

Rich Mudge

Rich Mudge studied ceramics at the Otis College of Art and Design from 1989-1993 earning his BFA under Ralph Bacerra. Between 1993 and 2003 Rich worked for Garth Clark Gallery, Luna Garcia in Venice Beach, and taught wheel throwing to children. Being exposed to the inner workings of a blue-chip ceramic art gallery, dinnerware manufacture, and the habits of children in regard to the parents that spend money on them, provided the conceptual foundation for his current work. His current work reflects the rituals of toy collection that occur within popular culture mirrored with the obtainment of art objects by the collectorate elite. When the layers are peeled away, both the toy collector and the art collector are the very same person. Both worship their objects, the objects generally appreciate in value, and often the objects are enshrined in the house. Ultimately the objects are a mark of their social status. Toys, however, are different from art in that they are materializations of cosmopolitan mythology within consumerism. Rich Mudge currently owns "Creative Fire" with his partner Joanne Horton, providing ceramic classes to elementary schools throughout the Los Angeles area.

EXHIBITIONS

- 1992 Group show, Abe and Helen Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1993 Group show, Abe and Helen Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1993 Group show, R23 Restaurant, *Friends of Clay Fundraiser*, Los Angeles, CA
- 1994 Group show, *Other than Clay*, Berkowitz Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- 1995 Group show, *Night of 101 Cups*, Garth Clark Gallery, New York City, NY
- 1996 Group show, *The VII Annual Clay Cup*, Southern Illinois University, Illinois
- 1997 *Group Fundraiser*, Kaufman and Broad Bldg, Westwood, CA
- 2003: *Group Fundraiser*, Kaufman and Broad Bldg, Westwood, CA
- 2003 Group Show, *An Obstinate Art, changing images in contemporary ceramics*, Cal State University Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA