

OUTER SPACE

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WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN

Born 1975, OH
Lives and works in Chicago, IL

EDUCATION

- 2005 M.F.A. Studio Art, Concentration: *Fiber and Material Studies*, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1997 B.A. *Studio Art, Concentration: Ceramics*. Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Outer Space, *Duplex Magic* (with Matthew Fischer), Concord, NH
Lincoln Park Conservatory, *Earth, Water, Fire, Wind & Space*, Chicago, IL
Ackerman Clarke, *Bowls Crucibles Receptacles*, Chicago, IL
2020 Marianne Boesky Gallery, *Safety Blankets. Fetish Objects*. (Online), New York, NY
2019 Shane Campbell Gallery, *transitional objects*, Chicago, IL
Atlanta Contemporary, *Shame Spiral*, Atlanta, GA
2018 Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, *Reliquary*, Madison, WI
2017 Shane Campbell Gallery, *Reliquary*, Chicago, IL
Marianne Boesky Gallery, *Sorrowful Mysteries*, New York, NY
Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, *Oscillates Wildly*, Louisville, KY
2015 Shane Campbell Gallery, *William J. O'Brien*, Chicago, IL
Susanne Hilberry Gallery, *William J. O'Brien*, Ferndale, MI
2014 Taka Ishi Gallery, *William J. O'Brien: Water Sounds*, Tokyo, Japan
Shane Campbell Gallery, *Six Circles: Four Squares*, Chicago, IL
Museum of Contemporary Art, curated by Naomi Beckwith, accompanying monograph, Chicago, IL
Almine Rech Gallery, *The Lovers*, Paris France
2013 Marianne Boesky Gallery, *Wet 'N Wild*, New York, NY
2012 The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS
2011 SHAHEEN Modern and Contemporary Art, *Works on Paper*, Cleveland, Ohio
The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2010 Shane Campbell Gallery, November 14 - January 16, 2011, Oak Park, IL
2009 Marianne Boesky Gallery, November 20 – January 10, 2010, New York, NY
Susanne Hilberry Gallery, September 12 – October 31, Detroit, MI
2008 World Class Boxing, *Death Rattle*, February – April, Miami, FL
2007 Shane Campbell Gallery, *the axis mundi*, Chicago, IL
2006 Locust Projects, *When Your Heart Is on Fire, Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, Miami, FL
2005 Ingalls and Associates, *A Fairy Tale*, curated by Jose Diaz and Nina Arias, Miami, FL
Museum of Contemporary Art 12 x 12, *New Artists, New Work*, Chicago, IL

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 DePaul Art Museum, *Life Cycles*, Chicago, IL
Leon Benrimon Gallery, *The Subject is Ceramic*, Los Angeles, CA
Ki Smith Gallery, *Clayjà Vu*, New York, NY
Goldfinch Gallery, *Lilac, Moonbeam, and Heavenly Blue*, Chicago, IL
2022 Alison Bradley Projects, *FIRE*, New York, NY

