SMALL TRANSGRESSIONS
SMALL TRANSGRESSIONS

SEPTEMBER 3 – OCTOBER 31, 2015

Opening Reception
Thursday, September 3
6:00 – 9:00pm

Craft Ontario Gallery
990 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
This catalogue represents a variety of work that was produced by the participants of the Linda Sormin Mentorship over the year since September 2014. The images in this catalogue may not necessarily reference the work you see on display at the exhibition "Small Transgressions" but rather is representational of the work that evolved during this time of study.

Cover

"The Likeness of Ripeness", video still
Dianne Lee
Clay, glaze, underglaze, chair fragments, insulation foam, iphone, toothpaste, tarp, spray paint.
Image: Dianne Lee
SMALL TRANSGRESSIONS

14 artists present new works that disturb the boundaries of their individual practices. Through critical reflection and collaborative exchange, unexpected themes and forms have emerged over 10 months.

Close observations of nature collide with the forms and realities of urban life. Experimentation with raw materials is unearthing memories, reshaping personal metaphors and once-familiar landscapes. Through photography, video, pottery and sculpture, these artists unsettle established ways of thinking and making.

Are small transgressions the slippery slope to bad behaviour?

These conversations offer diverse interpretations of play, threat, beauty, gesture, sexuality, parenthood, family, community and environment. In sharing ideas and concerns, examining potential pitfalls and solutions, this group of makers has in many ways sped up their artistic research, yet slowed the impulse to cast judgment. Fearlessly, gently tending to bright wounds of doubt, these artists have created bodies of work that articulate distinct visions in the contemporary context.

– Linda Sormin
BARBARA BANFIELD

Homeward Bound

30 cm diameter
Black stoneware with layered porcelain slips. Fired in oxidation to Cone 7.
2015
CELIA ZVEIBIL BRANDÃO

Spatódia

35 (h) x 32 (l) x 18 (w) cm
White earthenware, hand built, sprayed glazes and underglazes, cone 04 oxidation.
May 2015
SUSAN CARD

Petal House

2 (h) x 1 (w) x 1 (l) m
Porcelaneous stoneware, steel cable and wood assembly. Thrown, hand built, unglazed, cone 04 oxidation.
2015
KIMBERLY DAVY

*Emergent Growth I, II, III (l-r)*

9.5 (d) x 5.5 (h) cm.
7.5 (d) x 5 (h) cm
9 (d) x 6 (h) cm.

Porcelain, polychrome glaze, cone 6 oxidation.

April 2015
LEEANN JANISSEN

Pool

10 (h) x 15 (l) x 15 (w) cm
Porcelain, glazed and unglazed ceramic interior, oxidation.
2015
DIANNE LEE

Mechanically Damaged Capacitor Leaks Liquid

Video installation
Mixed media – red earthenware, brushed borax, glaze, insulation foam, wire, cone 04 oxidation.
2015
The Dust of The Living 2

43 (h) x 18 (l) x 15 (w) cm
Porcelain, glazed with cigarette ash, household dust, cone 10 reduction. 2014
MARNEY McDIARMID

Altogether, elsewhere

15 (h) x 38 (l) x 25 (w) cm
Porcelain and paper clay, underglazes, cone 6 oxidation, gold luster.
2015
MARY MCKENZIE

Cloud Nine – Work In Progress

Wall Tile 8 (h) x 44 (l) x 44 (w) cm
Paper clay and mixed media, pinch and slab construction, multiple glazes and firings.
2015
MICHELLE MENDLOWITZ

InterCourse: the connection between... #1

69 (h) x 61 (l) x 25 (w) cm
Mid fire stoneware, coil built, oxidation
2015
BERNADETTE PRATT

After the Fall

40 (h) x 42 (l) x 20 (d) cm.
Stoneware, hand-built, cone 6 multiple oxidation firings.
June 2015
GEORDIE SHEPHERD

*Trapped Defying Gravity*

40 (h) x 20 (l) x 15 (w) cm.
Stoneware, hand-built, slip, glaze, cone 6 oxidation.
2015
KRYSYAL SPECK

