



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Love Peculiar: Bio-Pop-Curiosity in Clay"

Tetsuji Aono, curator

Reception: Saturday, June 26, 6 – 9 PM

Los Angeles, CA. "Love Peculiar: Bio-Pop-Curiosity in Clay" is a group ceramics show which will be on exhibit from June 26 through July 31, 2004 at **L2kontemporary** Gallery.

Curated by Tetsuji Aono, "Love Peculiar: Bio-Pop-Curiosity in Clay" reintroduces ceramic artists who are interested in executing ideas relating to bio-scientific, symbolic and representational imageries that come from everyday life. These artists challenge us with their ideas concerning the relationships involving nature, the natural, and the unnatural. Their visual presentations involve experimental creations that find beauty, a sense of humor and wonder in their Bio-related subjects.

"Love Peculiar: Bio-Pop-Curiosity in Clay" includes ten international and local Los Angeles artists: Keiko Fukazawa, Joanne Horton, Mananya Joemtree (Thailand), Jim Keville, Karen Koblitz, Rich Mudge, Stephen Rivers, Gregory Roberts (San Francisco), Kevin Stafford (Canada), and Kim Tucker.

Keiko Fukazawa incorporates semi-mechanical, zoomorphic images and reassembles them with corporation tags and logos and familiar objects (faucets, handles, stone, rope) resulting in precious teapots.

Joanne Horton's floral-designed, vintage handbag is decorated with colorful pills, tablets, and capsules. The bag, filled with prescription drug bottles, suggests our modern-life dependency on medical advancement and the drugs that are marketed especially to women.

Mananya Joentree gives us pastel color fields; leaves of grasses on wall mounting that suggest the imprints of fossil ice cream cakes.

Jim Keville's rather large dung beetle rolls its dung to reveal hatching eggs inside. The combination of the creation of disaster and the essentially beautiful yet powerful creature scrapes up the city landscape. Los Angeles landmarks (LACMA, freeways) appear in the dung ball.

Karen Koblitz's approach is subtle and classical from a distance. But on closer look, you will find popular characters like Pikachu/Pokemon and beanie-babies replacing the Greco-Roman myths among intricate Italian majolica designs.

Rich Mudge's anti-intellectual, oversized transformation of 25¢ boy-toy-to-handcrafted sculpture gives us an odd combination of plastics and ceramics. His mass-produced plastic images associated with childhood and war-maniac killing machine bomber airplanes in the plastic dome offer us a question: peace or war?

Stephen Rivers, with his Oceano-Biology experiments, uniquely applies slow growing microscopic nature on his ceramic surfaces. After creating his organic forms, he leaves his work in the ocean for 3-5 months, so that small living creatures grow on the surfaces.

Gregory Roberts' "Pollen Nation" series incorporates his ideas with UC Berkeley's Biology Department's collection of local pollen samples as he creates his forms with ready-made, honey-corn ceramics with primary colors and pollen-like texture on the surface.

Kevin Stafford's honest curiosity of homoerotic romance and sexual encounters with aliens examines the silly acrobatic positions observation of human sexual nature.

Kim Tucker creates odd hybrid creatures, executing the images with a simultaneous sweetness and grotesque, subtle drama of deformity and a sense of sadness, the joy and strength of life, with a sense of oneness or unity.

The curator, **Tetsuji Aono**, is also a Los Angeles ceramic artist. The gallery, **L2kontemporary** is located at 990 N. Hill Street #205 in Chinatown.

Gallery Hours: Thursday - Saturday, 12-6 PM or by appointment. P: 323.225.1288, F: 323.225.1282

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