

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Jay Kvapil: Lost Words

November 2 – December 14, 2019

Opening Reception, Saturday, November 2, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Diane Rosenstein Gallery is pleased to announce *Lost Words*, an installation of new ceramics by Jay Kvapil. Based in Long Beach, Kvapil is a potter who explores the tension between the abject and the beautiful and balances minimal forms with spectacular glazes that melt, fuse, bubble, crawl, and drip in the heat of the kiln. This is his third exhibition with the gallery.

Kvapil's abstract glazes allude to the landscape -- he grew up in Arizona, a land of vast desert landscapes, but rich in intimate pictorial spaces found in small rocks and stones. Many pieces in this exhibition have an obvious horizon line, while others depict the subtle space through which we travel -- whether literally or in our minds --without a specific reference. From his studio at California State University Long Beach (CSULB), he creates his custom glazes through hundreds of tests, and the final pieces often the results of a dozen separate firings. He describes himself as more of a cook than a chemist, adding a pinch here and a pinch there.

The artist writes, "In the end, what I make is pottery just pottery. I'm not interested in calling it ceramic art or sculptural ceramics. It's pottery, plain and simple, because that is the language that it speaks and the history from which it comes, and to whom it speaks. If my work is successful, I like to think that it is kind of conversation with potters that came before me, and the ones who will come after."

Jay Kvapil (USA, b. 1951) graduated from University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA (1973) and received his MA (1979) and MFA (1981) at San Jose State University in California. He was included in *Transfigured*. (2018) and *The Seven Year Itch* (2019) at Diane Rosenstein Gallery. His ceramics have been shown at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; the Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA; Scripps College Invitational, Claremont, CA; Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan, Galerie LeFebvre et Fils, Paris; Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami; Couturier Gallery, Los Angeles; and numerous other national and international exhibitions. Jay Kvapil was the Director of the School of Art at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), and Dean of the Mike Curb College of Art, Media and Communications at California State University in Northridge (CSUN) from 2014-15. The artist lives and works in Long Beach, CA.

Sarah Mikenis: New Painting

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Jay Kvapil: Lost Words will be installed in dialogue with a suite of *New Painting* by emerging artist Sarah Mikenis. Based in Los Angeles, Mikenis' sculptural paintings challenge the relationship between the physical and the optical. These striped and patterned compositions are seemingly draped and gathered over a skeleton of stretcher bars, as if the painting itself is a loose garment in zero gravity -- they bring a Baroque sensibility to geometric abstraction, a balance between the surface and the subliminal. This is her third exhibition with the gallery.

Sarah Mikenis (USA, b. 1986) received a BA from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA (2008); attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2015) in Maine; then received an MFA

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from University of Oregon in Eugene (2016). She was included in *Transfigured.* (2018) and *The Seven Year Itch* (2019) at Diane Rosenstein Gallery, Los Angeles. Her work was included in *New American Paintings, 2018* (No. 133), juried by Rita Gonzalez. The artist was raised in Portland, Oregon and now lives and works in Los Angeles, California.