

JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE



Theaster, 2017. English porcelain, high fire reduction, Temple white glaze, NASA Red engobe inlay, gold luster, 4 H x 4.75 W x 4.75 D inches. S/N: 2017.102. Photo: Genevieve Hanson.

THE JANE HARTSOOK GALLERY AT GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY PRESENTS

CHAWAN **TOM SACHS**

Opening Reception | Sunday, May 6, 2018 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Exhibition on view through June 8, 2018

NEW YORK – The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present new work by American sculptor Tom Sachs. Known for his dry wit, this modern day *chawan*'ya observes, "There comes a time in every Jewish, middle-aged, college-educated American man's life when he realizes that Japan is where it's at... Mourning the loss of spirituality in our capitalist environment, we admire Tea's integration of humility, prosperity, and spirituality." For Sachs, that has meant making *chawan*, or teabowls, in addition to learning *chanoyu*, the way of tea. In this exhibition, Sachs has filled several tea cabinets with *chawan* and highlighted a number of "heroes," individual *chawan* that he sets apart as embodying a certain heightened "thingness."

The way of tea serves to give meaning to the meaningless for Sachs, and its ritual provides relief from the structure of society and the commitments one has to the world. He expresses this in his art by making ritualized objects to fill the void created

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by the purposeless production we encounter so often in daily life. Sachs turns to tea to reconcile his love of consumerism and his private quest for authenticity, while his *chanoyu* is an “expression of how spirituality’s been replaced with consumerism,” just as it was for the wildly revered tea master, Sen no Rikyū (1522-1591).

Sachs is best known for his cultural prosthetics. Sculptures created using materials readily available or found—bricolage—his plywood, boom boxes and NASA installations. A contrarian and provocateur whose humor and convictions are decidedly postmodern, Sachs has an appetite for consumerism and cultural fetishization. Unlike much of contemporary theory, Sachs embraces rather than disparages consumer culture. It is difficult to speak about the perils of society and the degradation of the environment while holding an iPhone X. The rise of consumerism has cultivated an aloof criticality reluctant to see its irony revealed. It is impossible to discern whether Sachs is sincere about his sincerity—the critical, academic, leftist response would be to reject consumerism as unauthentic and bourgeois, not to embrace it. Liminality is an overarching theme in his life and work: Sachs occupies the space between artist and manufacturer, proletariat and bourgeoisie, ascetic and materialist, reality and make-believe.

This is the second exhibition of Sachs’ chawans. Exhibited will be several cabinets of chawans and cups. Also on view will be several “hero” chawans. The exhibition will be presented with the support of Salon 94.

Tom Sachs (b. 1966, New York) is a New York-based sculptor known for his work inspired by icons of modernism and design. Using modest studio materials, Sachs creates parallel universes incorporating semi-functional sculpture, sometimes deployed by the artist and his studio assistants for interactive projects as in *Nutsy’s* (2001–2003) and *Space Program* (2007, 2012, 2016–2017). His work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY); the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY); the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York, NY); the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY); the J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA); the Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris, France); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco, CA); and the Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst (Oslo, Norway) among others. He has had solo exhibitions at the Nasher Sculpture Center (Dallas, TX; 2017–2018); Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA; 2016–2017), Noguchi Museum (New York, NY; 2016); the Brooklyn Museum (New York, NY; 2016); the Contemporary (Austin, TX; 2015); the Park Avenue Armory (New York, NY; 2012); Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (Ridgefield, CT; 2009); Gagosian Gallery (Los Angeles, CA; 2007); Lever House (New York, NY; 2008); Fondazione Prada (Milan, Italy; 2006); the Deutsche Guggenheim (Berlin, Germany; 2003); the Bohlen Foundation (New York, NY; 2002); and SITE (Santa Fe, NM; 1999); among others. His film *A Space Program* was released by Zeitgeist in 2016, offering viewers a glimpse into the artist’s studio practice, philosophy, and the narrative surrounding his 2012 project with Creative Time at the Park Avenue Armory.



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CONTACT

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Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. (or by appointment)

ABOUT GREENWICH HOUSE POTTERY

Greenwich House Pottery is a ceramics center that has been supporting artists and promoting the field of ceramics for over 110 years. Starting with clay modeling classes in the earliest days of Greenwich House as part of its Handicraft School, the Pottery flourished with the help of the community and philanthropic support from patrons like Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. GHP remains a stalwart of innovation and art.

GHP is dedicated to expanding public awareness of the diversity and complexity of ceramics and fostering the development of artists through internships, residencies, exhibitions and classes. Extending our educational mission of making, exhibiting, and learning from contemporary ceramics, GHP operates *Ceramics Now*, an exhibition series in the Jane Hartsook Gallery committed to supporting emerging, underrepresented and established ceramists.

GHP strives to increase public recognition of the importance of creative engagement with art. Like so many nonprofit arts organizations, GHP plays a vital role in community building and providing access to the arts. Centers like GHP have become rare but are regaining popularity as society rediscovers the amazement in creating art by engaging physically with materials. GHP offers a chance to learn from clay in a direct way and to foster connections between artists, material and the larger ceramics community.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Ceramics Now

Nicolás Guagnini, Samuel Johnson, Pam Lins, Linda Lopez, Mathew McConnell, Eun-Ha Paek, Rirkrit Tiravanija
July 13 – August 9, 2018

Cristina Tufiño

September 28 – October 26, 2018

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