- Hyde Park Art Center, *Regarding the Missing Objects*, curated by Ruslana Lichtzier, Chicago, IL
 SAIC Galleries, *SAIC Sabbatical Triennial*, Curated by Staci Boris, Chicago, IL
 SAIC Wellness Center, *Connect the Dots*, Chicago, IL
 Indiana University East, *Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*, Curated by Carrie Longley, Richmond, IN
 Dubuque Museum of Art, *Craft Invitational*, Curated by Staci Gage Peterson, Dubuque, IA,
 Holland Project Galleries, *Holding Pattern*, Curated by Nick Larsen, Reno, NV
- 2021 Taka Ishii Gallery, *YAKIMONO*, Tokyo, Japan
 deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, *The Protectors*, Lincoln, MA
 Marianne Boesky Gallery, *A Thought Sublime*, New York, NY
 R & Company, *Objects USA 2020*, Curated by James Zemaitis, Glenn Adamson, Evan Snyderman and Abby Bangser, with accompanying monograph, New York, NY
- 2020 Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, *The Long Dream*, Chicago, IL
 Hub-Robeson Galleries, *Human Expectations II*, University Park, PA
 Fort Makers, *The Planter Show*, New York, NY
 Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, *Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago*, Chicago, IL
 Hans Gallery, *Collage*, Chicago, IL
- 2019 Chicago Park District, *Sculpture in the Parks*, Chicago, IL
 Taka Ishii Gallery, *Survived!*, Tokyo, Japan
 Sculpture Milwaukee, June 7 – October 27, Milwaukee, WI
- 2018 Fosdick-Nelson Gallery at Alfred University, *Queering Space*, Alfred, NY
 Museum of Arts and Design, *The Burke Prize 2018*, New York, NY
- 2017 Misako & Rosen, *Horror Vacui, or The Annihilation of Space*, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, *Thread Lines*, Louisville, KY
 Art Basel Miami Beach, *Public*, Curated by Nicholas Baume, Miami, FL
 Peres Projects, *Wild Style: Exhibition of Figurative Art*, Berlin, Germany
 Northern Illinois University, *Pattern and Process*, curated by Nina Rizzo and Steven Ciampaglia, DeKalb, IL
- 2015 Susan Hilberry Gallery, *THIRTY NINE YEARS / Memorial for Susan Feld Hilberry*, Ferndale, MI,
 Bannerette Gallery, *I Can't Wait To Get Off Work.*, curated by Austin Eddy, Brooklyn, NY
 Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, *Surrealism: The Conjured Life*, Chicago, IL
 Cherry and Martin, *Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better*, Los Angeles, CA
 Sun Valley Center for the Arts, *Defying Gravity: Interventions in Clay*, Sun Valley, ID
 Invisible Exports, *SOFT CORE*, New York, NY
 Alison Jacques Gallery, *Organic Sculpture*, London, England
- 2014 Leila Heller, *KILN*, New York, NY
 U.S. Blues, October 4 – November 9, Brooklyn, NY
 Weatherspoon Art Museum, *Art on Paper 2014: The 43rd Exhibition*, Greensboro, NC
 Shane Campbell Gallery, *New Image Painting*, Chicago, IL
 Almine Rech Gallery, *Platform*, curated by Nicolas Trembley, Brussels, Belgium
 The Drawing Center, *Thread Lines*, New York, NY
- 2013 Loretta Howard Gallery, *"DNA: Strands of Abstraction*, curated by Paul Sinclair, New York, NY
- 2012 The H.F. Johnson Gallery of Art at Carthage College, *All Good Things Become Wild and Free*, curated by Danny Orendorff, Kenosha, WI
 Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, *Phantom Limb: Approaches to Painting Today*, Chicago, IL
 Acme, *Someone Puts a Pineapple Together*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 The Green Gallery, *Painted*, curated by Tyson Reeder, Milwaukee, WI
 Espacio 1414, *Painting...Expanded*, Santurce, Puerto Rico
 SHAHEEN Modern and Contemporary Art, *Works on Paper*, Cleveland, OH,
 Lisa Cooley Gallery, *Josh Faught and William J. O'Brien*, New York, NY
 Witte de With, January - April, 2011, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2010 David Castillo Gallery, *The Maginot Line*, December 1, Miami, FL

