

The Incongruous Body

August 11, 2018 – January 20, 2019

Reception: Saturday, August 11, 6 – 9 pm

Curator Presentation with Tim Berg at 7 pm

Humor can be dissected as a frog can, but the thing dies in the process and the innards are discouraging to any but the pure scientific mind. -E.B. White

Humor, as E.B. White suggests, is often an uncooperative topic to explore critically. Like our bodies, it is idiosyncratic, can be awkward, weird or surprising, and it can be uncomfortable to scrutinize too closely. Yet much of the art of the 20th century depended upon it. Where would we be today without the rapier wit of the Dadaists, the irony of Pop, the subversive attitude of Funk, or the dark comic vision of the YBA's? Humor, it turns out, is a vital instrument that can cut through pretensions, disarming viewers in the process, and lead to thought-provoking and timeless works of art. Within this context humor demands the attention of both scientific and non-scientific minds alike.

First hinted at by Aristotle and then developed more deeply by Kant and Schopenhauer, the incongruity theory of humor holds that one finds something humorous when there is a mismatch between the conceptual understanding of something and the perception of it. This is a broad theory that encompasses many varieties of humor, including the absurd, parody, caricature, gallows humor, et al. The American Museum of Ceramic Art (AMOCA) is proud to present *The Incongruous Body*, curated by Tim Berg who brings together fourteen artists who represent, stylize, hybridize, and deconstruct the human body to starkly different comic effect. Their work is politically poignant and socially engaging; it uses observational humor and storytelling; it challenges the status quo; it defies logic; it misdirects; it exploits cultural iconography and historical references; and most of all it lays bare the inner workings of their wit. In this exposure, it invites the viewer to revel in the awkward, to embrace the weird and to scrutinize a little bit too closely themselves and the world of which we are all a part.

Featured Artists:

Robert Arneson
Molly Anne Bishop
Jeremy Brooks
Pattie Chalmers
Viola Frey
Future Retrieval
Alessandro Gallo

Taehoon Kim
Beth Lo
Elana Mann
Kristen Morgin
Kim Tucker
Matt Wedel
Yoshitomo Nara

Gallery Hours

Wednesday through Sunday, Noon – 5:00pm

Admission: General \$7, Student/Senior \$5, Members & under 12 Free

Reception on August 11th, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm; free and open to the public.

Location

American Museum of Ceramic Art
399 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767
(909) 865-3146
www.amoca.org

IMAGES



Image: Alessandro Gallo
Come Fly with Me
Stoneware and mixed media, 2014
10" x 24" x 19"
Image courtesy of the Artist



Image: Jeremy Brooks
The Gaze
Ceramic, found object, epoxy, 2017
Image courtesy of the Artist



Image: Kristen Mordin
The Bradys
Unfired clay, paint, ink, graphite, crayon
39" x 39" x 0.25"
Image credit: Robert Wedemeyer



Image: Kim Tucker
Three Hellos
Ceramic, 2018
10" x 5" x 6" (each)
Image Credit: Jeff Mclane

Downloadable images are available:
www.amoca.org/press-room/

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