Sweet Profusion

46 (h) x 51 (w) cm
Porcelain, paper clay, stoneware, plant material, handbuilt and slipcast, oxidation.
2015
MARLENE ZAGDANSKI

Remnant Memory: Forest

56 (h) x 37 (w) x 32 (d) cm
Stoneware, glaze, cone 6 oxidation.
2015
BARBARA BANFIELD
Barbara Banfield came to clay after twenty years’ experience in the garment industry. A lifetime of working with her hands found her at Sheridan College, graduating in 2010. Banfield is fascinated by the process that working with clay demands and it’s endless possibilities. Banfield states: “Through the creation of my pieces, the intention is to bring the user closer to the handmade object. Combining form, texture and dynamic glazes, I strive to find a sense of harmony and beauty.”

CELIA ZVEIBIL BRANDÃO
Celia Brandão is a Toronto-based ceramic artist and educator with an extensive background in commercial graphic design. Self-taught, Brandão has been creating functional and sculptural forms inspired by her environment. Known for her wood-fired pieces, Brandão incorporates a variety of techniques into her work. Currently she runs the educational ceramics programs at Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

SUSAN CARD
Susan Card established a studio in Toronto in 1986 while studying ceramics at Sheridan College, subsequent to studying textiles and painting at University of Manitoba (BHEc, BFA). After lecturing several years at Sheridan College in the School of Crafts and Design, Card opened DISH GALLERY + Studio in the Distillery Historic District of Toronto (2006). Card has exhibited widely for over twenty-five years in solo, group, juried and curated exhibitions, including Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Gardiner Museum, World of Threads (2012) and Art Gallery of Burlington. She has presented lectures, workshops, and pottery demonstrations in Ontario and published many articles about ceramics in national and international publications. She has served as juror or curator for several exhibitions, including Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Ontario Craft Council and Burlington Art Centre.

Card explains: “Petal House, is about the fragility of life and the duality of strength and fragility that exists in life, in family, and in community”.

KIMBERLY DAVY
Kimberly Davy is a London, Ontario-based ceramic artist and Secondary School visual art teacher. Holding a BFA (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (University), 2000), Davy has participated in two international ceramic residencies: Watershed Centre for Ceramic Art in Newcastle, Maine and Harbourfront Centre Craft Studios, Toronto, Ontario. Davy is proud to be the head of ceramics in the Bealart program, a premier Secondary Art School program offering full-day immersive art education for students in London, Ontario and surrounding area. Teaching in the ceramic and sculpture studios, Davy continues to be challenged and inspired in the pursuit of her work as a ceramic artist. She says: “A vessel requires attention to containment, volume, breadth and life. The bowl resonates; an open and accessible form, it is comfortable and familiar, intimate and celebratory.”
LEEANN JANISSEN
LeeAnn Janissen came to ceramics after careers in physics and the capital markets. Her interest lies in the tension between objects that are shaped by natural processes and those created by hand. In this body of work, The Knowledge of Mountains, she creates naturalistic ceramic landscapes contained within porcelain shells of utilitarian objects. Photographs reveal the hidden landscapes and engage with perceptions of scale, remoteness and accessibility.

DIANNE LEE
Born in Lahr, West Germany in 1983, Dianne Lee was raised in cities across Canada. She received a Bachelor of Design (OCADU, 2006). After graduation, Lee lived and worked in England, during which time she interned with British potter Deborah Baynes. Later, working in New Zealand, she was a member of the Wellington Potter’s Association. Now an artist and ceramic instructor based in Toronto, Lee teaches children and adult clay classes, and runs a pottery program, working with adults with persistent mental illness and addiction.

JEN LEIS
Jen Leis is a Toronto interdisciplinary artist. Her current work is a response to the daily realities of parenting two resilient, chaotic, inquisitive and endlessly energetic humans. She studied at Sheridan College, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (University), and Mount St Vincent University. (Diploma 1994; BFA, 1998; BEd, 2001). She currently teaches Ceramics, Drawing and Painting in the Specialized Art Program at The Art Centre, Central Technical School.