- Loyola University Museum of Art, *New Icon*, Chicago, IL
 World Class Boxing space of the Debra and Dennis Scholl Collection, *Mystic Visage*, curated by Desiree Cronk, Miami, FL
 Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, *At Home/Not at Home: Works from the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg*, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
 Gallery MC, *L'AUR'AMARA*, Curated by Bustos Domenech, December 2 - 3, 2010, New York, NY
 Travels to Générale en Manufacture, April 2011, Paris, France; Centro Ricerche Accademia di Brera ex Chiesa di S.Carpoforo (CRAB), June - July 2011, Milan, IT
- 2009 Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, *In Stitches*, curated by Beth Rudin DeWoody, New York, NY
 Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, *Selected Works from the MCA Collection*, Chicago, IL
 Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, *An Expanded Field of Possibilities*, Santa Barbara, California
- 2008 Aspen Art Museum, *Now You See It*, Aspen, CO
 Andrea Rosen Gallery, *Base:Object*, New York, NY
 Galerie Krinzinger, Andy Coolquitt, Frank Haines, William J. O'Brien, Vienna, Austria
 Elizabeth Dee Gallery, *Jesuvian Process*, New York,
- 2007 Marianne Boesky Gallery, Project Space, *William O'Brien / Anthony Pearson*, New York, NY
 Barbara Gladstone Gallery, *Makers And Modelers*, New York, NY
 Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, *Sonotube ® Forms: Contemporary Art and Transport*, Santa Barbara, CA
 Shane Campbell Gallery, *Jesse Chapman, Aliza Nisenbaum, William J. O'Brien*, Chicago, IL
 Blum & Poe, *So Wrong, I'm Right*, Los Angeles, CA
 Museum of Contemporary Art, *Stuff: International Contemporary Art from the Collection of Burt Aaron*, Detroit, MI
- 2006 Shane Campbell Gallery, *Modern Primitivism*, Chicago, IL
 Western Exhibitions, *Josh Mannis, Eric Lebofsky, William J. O'Brien*, Chicago, IL
 The James Hotel, *MIXART*, Chicago, IL
 Open End Gallery, *Pathetisize*, curated by Alex May, Chicago, IL
 Nina Menocal Projects, *Champagne*, curated by Jose Diaz, Mexico City, Mexico
 Participant Inc., *Cluster*, curated by Katie Holten, New York, NY
- 2005 Margaret Thatcher Projects, *Certain People I Know*, New York, NY
 Nina Menocal Projects for Art Basel, *We Created a Monster*, curated by Frederick Janka, Miami, FL
 The Living Room for Art Basel, *CoDependent*, curated by Gean Moreno, Miami, FL
 Booster and Seven, *Winter Group Show*, curated by Steph Pavone, Chicago, IL
 The Church of the Friendly Ghost, *Eagle Hand's Moon and The Orange Savior*, Austin, TX
 Contemporary Art Workshop, *Summer Group Show*, curated by Steph Pavone, Chicago, IL
 Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, *Bilingual*, curated by Tracy Taylor, Chicago, IL
 Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, *Drawn Out*, curated by Tracy Taylor, Chicago, IL
 Diamonds on Archer, *In Print2*, Chicago, IL
 Around the Coyote Gallery, *Macerate*, curated by Currency Exchange, Chicago, IL
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, *M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition*, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
 Three-Walls Gallery, *Stygine's Creek*, Video Screening Curated by Ruba Katrib, Chicago, IL
 Nina Menocal Gallery, *Take My Hand*, Curated by Ruba Katrib (Traveling), Mexico City, Mexico
 Gallery 1926, *Appropriating Feminist Strategies*, Chicago, IL
 Three-Walls Gallery, *Take My Hand*, Curated by Ruba Katrib, Chicago, IL
- 2004 Artist Space, *Night of 1,000 Drawings*, New York, NY
 Open End Gallery, *Click Formation*, Chicago, IL
 Symbology Bathroom, *The Pilot Conference*, Chicago, IL
 Jupiter Hotel, The Fresh-Up Club, *The Affair*, Portland, OR
 Marshall Arts @ Delta Axis, *Identity Crisis*, Memphis, TN
 Objex Artspace, *Art Poster Show*, Miami, FL
 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, *G2 Group Show*, Chicago, IL

- Rocket Projects, *Abracadabra*, Miami, FL
 Higher Gallery, *3 on 3*, Straight Artists Curate 3 Gay Artists, Chicago, IL
 1/Quarterly Space, *Eric Lebofsky, Josh Mannis, William O'Brien*, Chicago, IL
 The Stray Show, *Art Mule*, Chicago, IL
 Modest Contemporary Art Projects, *Small Victories*, Chicago, IL
 2003 Deitch Projects, Participant, Inc., *La Superrette*, New York, NY
 Glasgow School of Art, *100% Cotton*, Glasgow, Scotland
 Shaff Gallery, *White Haute*, Chicago, IL
 2001 Greenwich House Pottery, *Annual Members Show*, New York, NY
 SPACES Gallery, *Out and About*, Benefit Invitation Group Show, Cleveland, OH
 1997 Crown Center Gallery, Loyola University Chicago, *Undergraduate Thesis Show*, Chicago, IL

