

SHANE CAMPBELL GALLERY

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AN L.A. EXHIBITION EXPLORES THE UNPREDICTABLE NATURE OF CERAMICS

Text by Mayer Rus



Untitled, 2015, by Adam Silverman.

Los Angeles has been in the throes of a harrowing heat wave lately. It feels like a kiln outside, so perhaps it's the perfect time for the contemplation of clay. The good people at the Cherry and Martin gallery in Culver City are happy to oblige with their latest show, "Try Again. Fail

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Again. Fail Better,” which features four artists’ explorations of ceramics and the processes by which the material is manipulated.

The exhibition title, taken from Samuel Beckett’s 1983 novella, *Worstward Ho*, emphasizes the unpredictable nature of working with clay, which often involves multiple attempts at firing, glazing, and assembly.

Katy Cowan toys with the idea of functionality in slip-cast ceramic sculptures that are frequently combined in installations with other craft-oriented objects. Japanese artist Takuro Kuwata’s work gathers strength from the collision of Eastern and Western traditions and sensibilities. William J. O’Brien’s totemlike sculptures manifest a visual language that references history, language, pop culture, and ethnographic narratives. Lastly, Adam Silverman’s creations are rooted in both respect for and experimentation with centuries-old traditions of throwing clay, with a keen appreciation for surface, abstract form, and presentation.

Together, the four artists offer an intriguing vision of the state of artmaking in the increasingly broad arena of ceramics.

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