

# Peter Morgan: *All Aboard*

2011-12 Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellowship Exhibition

October 5 - October 28, 2012



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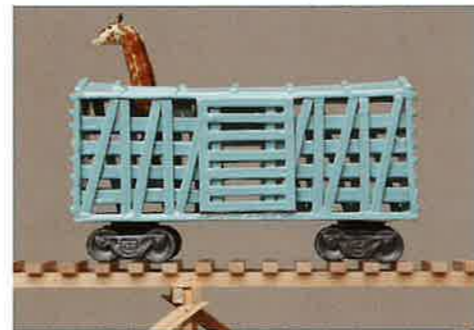
Peter Morgan's ceramic train cars look very much like the types of glossy porcelain souvenirs for sale behind glass in a gift shop – the merchandise at certain types of quasi-historic roadside attractions you see while traveling through obscure regions of the United States on summer vacation. Imagine being packed up in the back of a sedan in the mid-1980s, hurling across the endless plains on the interstate. Why do you get to stop at some third-rate national monument and find you're awed not by the natural landscape, but by the candy-colored train display resting atop wooden elevated train trestles in the visitor center's lobby.

These pieces do impart a sense of childlike wonder. They beg to be handled and inspected by tiny little hands. It's only upon closer inspection that the lightly surreal qualities that Morgan has imbued in the cars become obvious. They aren't carrying coal or steel or grain, but orange juice, loads of long-discontinued candy bar PB Max, and mountains of off-brand sunflower seeds. Further blurring the lines between fantasy, memory and reality are some authentically historic Lionel toy train cars, mixed in with the cars seeming to house franchises of the Philadelphia strip joint Club Risqué.

Together they have the feeling of a childhood memory that you know you must be remembering incorrectly but can't help recounting anyway. There wasn't really a Lionel train car carrying a fiberglass fair Oil dinosaur, right? Or, surely, not a tank of maple syrup?

Morgan is a skilled ceramicist whose cars are made with a high level of individual attention and detail that clearly separates them from the world of mass-produced ready-made souvenirs. They are not the usual visual one-liners or kitsch, but instead artifacts from a hazy, half-remembered past that never quite faded, but seem touchingly familiar to us all the same.

Andy Sturdevant



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The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation is pleased to present the work of Peter Morgan who was the Fellow-in-Residence at The Clay Studio for 2011-2012. We would like to thank the jurors who selected him: Rebecca Chappell, Candy Depew, and Christine Pfister. Our appreciation is extended to Jeff Guido, Artistic Director, who served as his mentor and to Chris Taylor, President, and the staff at The Clay Studio who support The Residency Program by providing not just facilities but a collegial, stimulating atmosphere in which to work and grow. Thanks also to the Board of Directors of the Foundation and to the Members whose support through the years has made this program possible.

Stanley H. Shapiro, President

### Born

1978, Abingdon, VA

### Education

2005 M.F.A. New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Alfred, NY  
2003 B.F.A. California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA, high distinction, Major: Ceramics  
2000 B.A. Roanoke College, Salem, VA, cum laude, Major: Fine Art

### Selected Exhibitions

2012 *All Aboard* (Solo Exhibition), The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA  
*Hot! August! Night!* Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia, PA  
*Color Me Bad*, William King Museum, Abingdon, VA  
*From The Wall: Stories Emerge*, Angie Newman Johnson Gallery, Alexandria, VA  
2011 *Other Possible Titles*, Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia, PA  
*Method: Multiple*, C. Emerson Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL  
*67th Scripps Ceramics Annual: Making Fun*, Ruth Chandler Williams Gallery, Claremont, CA  
2010 *Pretty Young Things*, Lacoste Gallery, Concord, MA  
*Killer Pots*, Turman Larison Contemporary, Helena, MT  
*Wings and Teeth: The Art of Doomtree*, CO Exhibitions, Minneapolis, MN  
*Artist/Educator*, Rowan University Art Gallery, Glassboro, NJ  
*Mish-Mash Strikes Back: Contemporary Ceramic Art*, Noyes Museum of Art, Oceanville, NJ  
*Something's Fishy* (Solo Exhibition), The Arts Depot, Abingdon, VA  
2009 *POP Craft*, The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA  
*I don't want to grow old and bitter alone, I want to grow old and bitter with you*, Lux Center for the Arts, Lincoln, NE  
*Archie Bray Foundation at monOrchid*, monOrchid Gallery, Phoenix, AZ  
*Made in Clay 2009*, Greenwich House Pottery, New York, NY  
2008 *Tell Me a Story*, White Plains Public Library, White Plains, NY  
*SWAP Exhibition*, SUF Gallery, Florence, Italy

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President

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Helen W. Drutt English  
Phillip P. Kalodner  
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David Sachs  
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Gerry Weinstein  
Karl & Anne Wenner  
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Candy Depew  
Christine Pfister



**Special Thanks to** Stanley Shapiro and Bunny Glick of The Evelyn Shapiro Foundation, Barbara Sosson Design and Yvonne Lung for tri-fold, the staff and resident artists of The Clay Studio, John Carlano for the photography, Andy Sturdevant for his insightful essay, my parents Ed and Helen Morgan for all their support, and my sugar mama Amy Ward.

All works are low-fire ceramic, 2012, above from left to right: *Dino-namic Flatbed Car*, 9" x 17.25" x 6"  
*Orange Juice Train Boxcar*, 10" x 21.25" x 6" *Giraffe Transport Car*, 12" x 17.5" x 6" *PB Max-imum Box Car*, 10" x 18" x 6" *Sunflower Seed Hopper*, 8.75" x 17.25" x 6" *Maple Syrup Tanker*, 9.5" x 17.25" x 6"

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2008 *The Greatest Show on Earth*, Three Rivers Arts Festival, Pittsburgh, PA  
2007 *Tariffic Tar Pits* (Solo Exhibition), SpaceCraft Gallery, San Diego, CA  
*Sky Mall@ Exclusives*, SCA Project Gallery, Pomona, CA  
*Kilnopeniong.edu*, American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona, CA  
*Vestigial Gills*, Butcher Block Gallery, Louisville, KY  
2006 *50 x 50*, Mass Gallery, Austin, TX  
2005 *Alfred on 25th Street*, J. Cacciola Gallery, New York, NY  
*Raising Questions, & Lowering Expectations*, M.F.A. Exhibition, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Alfred, NY  
*NCECA Regional Juried Student Exhibition*, Baltimore, MD  
2004 *WATER*, Roanoke College, Salem, VA  
2003 *California Clay Competition*, Davis, CA

### Awards and Residencies

2011-12 Evelyn Shapiro Foundation Fellowship, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA  
2010 Belden Brick Factory, Sugar Creek, OH, Summer Residency  
2009 Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT, Summer Residency  
2008 Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT, Summer Residency  
2007-10 Research and Professional Development Grant, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA  
2005 NCECA Regional Juried Student Exhibition Merit Award, Baltimore, MD

### Bibliography

Judy Seckler, "Clay's Good Humor," *Ceramics Art and Perception*, 2012, Issue #87.  
Christine Temin, "Pretty Young Things," *Ceramics Art and Perception*, 2011, Issue #84.  
Stacy Davies, "Playing With Fire," *Inland Empire Weekly*, February 3, 2011.  
Up Front Review, "Method: Multiple at C. Emerson Fine Arts," *Ceramics Monthly*, March, 2011.  
Sarah Archer, "Kitchen Table Politics," *American Craft Magazine*, February/March, 2009.  
Cate McQuaid, "Feeling the Pop, In any Guise," *Boston Globe*, September 11, 2009.