

Jim Keville

Fetish Feel



February 18 – March 24, 2012
Artist's reception: Saturday, February 18, 6 – 9 pm,

Fetish Feel represents new work Jim Keville has created over the last year and a half. Realizing their fetishistic impulse, he began new variations of his "sprout" forms: serpentine, ambiguous and colorful. In the creation of these first new works he began to fixate on his hands as they worked.

"I began to observe the space within my hands as they grasped, and manipulated tools and materials to make clay sculptures as well as corrugated boxes."

Drawing inspiration from how he used his hands in the act of creating, Keville shifted emphasis to his hands specifically. Considering that one of the first impulses one has to encountering moist clay is to either pinch or press a hand in to it, making a print, he took this primal impulse and explored it anew.

Interested in capturing the many gestures his hands make, he began to sculpt the space within them, shaping and smoothing the form in the grip of the hand. Upon release of the hand, leaving behind the negative imprint, the resulting form is sculptural, sensual and tactile as well as a record of the gesture.

Considering formal and aesthetic relationships, the resulting mini sculptures are paired or grouped together. Bright, colorful glazes are applied to the areas around the hand space creating contrast, further fetishizing them.

Initial presentations of the ceramic objects were housed in handmade, precisely crafted custom boxes, contrasting the permanent glazed ceramic with the valueless recyclable corrugated box.

These tiny, colorful ceramic sculptures when examined and held are akin to Chinese scholar's rocks (yet even smaller) to be explored and contemplated, possessing a tactile fetishism.

Additional modes of presentation are explored to create a variety of both wall hanging and pedestal sculptures as well as causing shifts in perception of size and scale, allowing one to imagine these tiny works as monumental.