

# HOSTLER BURROWS

## **JOHN SHEA**

b. 1989, United States

John Shea is a ceramic artist based in Little Rock, AR. His vibrantly painted sculptures contain an implicit duality that compounds virtual and material understandings of space and time. The contemporary, almost digital surface aesthetic is balanced by a physicality that might have been geologically formed eons ago. His process involves joining small, cut pieces of clay together, whose seams remain visible through lines and contour. The work's color palette is often drawn from *A Dictionary of Color Combinations* by Japanese painter Sanzo Wada, a book that first appeared in 1932 as part of the development of Japan's avant-garde and which includes numerous color combinations from raspberry and yellow-orange to dusty green and bluish-purple. After firing, Shea sprays each work with enamel oil paints rather than applying a traditional glaze, enhancing the luminescent qualities of his surfaces, which appear as though a colored light were shining on them; the radiant aura is intended to push the viewer's sense of perception and expected experiences.

Shea writes, "The work is an examination of what makes up an object—looking at both an object as composed of individual elements and also as a set of relationships that inform those objects. The forms themselves are a mishmash of organic and geometric shapes that push and pull against each other, a collection of individual parts pressed together. The overall group of pieces has been made under a set of systems that determine how individual pieces relate to each other in the series of work through form and function."

Shea graduated with a BFA from the School of American Crafts at the Rochester Institute of Technology before attending graduate school at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he earned an MA and MFA. He was a resident artist at the University of Montevallo—Alabama, and his work has been shown throughout the United States and internationally.

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## EDUCATION

- 2018 MFA, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, WI
- 2017 MA, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, WI
- 2013 Post-Baccalaureate Program, Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland, OR
- 2011 BFA, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Full Volume*, Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR (Solo Exhibition)
- 2023 *Standard, Abstract*, HB381, New York, NY (Solo Exhibition)
- 2022 *Cloud Nine*, NCECA Concurrent Exhibition, Sacramento, CA  
*Ghost of a Dead Flame*, Manners/Pappas Gallery, UALR, Little Rock, AR
- 2021 Collect 2021 with Hostler Burrows, London, UK
- 2020 *Color and Production: From the Atom to the Void*, Collective Design, Frieze NY, NY  
*Forest Primeval*, Hostler Burrows, Los Angeles, CA  
*John Shea: New Work*, Hostler Burrows, New York, NY  
*Main Dishes: A Ceramic Encyclopedia*, Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy  
Collect 2020, UK Crafts Council Art and Design Fair with Officine Saffi, London, UK  
Design Miami with Hostler Burrows, Miami, FL  
FOG Art + Design with Hostler Burrows, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 *Articulating Craft*, Arts Center, Nazareth College, Rochester, NY  
*Collect 2019*, UK Crafts Council Art and Design Fair with Officine Saffi, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
*New Gallery Artists*, Hostler Burrows, New York, NY  
*Open to Art*, Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy (Award Finalist)  
*Perfect Darkness*, Milan Design Week with Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy  
*ReVerb*, City Art Space, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY  
*Unwedged*, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA  
Design Miami with Hostler Burrows, Miami, FL  
MiArt Milano Art and Design Fair with Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy  
Salon Art + Design with Hostler Burrows, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY
- 2018 *A Material Thing*, Firehouse Gallery, Flower City Art Center, Rochester, NY (Solo

## Exhibition)

- Objective: Master of Fine Art Exhibition*, Art Lofts Gallery, Madison, WI  
*Southern Miss Ceramics National*, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS  
*The Clay Studio National*, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA  
*Visions in Clay*, LH Horton Jr Gallery, San Joaquin Delta College, Stockton, CA
- 2017 *Object Logic: Master of Art Exhibition*, Gallery 7, Madison, WI  
*Talente 2017*, Internationale Handwerksmesse, Munich, Germany  
*Ten Years in the Making*, Concurrent NCECA Exhibition, Portland, OR
- 2016 *Bizarre Stuff*, Commonwealth Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2015 *Practice and Memory*, Ash Street Project, Portland, OR
- 2012 *With Fire*, Carmichael Library, Montevallo, AL
- 2011 *A Marker's Path: Bachelor of Fine Art Exhibition*, The Lower Mill, Honeoye Falls, NY

## **RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS**

- 2021–Present Resident Artist, University of Arkansas—Little Rock, Little Rock, AR
- 2019 Wellin Museum Grant for Innovative Teaching, Hamilton College, NY
- 2018–2019 Studio Resident, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
- 2014–2015 Community Artist, Ash Street Project, Portland, OR
- 2011–2012 Artist In Residence, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2021–Current Visiting Artist and Instructor, University of Arkansas—Little Rock, Little Rock, AR
- 2019 Visiting Lecturer, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY
- 2018–2019 Adjunct Instructor, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
- 2016–2018 Instructor of Record, University of Wisconsin—Madison, Madison, WI