

Jeremy Brooks, Tyler Lotz, and Tammie Rubin

Somatic



The McLean County Arts Center presents *Somatic*, a ceramics exhibition featuring work by Jeremy Brooks, Tyler Lotz, and Tammie Rubin in the Armstrong Gallery, December 5, 2014 through January 3, 2015. A free and public Opening Reception will be on Friday, December 5 from 5 to 7 pm during Downtown Bloomington's First Fridays. Jeremy Verwys will be playing classical guitar in MCAC's Sales Gallery window during the reception as part of the Downtown Bloomington's Once Upon a Holiday Weekend Live Window Vignettes.

The word "somatic" is defined as describing something being relative to the body. Pertaining to this exhibition of ceramic artwork, *Somatic* references the anatomy in the collaged zoomorphic forms on Jeremy Brooks' thin wall tiles, the utility of Tyler Lotz's tableware to deliver nourishment, and the cellular structure of Tammie Rubin's sculptural objects. Jeremy Brooks behaves like a contemporary Frankenstein, cutting and combining old ceramic hobby decals of familiar furry creatures and giving life to unsettling, humorous, and endearing new species. The *Cockamamie* creatures are fired onto thin ceramic tiles and presented as framed wall hangings. Tyler Lotz's *Tenet Tableware* is a range of highly designed and structural forms, as the definition of "tenet" is to hold, stretch, or maintain often a rigid principle. Yet the primary corporeal purpose of the pottery to bear food and be touched by hands and lips cannot be out done by its visually architectural nature. Tammie Rubin's sculptural objects seemingly grow and multiply cellularly not only in their stacked ellipsoidal forms but in their energetically patterned surfaces. The forms, shapes, and colors buzz as an imagined animation of the deepest workings of our bodies. Each of these artists also use ceramic slip cast multiples in various ways to create their work- a process of making solid ceramic forms from liquid clay beginnings, a truly somatic mystery. Together their exhibition demonstrates a breadth of possibilities in a singular artistic material and a spectrum of what the body is and does.

Jeremy Brooks, Carbondale, is an artist and Visiting Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale. Tyler Lotz is an Associate Professor of Ceramics at Illinois State University in Bloomington. Tammie Rubin is an Assistant Professor at University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign.

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