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2023 Vizcarrondo-Laboy, Angelik. "The Clayjá Vu of Sasha Feldman and William J. O'Brien," *Clayjá Vu*, Ki Smith Gallery, 2023.
- 2020 Adamson, Glenn. *Objects USA: 2020*, The Monacelli Press, 2020.
- 2019 Calobrisi, Amanda Joy. "William J. O'Brien, "Transitional Objects" at Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago," ADF Webmagazine (August 20, 2019) [online]
 Editorial, Burnaway. "Close Look: William J. O'Brien at Atlanta Contemporary," Burnaway (August 3, 2019) [online]
 McIntosh, Monique. "Meet a Chicago creative who creates & deconstructs art," Luxe Magazine, July 12, 2019
 Scholl, Dennis. "'Inside my studio' with William J. O'Brien," Cultured Magazine, (June 18, 2018) [online]
- 2018 Goldstein, Caroline. "William J. O'Brien's Enchanted Circus Installation Is Packed Full of Dizzying Detail," Artnet News, (January 18, 2018) [online]
- 2017 Lilley, Clare. *Vitamin C: Clay and Ceramic in Contemporary Art*, Phaidon, 2017. Keel, Eli. "KMAC's 'Thread Lines' exhibit is a conversation between mediums," Insider Louisville (May 28, 2017) [online]
 Yanoviak, Eileen. "William O'Brien at KMAC in Louisville," Burnaway (March 20, 2017) [online]
 Keel, Eli. "The evocative and varied works of William J. O'Brien are now at KMAC," Insider Louisville (January 29, 2017) [online]
 Kramer, Elizabeth. "KMAC show with work by upcoming Chicago artist," Courier-Journal (January 12, 2017) [online]
- 2016 Steadman, Ryan. "5 Must-See Booths at the Art Los Angeles Contemporary Fair," Observer, January 25, 2015) [online]
- 2015 Brooks, Katherine. "13 Artists You Should Fall In Love With This Spring," Huffington Post (March 12, 2015)
 Bryant, Eric. "25 Most Collectible Midcareer Artists," Blouin Artinfo (September 1, 2015)
 Editorial, Artsy. "11 Booths You Need to See Before The Armory Show Closes," Artsy, March 6, 2015
 Girgenti, Maria. "Portrait of the Artist: William J. O'Brien," Newcity Art (December 18, 2015) [online]
 Guiducci, Mark. "How To See the Armory Show in One Hour Flat," Vogue, March 5, 2015
 "AD Gets a First Look at the 17th Annual Armory Show," Architectural Digest, March 2015
 Editorial, Artsy. "At The Armory Show, a Fresh-Faced Vernissage with Accessible Price Points," Artsy, March 5, 2015
 Boucher, Brian. "What's Really Cool at the Armory Show 2015? Brian Boucher Points it Out," Artnet News, March 6, 2015
 Jovanovic, Rozalia. "Rozalia Jovanovic's Top 10 Booths at the Armory Show 2015," Artnet News, March 6, 2015

