

MEDIA CONTACT:

MCASB Communications Office

805.966.5373 x105

communications@mcasantabarbara.org

For Immediate Release.

Artist Brian Rochefort to exhibit new works in debut institutional exhibition at MCASB

Exhibition: Bloom Projects: Brian Rochefort, *Absorption by the Sun*

Opening Reception: Thursday, August 1, 2019, 7 – 9 pm at MCASB

Exhibition on View: August 1 – September 8, 2019

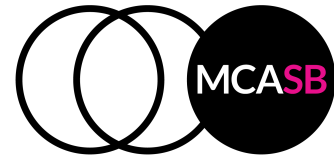


Left: Brian Rochefort, *Purple YETI*, 2019, Ceramic, glaze, glass fragments, Approx. 16.5 x 18 x 18 in., Courtesy the Artist **Right:** Brian Rochefort, *The Breeder*, 2019, Ceramic, glaze, glass fragments, Approx. 15 x 16 x 16 in., Courtesy the Artist

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA. Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is pleased to announce the first solo institutional exhibition of Los Angeles-based artist Brian Rochefort. As part of MCASB's Bloom Projects series, Rochefort exhibits new works as an extension of his ongoing body of work *Craters*. Building ceramic vessels reminiscent of geological formations in Belize, Tanzania, Nicaragua, and the Galapagos Islands, Rochefort has developed the *Craters* series over the last three years in response to his extensive travels to remote locations throughout South and Central America,

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara

653 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 | 805.966.5373 | hello@mcasantabarbara.org | mcasantabarbara.org



and East Africa. What began as a fascination with volcanoes and craters, such as the Sierra Negra Crater in Ecuador, live volcanoes in Nicaragua, and Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, has shifted to interests in protected barrier reefs and tropical cloud forests, amongst other physical phenomena.

“Supporting emerging and early-career artists is of great importance to MCASB,” states Abaseh Mirvali, Executive Director, CEO & Chief Curator at MCASB. “By generating a platform for experimentation and by harboring a nurturing environment, we provide resources that advance the professional development of the next generation of artists.”

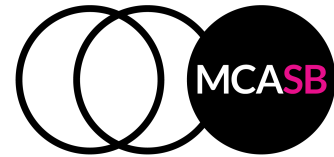
Building upon years of experimentation, Rochefort pushes his materials to the brink. Carefully crafting glazes and testing them relentlessly until the desired expression emerges, Rochefort’s studio practice is at once an exercise in timing, balance, patience, and control while simultaneously relying upon spontaneity, chance, uncertainty, and discovery. Each sculpture begins as a large unfired piece of clay that the artist smashes and manipulates, shaping it into a vessel that is then submerged in mud and clay - often mixed with other natural materials such as sand - after which it is left to dry. This initial drying process lays the groundwork for the base structure, which is built up using slip, glaze, airbrushing, and at times molten glass, over multiple firings in the kiln. Some pieces may endure up to five firings in the kiln before reaching their final form.

“I am fascinated with Rochefort’s mastery of his material, his daring use of color, and the language that he has created through his use of varying textures and surface,” explains exhibition curator Alexandra Terry, Associate Curator at MCASB. “Yet, what draws me to pore over his ceramic sculptures again and again is their visceral nature: working with the most basic earthly elements - earth and water - Rochefort constructs vessels made of the same components that comprise our planet and even ourselves.”

Bloom Projects: Brian Rochefort, *Absorption by the Sun* is curated by Alexandra Terry, Associate Curator. Exhibition text by Alexandra Terry.

About the Artist

Brian Rochefort (b. 1985, Rhode Island, USA) lives and works in Los Angeles, California, USA. Rochefort holds a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design (2007) and was a 2018 Visiting Artist Lecturer at the University of Iowa. He has completed residencies at The Mistake Room, Guadalajara, Mexico (2018) and the Lillian Fellowship Residency at the Archie Bray Foundation, Montana, USA (2009). Rochefort’s work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Van Doren Waxter, New York, USA (2017, 2019), and group exhibitions at Sorry We’re Closed, Brussels, Belgium (2018); Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida, USA (2017); Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, USA (2017); Steve Turner Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (2017); The Cabin, Los Angeles, USA (2015); and Retrospective Gallery, Hudson, USA (2015). Forthcoming and current solo exhibitions include Caterina Tognon, in collaboration with Van Doren Waxter, Venice, Italy (2019), and Massimo De Carlo, London, UK (2019).



About the Curator

Alexandra Terry is the Associate Curator at MCASB, where she is responsible for planning, organizing and implementing exhibitions. From 2008 to 2015, she was curator at the MOP Foundation, a London-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting Iranian contemporary art on a broad platform outside of Iran. As an independent curator with a focus on emerging artists, Terry curated exhibitions in the US and the UK, in addition to contributing to contemporary art publications. In 2009, Terry co-founded P.A.S.T. Projects, an art library and archive housed in The Woodmill artists' studio and exhibition space in Bermondsey, London. From 2010-2014 she was an active member of the GANDT artists' collective, which used art writing as a starting point for a variety of curatorial, publishing, and performative projects. Terry holds a BA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO and a MFA in Curating from Goldsmiths, University of London, London, UK.

Acknowledgements

Support for Bloom Projects: Brian Rochefort, *Absorption by the Sun* provided by Anonymous, Institution Ale, Kunin Wine, Laurence Matthews, MCASB Board of Trustees, MCASB Visionaries, and Paseo Nuevo Shops & Restaurants.

Special thanks to Massimo De Carlo and Van Doren Waxter.

About Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is a non-profit, non-collecting museum dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the art of our time. Formerly Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF), MCASB is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. MCASB is located at the Paseo Nuevo Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, California.

About Bloom Projects

Bloom Projects features newly commissioned artwork by regional, national, and international emerging or under-recognized artists. Bloom Projects gives contemporary artists whose work has begun to garner significant attention an opportunity to move beyond their studio practice, encouraging experimentation, and giving them the resources necessary to further their careers as professional visual artists. An online brochure, with scholarly essays written by MCASB or guest curators, accompanies each exhibition.