

## Virtual Studio Visit Reflection: NCECA Emerging Artists

Kelly O'Briant was a full time utilitarian potter for ten years before she started doing installation pieces. O'Briant's work reflects patterns and behaviors in daily life through the purposeful placement of ordinary objects. She observes the placement of objects in a space after the occupants leave and she captures those moments through hand-building these scenes with porcelain. I really enjoyed not only O'Briant's pieces but also her explanations that accompanied them. I had never thought about replicating a dinner table after the family had finished eating to replicate emotions and behavior. I also respected her choice of a limited color palette.

Joanna Powell is a unique artist. She creates sculptural works inspired by things that she has experienced during her life. She likes to create works that are contradictory to things in life. Although her works are very visually intriguing, her explanations of her work were extremely hard to follow. She was humorous in her explanations, however I wish she could have been easier to follow in her speaking.

Kate Roberts is a Greenville, South Carolina native. Her installation series titled "practicing vulnerability" is a visual representation of a suspended moment in time. She uses unfired piped porcelain to create very delicate and organic structures. She is inspired by the history of the old south and the fragility of moments in between key moments of time. Of all four of the Artist talks that we were tasked with watching for class, I enjoyed this one the most. I respected the experimental aspects and approaches that Roberts uses. I found it interesting how Roberts was unafraid of her pieces breaking in transport or during installation. The fragility of the structure of her pieces is a beautiful reflection of the fragility of time.

Roberto Lugo is a graduate of Penn State. He is primarily known as a graffiti artist but he also creates ceramics vessels that reflect the hardships faced by people of color. Lugo gave a beautiful and poetic testimony of how throughout his life people always assumed he was bound for trouble because of the color of his skin. While Lugo's vessels are visually stunning, it's his storytelling that makes his pieces come to life. Without Lugo's emotion driven explanation of his pieces, I do not believe they would be as powerful as they are. I enjoyed Lugo's speech and his passion for his work. I love how he uses his ceramics almost as a means of activism.

While all four of these artists create works that differ visually in appearance, all four of them are inspired by one common theme. All four of these artists create works that reflect experiences that they have personally gone through or are personally affected by. For me personally, I want my art to also reflect not only my experiences but also my beliefs. Hearing these artists explain their creative process and visually provide examples of the finished product inspires me to look deeper within myself for inspiration for future pieces.