

Contingent Structures: Recent Ceramics by Brandon Reese



This selection of new ceramic sculptures illustrates Brandon Reese's ongoing exploration of monumental open-worked constructions that reference archetypal and architectural structures such as towers, shelters, circular enclosures, and schematized human forms. Reese works mostly with salt-fired stoneware, minimally colored. His practice embraces the vagaries of the kiln, just as it relies on the artist's intuitive and conditional engineering of his constituent parts into contingent wholes.

Reese's primary structures reveal a post-minimalist array of formal strategies, including the use of modules, grids, and serial systems. Working with a well-defined vocabulary of roughly geometric shapes (circles and rectilinear forms predominate), Reese builds his lattice-like sculptures with hand-hewn girders, struts, and trusses—a personal, artisanal answer to the precise, nineteenth-century, industrial approach epitomized by the Eiffel Tower.

Reese embraces a hybrid aesthetic, one that makes clear reference to architectural framing, to drawing, and to the conceptual vessel genre that came of age after the Second World War. Reese's forebears (and mentors) include Peter Voukos, who first promoted the abstract sculptural potential of ceramics;

Jun Kaneko, who pushed the physical limitations of the ceramic medium to prodigious scale; Don Reitz, who introduced salt firing to American ceramists; and John Balistreri, who continues the previous generation's experiments with scale and process.

July 20, 2017 to October 28, 2017

[Check out our Flickr album for more images.](#)

Support for this exhibition and related programs provided by: Jim Vallion, Malinda and Dick Fischer, the OSU Museum of Art Founding Patrons and Charter Members, the OSU Museum of Art Advocates, and the OSU/A&M Board of Regents.

- **Lunch + Learn: Brandon Reese Aug. 30** | Join us for an informal discussion with the artist about technique and process. 12:30 pm.
- **Reception Sept. 7** | 5 pm to 7 pm. Curator and artist talk begins at 6.
- **Building Community: A Ceramics Workshop + Collaborative Art Installation Oct. 7** | Work with artist Brandon Reese to make a small ceramic house that will be part of a community installation in the museum's artLAB. SPECIAL LOCATION: Stillwater Center for the Arts. 10 am to 2 pm.

Artist, Brandon Reese, works primarily with stoneware and porcelain. He received his BFA in sculpture from the Kansas City Art Institute where he became proficient in bronze, cast iron, steel, wood and ceramics. While in Kansas City he apprenticed with Jim Leedy until pursuing a graduate degree specializing in ceramics at Bowling Green State University. There, he had the privilege of working with artists Jun Kaneko, Don Reitz and Peter Voukos. While at Bowling Green, he focused on salt and wood firing for creating unusual and varied surfaces on each sculpture. Upon graduation, Reese was hired by Oklahoma State University as an assistant professor of its newly expanded ceramics department. In addition to teaching, Reese regularly exhibits his large-scale ceramic sculptures. His work has been exhibited in Germany, Taiwan and across the United States. Gebert gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Scottsdale, Arizona represent his work. Although most of Reese's exhibitions are ceramic sculpture, he balances teaching the hand-building techniques with wheel throwing pottery and functional vessels.

Reese's work is predominately known for their simple, familiar forms created in a variety of methods and at such large scales that they push the traditional boundaries of ceramic art. His sculptures playfully and beautifully express the idea that relationships offer a unique ability to enhance the individual elements while simultaneously unifying them to create a powerfully emotional and visual experience.

BIG IDEA: Community

A community is a group of living and nonliving things sharing a common purpose or space. A community is a place where one may feel they belong. One can belong to many communities. Communities can be big or small and may change over time. Communities allow us to establish relationships.

- What community do you belong to?
- What are the ways in which you interact with others in your community?
- How do objects, places, and design shape lives and communities?
- What are some other types of communities you are interested in?
- What can we learn from other communities?

Visit the museum Tuesday - Saturdays, 11 am - 4 pm. Free admission.

Is there something you'd like to see at the museum? We would love to hear from you.

Oklahoma State University Museum of Art

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