



NATURE OF THINGS

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Sam Linguist's paintings seem to fit right into Dave Hickey's sentiment of "the great Texas tradition of weird enterprises." His work defies instant categorization, standing somewhere in between painting, sculpture and ceramics. It has been handled, flattened, shaped, painted, and fired and still appears to possess the energy that it could come off the wall at you.

Linguist mines a deep source of references in the work—art historical figures or heroes (Sigmar Polke, Blinky Palermo, Joan Mitchell), cave paintings, Texas history (just to name a few). They are worked through with obsessive patterning, with the glaze and brush work often continuing over the sides, sometimes even to the backs of the works. Where you see the "artist's hand" here, you can literally find his fingerprints. As for humor, it is either visually apparent, or reflected in the title, but never both.

This series of work was made both in Brooklyn, where Linguist currently lives, and a small shack behind his childhood home in Waxahachie, Texas. They have an element of utility (and a self-awareness of such), which comes in part from their hardy brick clay material and lack of finish.

Linguist, before he was making art objects, was making pies. Both the pie and the pie dish. Before that, he was a fashion designer. In fact, these might be inverted pie dishes in a way—yet squared off and hung on the wall—wearing a freshly-tailored jacket of painting.

- Tessa Granowski