MARNEY MCDIARMID
Marney McDiarmid is a self-taught ceramic artist living in Kingston, ON. She maintains an active studio practice selling work at the Gardiner Museum, Petroff Gallery, Wall Space, and the Kingston Glass Studio and Gallery and teaching various workshops. Her work has been featured in the National Post and in Lark Books’ 500 Prints on Clay.

MARY MCKENZIE
Mary McKenzie uses glaze as paint on ceramic canvas in her hanging wall tiles. She has exhibited in: Gardiner Museum Award Show, Toronto; Boxed In, NL Provincial Gallery; Hot Mud: Emerging Canadian Ceramic Artists, Burlington Art Centre; War: the Light Within After The Darkness, Canadian Clay + Glass Gallery and was studio assistant to Shary Boyle in 2010.

MICHELLE MENDLOWITZ
Michelle Mendlowitz is a Toronto - based ceramic artist who completed her Bachelor of Design at the Ontario College of Art and Design (2005). Since graduating, she has continued a studio practice, participating in exhibitions and teaching. Mendlowitz says: “My work is about landscape and borrowed elements from nature, architecture and the human form. I am interested in the relationship between these elements, their co-dependency and interconnectivity.”
BERNADETTE PRATT
Bernadette Pratt moved to Canada after completing an arts degree in ceramics at Camberwell College of Art and Design in London, England (BA (Hons) Ceramics 1998). She now resides in London, Ontario where she works as a studio potter. In her work she searches for the rhythm and pulse in life that will convey the struggle and tension to reach for the unobtainable, to take risks, to set goals and to persevere, followed by a brief experience of success and calm, before the inevitable collapse, failure and decline.

GEORDIE SHEPHERD
Geordie Shepherd teaches at the University of Western Ontario and maintains a studio in London, Ontario. He holds a BFA (Concordia University, Montreal) and a MFA (University of New Mexico). His latest pieces are about pain, suffering and loss; about sheep whose naive dreams keep us sane as we hang off the split-rail fence watching the sunset; about withering, wasted wheelchairs, and about Nature, a relentless doppelgänger of blinding beauty, wretched filth, and pure love’s eternal embrace.

KRYS TAL SPECK
Krystal Speck studied ceramics at Ontario College of Art and Design University, Toronto and has been working as an artist professionally since 2007. She now lives in Hamilton, where her studio overlooks a small garden. She expresses her inspiration: "My work is influenced by the botanical world. I find that I continually return to the forms, language and lifecycles of plants and flowers as a way to communicate. Using arrangements of careful, yet often excessive, fragile blooms allows my work to perform as both a place of repose for the viewer, as well as a marker for emotional weight and hidden meaning."

MARLENE ZAGDANSKI
Marlene Zagdanski is a Toronto-based ceramic artist, a maker of both functional and sculptural objects. Her current work is informed by her childhood experiences of and personal attachment to Laurentian landscape, and as the only Canadian-born member of an immigrant family. Zagdanski explains: “In my work I explore personal responses evoked by this landscape and its loss – search for connectedness, personal resonance, solitude and separateness, longevity, fear, wonderment and myth”.

LINDA SORMIN

Through objects and site-specific installations, Linda Sormin’s work explores issues of fragility, aggression, mobility and survival. Born in Bangkok, Sormin moved to Canada with her family at the age of five.

She has a BA in English Literature and worked in community development for four years in Thailand and Laos. She studied ceramics at Andrews University, Sheridan School of Craft & Design (diploma 2001) and Alfred University (MFA 2003).

Sormin’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, most recently in the Virginia McClure Ceramic Biennial, Centre des arts visuals (Montreal), Jakarta Ceramics Biennial, National Gallery of Indonesia (Indonesia), Ceramic Top 40, Harvard Gallery 224 (Boston), Jane Hartsook Gallery (New York, NY), West Norway Museum of Decorative Art (Bergen, Norway), Denver Art Museum (Denver) and gl Holtegaard (Denmark).

Sormin has taught ceramics since 2003 – at Emily Carr University of Art + Design (Vancouver, BC), the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI), Sheridan College (Oakville, ON), and will begin her position as Associate Professor at the New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University in January 2016.
fusion
THE ONTARIO CLAY AND GLASS ASSOCIATION

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

CRAFT ONTARIO

hamilton potters guild