



"Life, or Something Like It" – Christopher Adams '94

Gallery 224 at Harvard University

Exhibition: March 23–April 24, 2015

Reception: March 28, 5–8 PM

Gallery Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10 AM – 7 PM

Harvard College alum and resident artist at the Ceramics Program, Office for the Arts at Harvard, Christopher Adams '94 presents an expansive homage to exploration of organic form in a full-gallery installation of over 1000 pieces. This exhibition will coincide with the National Conference on Education for the Ceramic Arts in Providence, RI and will be featured on the Boston Bus Tour of Exhibitions.

Artist Statement

"My ceramic work relates intimately to my interests and experiences outside of art. Much of my formal background to date has been in the sciences, with a special emphasis on natural history. Most of my ceramic works fall into the category of "organic abstraction." The pieces are influenced by, and may suggest, a variety of creatures, but none of them represent any specific organism. Instead, the works usually play on biological concepts - speciation, convergence, mimicry - to generate aesthetic novelty. My most recent efforts relate to a series of wall-hanging ceramic biomorphic abstractions that play on the biological speciation concept of adaptive radiation - a phenomenon in which some pioneering organism enters into a relatively untapped environment and differentiates wildly and rapidly while at the same time not departing too dramatically from its original form. All the works in the series are members of an arbitrarily designed family of creations unified by having the same number of appendages attached in the same order on the same basic internal framework. Despite this common ground plan, though, the pieces vary wildly in appearance. The population -- currently hovering at around 5,000 -- has been evolving over the last 10 years. Multiple different clay bodies (porcelain, terra cotta, various stonewares), fired over a wide range of temperatures with a promiscuous approach to glazing, have been used. Pieces range in size from half an inch to four feet in diameter. All are hand-built."

Artist Biography

"I was born in Medford, MA, and spent the earlier half my youth in Woburn, MA (during the apparently poisonous water years featured in "A Civil Action"). I finished the later half in south central Florida, where mostly I collected insects and grew avocado trees from pits in the backyard. I returned North for college, and after getting a biology degree worked variably as an insect illustrator, museum factotum, and office temp before ultimately returning to school for an MD. I now work part-time as a dermatologist, with large amounts of time (throughout all of this) devoted to making ceramic sculpture."
– Christopher Adams