



Wren Macdonald

Spring 2021

Capstone - Pottery

Department of Art and Art History

**Artist Statement:**

I have been searching for a sort of quietness in my work, like that of a person-less forest, or of a small beetle crawling across soil, or of a wary deer - because I think my mind is most often loud and troubled with thought. Perhaps this is why I choose to construct animal bodies frequently. They are good at being without existential anxiety.

I make work that urges a form of attention attuned to overlooked details. Minutiae, both tangible and intangible, are boundless and wonder opens a space in which beings interact and collaborate. I work towards trusting the intelligence of objects to accumulate a kind of unfolding vastness within their intimacy. Ideas strike me that cannot be explained, so I must make them, in a physical form, and let the work speak. I think many artists do this; let the work speak.

The intersection between illustration and sculpture is intuitive and immensely important; a single rabbit can constitute a muffled shrubscape, in its absoluteness. I think through illustration; through an abundance of detail, a space of and beyond the given picture plane opens.

### Technical Statement:

I often work from an illustrative place, creating in a way that moves between drawing and sculpture simultaneously.

For this set of 30 rabbits, I began building solid-clay bodies of the heads and main abdomens. I let them set until they were leather-hard and proceeded to hollow them out with trimming tools to be a half-inch thick. Once hollowed and reassembled, I added solid appendages, fur-like texture, and facial features. I was working very quickly and found the gesture in my sculptural touch to be of the utmost importance for the final pieces. The clay that I used for the small rabbits was reclaimed from larger rabbit sculptures I had started to build in the beginning of the semester that had collapsed. I found it poetic that the small rabbits were born of collapsed animals.

I bisque fired the sculptures to cone 04 and then glazed 21 of them with VC "D" + 2% rutile and glazed the last nine with VC "D" + 4% Best Black Mason Stain 6600. The VC "D" base glaze was taken from the Val Cushing Manual.

### Clay and Glaze Recipes:

#### ZAM high-fire Studio Clay Mix

ZAM Super Bod	100lbs
Water	31lbs
Medium grog	30lbs
Toilet paper, dissolved	1 roll

#### VC "D" ^6

Kona F-4 Spar	51
Whiting	19
Zinc Oxide	9
EPK	15
Flint	6

CMC	1
Veegum	1
Black 6600	4

(brushed on in two thick layers, kiefer consistency)

#### VC "D" ^6

Kona F-4 Spar	51
Whiting	19
Zinc Oxide	9
EPK	15
Flint	6

CMC	1
Veegum	1
Rutile	2

(brushed on in two thick layers, kiefer consistency)

(\*\*note: the test tile was white, the rabbits turned out light pink. Probably over-fired or a material contamination.)

Title	Original Format
Figure 1: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (overview)	Ceramic, dimensions variable (each rabbit 5 X 8 X 6 inches)
Figure 2: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (postcard)	Print, 5 x 7 inches
Figure 3: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 1)	Ceramic, dimensions variable
Figure 4: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 2)	Ceramic, dimensions variable
Figure 5: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 3)	Ceramic, dimensions variable
Figure 6: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 4)	Ceramic, dimensions variable
Figure 7: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 5)	Ceramic, dimensions variable
Figure 8: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 6)	Ceramic, dimensions variable
Figure 9: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 7)	Ceramic, dimensions variable





**Figure 1: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (overview)**



**Figure 2: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (postcard)**





**Figure 3: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 1)**



**Figure 4: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 2)**





**Figure 5: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 3)**





**Figure 6: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 4)**





**Figure 7: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 5)**





**Figure 8: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 6)**





**Figure 9: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 7)**