



Michael Fujita

Artificially Flavored

THE CLAY CERAMICS
STUDIO
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF

MICHAEL FUJITA

Artificially Flavored

September 3 – October 10, 2010

The Clay Studio

137-139 North Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

www.theclaystudio.org

From a distance, the seduction begins. The smell and taste of Michael's sculptures are virtually palpable but only closer inspection will satiate curiosity that has been ignited. Are those multi-colored, sticky-looking balls sweet-sour, half-licked jawbreakers? And what syrup-coated, juicy-fruity-red chunky mix forms that zigzag going up the wall? With the imagination exercised, a threshold is crossed, opening an environment that alters gravity, places fragments in an illusion of suspension. Matter and time are compressed and artificial. The language and elements of this place are man-made and simple: angular, curvilinear, symmetrical and structural. There is a portentous playfulness that is subversively present as the result of Mr. Fujita's meticulous craftsmanship. Titles, like *Slinky* moving back and forth from one hand to the other, further confound any focus on definition.

Perhaps these objects are merely a collection of props from a sci-fi reality. Who's to say? One thing is certain: the work of Michael Fujita is a mouthwatering feast – a fanciful play of poetic material elements.

tease the senses and imagination.

Anne Currier

Ceramic arts are our passion at The Clay Studio, a non-profit learning center in the heart of Old City, Philadelphia. Our exhibitions, retail shop, artist residencies and community outreach programs educate and inspire locally, nationally, and internationally.

2009 – 10 EVELYN SHAPIRO FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP EXHIBITION



The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation

250 S. 17th Street #1400
Philadelphia, PA 19103

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The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation is pleased to sponsor this exhibition of the work of Michael Fujita. Created during the past year as our nineteenth Fellow in Residence at The Clay Studio, Michael's conceptual work reveals his striking and unique talent in clay and other media, inspired by an intuitive response to everyday objects and stimuli from the surround. Our thanks to the jury panel who selected him: Hiroe Hanazono, Gregg Moore and Louise Radochonski. Once again we are indebted to Artistic Director, Jeff Guido, who acted as his mentor, and to Amy Sarnier Williams, President & CEO of the Clay Studio, along with the staff that sustains the Residency Program that provides a collegial, stimulating atmosphere in which to work. My appreciation also to the Board of Directors and to the loyal membership whose support makes this program possible. Also, I want to express wonderment and thanks to Barbara Sosson, who from the very beginning has created all the catalogs and trifolds that accompany the annual solo exhibition: each one itself has been a work of art in capturing the essence of the Fellow's accomplishments during the previous year.

Stanley H. Shapiro, President

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HIROE HANAZONO
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Michael Fujita

Born

1978 Portland, Oregon

Education

2008 M.F.A. Ceramics, New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University, Alfred, New York

2005 B.F.A. Ceramics, Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI), Kansas City, MO

Solo Exhibitions

2010 *Artificially Flavored*, 2009-2010 Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellowship Exhibition The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA

2008 *Preserve*, Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, Alfred, NY

2006 *Michael Fujita, New Work*, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, MO

Exhibitions

2010 *Pretty Young Things*, Lacoste Gallery, Concord, MA



Above: *Field*, 2010, porcelain, wood, resin, 31" h x 20" w x 7" d
Cover detail and lower left: *Rise/Run*, 2010, porcelain, wood, carpet padding, resin, 11' h x 15' w x 4" d
Center: *Bridged*, 2010, porcelain, wood, resin, 19" h x 28" w x 4" d

- Midsummer Eve*, Meredith Gallery, Baltimore, MD
Correlations, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, MO
Small Favors V, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Of This Century, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Coversations, Coincidences and Motivations: The Alfred Experience, Snyderman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2009 *Former Firsts: Past Prize Winners From The Clay Studio's MBK Graduate Student Exhibition*, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Project Space, Phoenix Convention Center, NCECA, Phoenix, AZ
Beasts & Botanicals, Archer Gallery, Clark College, WA
2008 *Richard Carter Studio – Past and Present*, Forestville, CA
The Fifth Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
In Progress – Alfred Graduate Ceramics Show, NCECA, Pittsburgh, PA
2007 *The Fourth Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition*, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
2006 Dolphin Gallery, Kansas City, MO
Centerspace Gallery, NCECA, Portland, OR

Awards and Achievements

- 2009 The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellowship The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
2008 First Place, The Fifth Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
2007 Third Place, The Fourth Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
2005 McKeown Special Project Award Recipient KCAI Ceramics Department

Residencies and Fellowships

- 2009-10 Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellowship The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
2005-06 Artist in Residence, Red Star Studios, Kansas City, MO
2004 Artist in Residence, Pope Valley Pottery, Pope Valley, CA

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