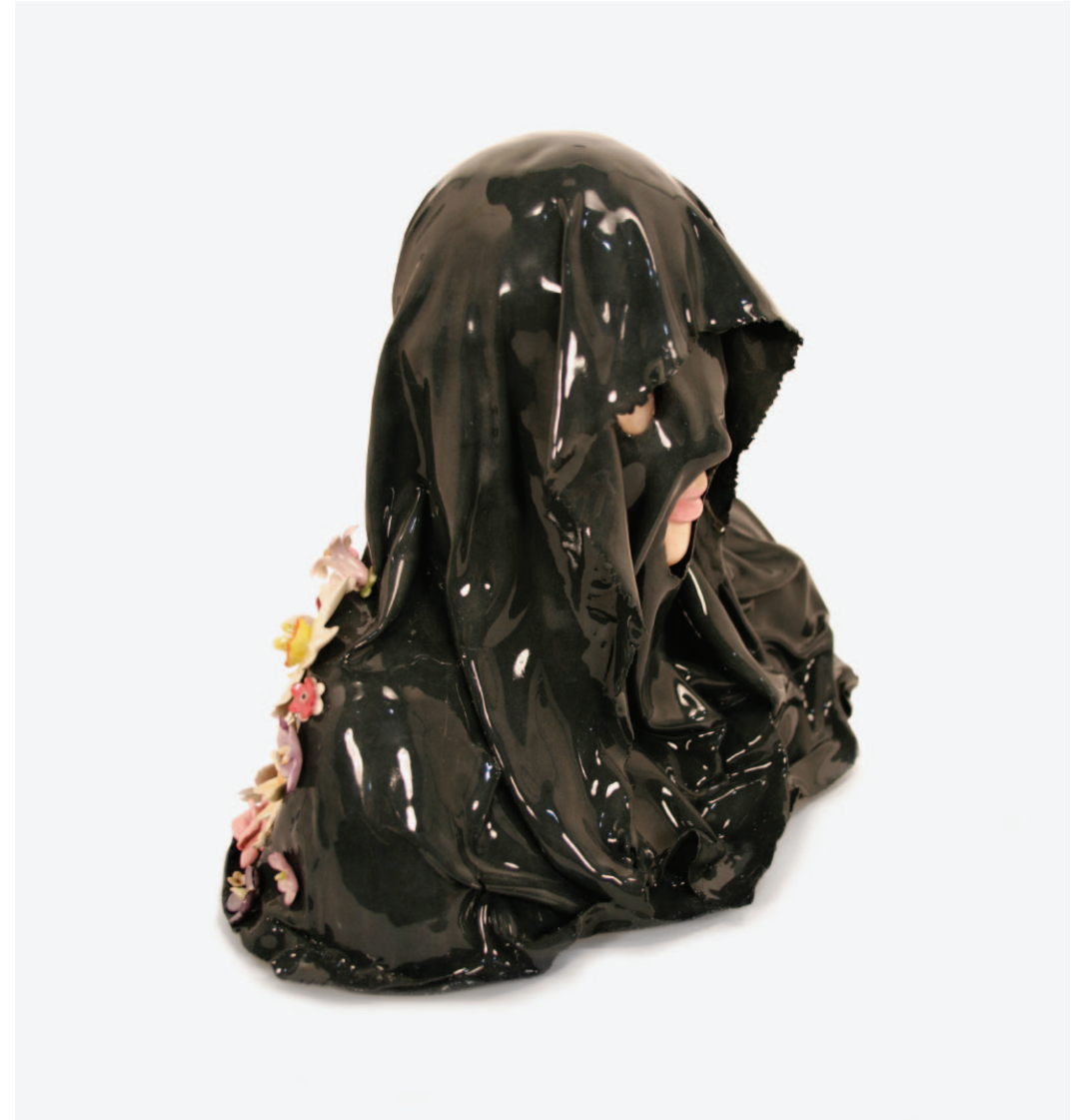


For *Lend Me Your Eyes*, Stoller also presents two new ceramic sculptures, each comprised of a complex arrangement of objects and influences. The first is *Garden Gait* (2011), created at the Kohler Arts & Industry residency in Wisconsin, where Stoller worked for two and a half months using the high-end plumbing company's industrial processes and specialized facilities. Influenced by the troubling and not-too-distant practice of foot binding in China, Stoller's resulting work presents an idyllic scene of a darkened pond fitted with multi-piece sculptures of lily pads, lotus flowers and "golden lotus" feet, rising from within like deformed pistils.

The second of her most recent works is *Selfless/Selflesh* (2012), consisting of seemingly disparate porcelain objects laid out and assembled with the utmost care. The work recreates iconography ranging from 16th-century Vanitas genre

paintings to Saint Agatha of Sicily's excised breasts. With these icons Stoller constructs a multi-tiered still life, combining them with sculptures of delicate female hands that bear curling, embellished nails, and augmented breast cakes piled with porcelain frosting. The resulting assemblage composes an arresting tableau of historical and contemporary symbolism.

Untitled (Hooded Bust)
2011
Porcelain, china paint
8.5" x 10" x 7" inches





Untitled (Lotus)
2012
Porcelain, china paint, luster
10"x 9"x 9" inches



Garden Gait
2011
Glazed vitreous china, china paint
69" x 69" x 10" inches



Garden Gait (Details)
2011
Glazed vitreous china, china paint
69" x 69" x 10" inches



Untitled (Willendorf)
2011
Porcelain, china paint
9" x 9" x 8" inches



Untitled
2011
Porcelain, china paint, luster
10" x 10" x 9.5" inches



Untitled (Double)
2011
Porcelain, china paint
7" x 7" x 7" inches



Selfless/Selflesh
2012
Porcelain, china paint, luster, mixed-media
27" x 17" x 27" inches



Selfless/Selflesh (Details)

2012

Porcelain, china paint, luster, mixed-media

27" x 17" x 27" inches



Untitled (Wilgefortis)
2011
Porcelain, china paint, luster
9.5" x 8.5" x 5" inches



Untitled
2010
Porcelain, china paint
9" x 7" x 5.5" inches



Untitled
2010
Porcelain, china paint, luster
7.5" x 8" x 5" inches





Untitled
2012
Porcelain, china paint, luster
10"x 6"x 8.5" inches



Biography

Jessica Stoller was born in 1981 in Michigan. She is presently an Artist in Residence at the Museum of Arts and Design's Open Studio Program in New York. Stoller's work has been widely reviewed, in such publications as The New York Times, Ceramics: Art and Perception, and N. Pandora Feminist Journal, among others. Recent U.S. exhibitions include Bronx Calling: AIM Biennale, The Bronx Museum, NY; Fresh Figurines: A New Look at a Historic Art Form, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA; New Work: Jessica Stoller, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA; and Reconstruct/Deconstruct History, Like the Spice Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, to name just a few. A Daimler Chrysler Emerging Artist Nominee and former Resident Artist at the Kohler Arts & Industry Program, her work is also included in numerous private collections. Stoller received her BFA from the College for Creative Studies in 2004 and MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2006.

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