

SHANE CAMPBELL GALLERY

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KMAC show with work by upcoming Chicago artist

By Elizabeth Kramer

In the past few years, Chicago artist William J. O'Brien has been characterized as a kind of rising star in the art world, as his work has found new audiences, including a survey of his work at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art and shows at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, in Overland Park, Kan. He also had his first European solo exhibit at Paris's Almine Rech Gallery, featuring ceramics and works on paper. Even this month, an exhibit of his new bronze sculptures is at The Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York.

Now, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft brings O'Brien's work to Louisville in the exhibit "Oscillates Wildly," which includes his abstract ceramic and steel sculptures, textiles, drawing and painting that mines color, pattern, textures and forms, resulting in craft-like character.

The title, according to curator Joey Yates, comes from O'Brien's work sometimes appearing to be abstract, and other times, inspired by the balance between chaos and control. The artist, who creates largely through improvisation and experimentation, has spoken about being influenced by "outsider artists, funk ceramicists" as well as minimalism.

O'Brien's work also is part of several collections including the Cleveland Clinic, Los Angeles' Hammer Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago, among others. He is an Assistant Professor in Ceramics at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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