

MINDY SOLOMON GALLERY

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*Gareth Mason // 'Mammon, Tarnished,' 2011
stoneware, porcelain, ironstone, lustre; 76 x 54 x 59 cm*

Gareth Mason // Material Inspiration
Opens May 25-June 29 at Mindy Solomon Gallery

Please join us for the Opening Reception Saturday, May 25th, from 6-9pm.
Artist's Talk with Gareth Mason takes place at 6:30pm.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL—The Mindy Solomon Gallery is proud to present the work of British ceramic phenomenon Gareth Mason May 25-June 29, with an Opening Night Reception Saturday, May 25th from 6-9pm and Artist's Talk at 6:30pm. Bringing his wildly inventive sculptural forms to MSG, this is Mason's first solo exhibition in the Southeast United States. Combining material elements of a seemingly incongruent nature, Mason creates three-dimensional masterworks with a nod to Abstract Expressionism.

Gareth Mason, in his own words:

"Materials truly inspire me. I am also perpetually impressed with fire, the mercurial influence of which permeates my work conspicuously. Add to these two forces the inescapable influence of gravity and the ingenious agency of the human spirit, and you have the four pillars of my creative existence.

Ceramics afford me ample scope to explore the infinite permutations of these four pillars. To what extent do I assert my human presence in clay? How much of my artistic identity is dictated by forces that hover at the threshold of chaos? What makes me so addicted to risk? I am most creatively alive when I operate at the outside edge of my abilities. It is here that other things happen, where serendipity steps in for good or ill, and where I am continually compelled to reconfigure my own perceptions of 'success' and 'failure.' Ceramics is an arena wherein some pretty serious drama is played out for me, internally and externally.

I find most meaning in my work when I act from a position of doubt and 'not knowing.' I do this sincerely and openly. When I cede responsibility for outcomes to the transformative power of fire and materials in flux, and allow the results to speak unfettered, it is as though I appropriate their voice—and in so doing, extend my own vocabulary of possibility. This necessitates a certain workaday courage, and a willingness to habitually push the work to a place where it makes me uncomfortable. If I am in some creative discomfort, I know I am learning. And there is no discipline like ceramics for administering tough love. I am more interested in what comes back to me than in what I put in. Hard-earned techniques—and mine are pretty long-served and deep-seated—can be a comfort blanket. I have a horror of complacency, so my work is founded on a melange of sources and behaviors. I both respect and undermine my own long-practiced skills, driven by a deep need to keep my practice unfolding anew.

The ceramic vessel is emblematic to me of a humble presence, a domestic scale, and an enduring close-to-the-body utility. This renders it a ripe canvas, upon, within, and through which to play out my personal dramas; dramas embodied in material in extremis. There is room for agony and ecstasy in art, and I have a healthy appetite. I want the gamut of experience to be tangible, so my material compositions have become analogous to emotion. I simply trust that where these forces coalesce—or collide—in the form of completed works, they do so in such a way as to communicate something of my enduring passion and ignite a spark of arousal in the poetic imaginations of those who behold them.”



Gareth Mason // 'Inner Surveillance,' 2010
stoneware, porcelain, glaze, shards, vitreous slips, lustre; 25 x 23.5 x 18 cm

EXHIBITION INFORMATION:

Mindy Solomon Gallery presents 'Gareth Mason: Material Inspiration' May 25-June 29, 2013. An Opening Night Reception takes place Saturday, May 25th, from 6-9pm, with an Artist's Talk at 6:30pm. British ceramic phenomenon Mason brings his wildly inventive sculptural forms to MSG for his first solo exhibition in the Southeast United States. Combining material elements of a seemingly incongruent nature, Mason creates three-dimensional masterworks with a nod to Abstract Expressionism. Mindy Solomon Gallery is located at 124 2nd Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. The gallery is open Wednesday-Saturday from 11am-5pm. For more information, please contact the gallery at info@mindysolomon.com or 727-502-0852, or visit the website at www.mindysolomon.com.

Upcoming Exhibitions //

May 16-May 19

artMRKT San Francisco

June 10-16

SCOPE Basel

July 11-14

artMRKT Hamptons

July 20-September 14

The Paintings of Erin Parish

September 21-October 26

Generic Art Solutions Solo Show

November 2-December 7

Southern Fried

John Byrd, Jeremy Chandler, Jeremiah Jenkins

NEW!

September 24-October 2

Collectors' Trip to Korea with Mindy Solomon

Email mindy@mindysolomon.com for Details // Stay Tuned for More Information in April

Mindy Solomon Gallery is located at 124 2nd Avenue NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11am-5pm, and Tuesdays by appointment. Closed Sunday and Monday. Call 727-502-0852 or email info@mindysolomon.com for more information. Visit www.mindysolomon.com to learn more.

+ Join Us

For more information about Mindy Solomon Gallery and our featured artists, please visit our website, join us on Facebook, check out our blog, or stop by the gallery.