

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		VC "D" ^6		VC "D" ^6	
ZAM Super Bod Water Medium grog Toilet paper, dissolved	100lbs 31lbs 30lbs 1 roll	Kona F-4 Spar Whiting Zinc Oxide EPK Flint	51 19 9 15 <u>6</u>	Kona F-4 Spar Whiting Zinc Oxide EPK Flint	51 19 9 15 <u>6</u>
		CMC	1	CMC	1
		Veegum	1	Veegum	1
		Black 6600	4	Rutile	2
		(brushed on in two thick layers, kiefer consistency)		(brushed on in two thick layers, kiefer consistency)	
				(**note: the test tile wa rabbits turned out ligh	•

over-fired or a material

contamination.)

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)

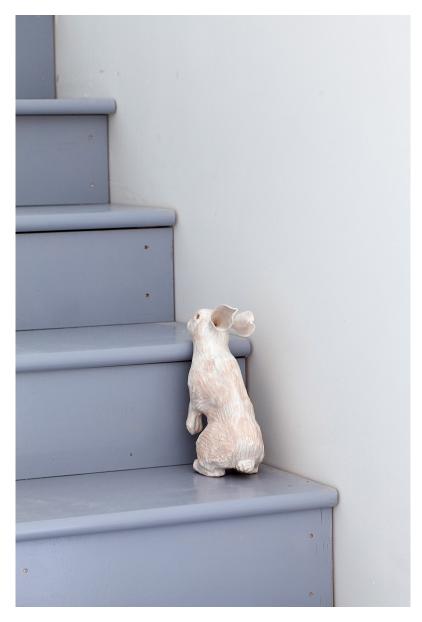


Figure 3: The Fox Cackles (The Rabbit Laughs) (detail 1)



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)