- Kirsch, Corinna, "Dealers Report: The 2015 Armory Show is Legit Awesome," *Art F City*, March 6, 2015
- Boucher, Brian. "The 10 Best Contemporary Artworks at the 2015 Armory Show," *Artnet News* March 5, 2015
- Kazakina, Katya. "No Art Fair Lull as One Gallery Sells \$1 Million in Three Hours," *Bloomberg*, March 5, 2015
- "Preview Art Basel Miami Beach: 10 Works By Artists Who Have Altered the Way We Perceive Our World and Ourselves," *Art Dealers Association of America* (November 2015) [online]
- 2014 Getsky, David J. *William J. O'Brien Ceramic Heads*, Woods Kusaka Studios, 2014.
- Beckwith, Naomi. *William J. O'Brien*. ARTBOOK/D.A.P. and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 2014.
- Milburn, Robert. "Art Advisors: Are They Worth It?," *Barron's*, November 7, 2014
- Halperin, Julia. "Perfectly unfashionable to be fashionable again," *The Art Newspaper*, June 18, 2014
- Gluzen, Robin and James, Damien. "We Went To Chicago: The Horrors of Parenthood, The Strength of Drawings," *ArtFCity*, May 19, 2014
- Myers, Terry R. "William J. O'Brien," *The Brooklyn Rail*, April 2, 2014
- Waxman, Lori, "Compare and Contrast: Ceramics at the MCA", *Chicago Tribune*, February 7, 2014
- Lacy, Jamilee Polson. "The Maker: William J. O'Brien", *Art in America*, January 24, 2014
- Malooley, Jake. "10 best things to do this week: January 20 -26, 2014", *Time Out Chicago*, January 20, 2014
- Eichinger, Elle, "Chicago's William J. O'Brien Shows Multimedia Pieces at the MCA", *Michigan Avenue Magazine*, January 15,
- Léa Chauvel-Lévy, "William J. O'Brien, The Lovers – Galerie Almine Rech", *Slash-Paris*, January 15, 2014
- Bryant, Eric. "Artist William J. O'Brien on His Brilliant, Multifaceted Career, Artspace, January 15, 2014
- Eler, Alicia, "10 Chicago Art Exhibitions to See This Winter", *Hyperallergic*, January 14, 2014
- Robin Cembalest, "12 Trends Defining This Season's Art-Museum Shows", *ArtNews*, January 9, 2014
- Mercurio, Frank, "William J. O'Brien at the MCA", *Chicago Gallery News*, January 2014
- Grabner, Michelle. "William J. O'Brien, Curated by Naomi Beckwith – Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago", *ArtForum*, January 2014
- Mathis, Meg, "The Big Picture", *Michigan Avenue Magazine*, January 2014
- Yood, James, "William J. O'Brien Transforms Artisanal Crafts into Abstract Art", *Architectural Digest*, January 2014
- 2013 "Things We Like – Hitlist", *Blouinartinfo.com/Modern Painters*, May 2013, p. 39.
- 2011 Tucker, Elizabeth, William J. O'Brien *Artforum*, May 2011, p. 138
- 2010 At Home/Not at Home: Works from the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, curated by Matthew Higgs, New York: CCS Bard Hessel Museum, June 26 – December 19, 2010.
- Rondeau, James. *Emerging Artists*, Frieze, January 2010.
- 2009 Smith, Roberta. Make Room for Video Performance and Paint, *The New York Times*, December 31, 2009
- Trelles, Emma. New Acquisitions add vigorous life to MAM collection, *Palm Beach Arts Paper*, August 31, 2009
- 2008 Vogel, Sabine B. Picks: Vienna; Andy Coolquitt, Frank Haines, William J. O'Brien at Krinzingen Projekte, *Artforum*. May, 2008
- 2007 Yood, James. William J. O'Brien: Shane Campbell Gallery, *Artforum* XLVI, No.4, 2007, p. 360
- Fry, Naomi. Critics' Picks, *Artforum*, October 2, 2007.
- Smith, Roberta. It's Just Clay, but How About a Little Respect?, *The New York Times*, September 7, 2007.
- 2006 Moreno, Gean. William J. O'Brien, *Art Papers*, March/April 2006.
- 2005 Jason A. Heidemann. Out on the town...taking in queer culture, *Time Out Chicago*, October 20 – 27, 2005, p. 98.

Gay Broken Hearts. Genre Magazine, September Issue.
Girls, Boys, Pop Music. Teen Vogue, December/January Issue

VISITING ARTIST/LECTURES

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art
Maryland Institute College of Art
University of Minnesota Department of Art and Art History
Penn State University Department of Art, Anderson Endowed Lecture Series
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MI
Art Expo Chicago, Artadia & SAIC Lecture Series
Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago
Northwestern University
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Department of Ceramics
Oxbow School of Art, Saugatuck, Michigan
Columbia College
Vermont Studio Center

AWARDS

Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship Recipient, 2020
Herp Alpert/Ucross Prize, 2019
Tiffany Foundation Award Recipient, 2012
Artadia: The Fund for Art & Dialogue, 2007 Chicago Finalist, and Grant Recipient
Vermont Studio Center, Full Fellowship Residency
Mellon Award, Loyola University Chicago

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York
Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida
The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio
Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
The Saatchi Gallery, London, England
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California
Pérez Art Museum, Miami, Florida
DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois
KMAC Museum, Louisville, Kentucky
Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annadale-on-Hudson, New York
deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts
The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, Iowa City, Iowa

TEACHING

2009 - Present School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
PROFESSOR OF ART, CHAIR *Department of Ceramics*