



MATTHIAS MERKEL HESS

Born in 1978, Cedar Rapids, IO  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

#### EDUCATION

2010 MFA, Ceramics, University of California, Los Angeles, CA  
2002 BS, Journalism; BA, environmental science, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 *MRKL*, Peters Projects, Santa Fe, NM

2014 *MerkelWare Party*, Marine Projects, Los Angeles, CA  
*Things*, Volume Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Water and Gasoline*, Burnet Gallery in Le Méridien Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

2013 *Hereafter*, Salon 94 Freemans, New York, NY  
*Anvils*, ACME, Los Angeles, CA  
*Oeuvreday*, James Harris Gallery, Seattle, WA

2011 *Bucketry*, ACME, Los Angeles, CA  
*Two Projects and a Drawing*, Mary Moody Gallery, West Texas A&M, Amarillo, TX  
*Spottieottiedopaliscious Dishes*, IKO IKO, Los Angeles

2010 *Devils Tower-LA*, Las Cienegas Projects, Los Angeles, CA

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Housewarming*, Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY  
*The Ashtray Show*, Fisher Parrish Gallery, Brooklyn

2015 *Torsos & Buckets*, Salon 94, New York  
*Cassius Clay*, Marcelle Joseph, London, UK

2014 *More Material*, curated by Duro Olowu, Salon 94 Bowery, New York, NY  
*Corporeal Impulse*: Julia Haft-Candell, Matt Merkel Hess, Jeffrey Mitchell, Kathleen Ryan, Bari Ziperstein, curated by Allyson Unzicker, Vincent Price Art Museum, Monterey Park, CA

2013 *The Cat Show*, curated by Rhonda Lieberman, White Columns, New York, NY  
*Faux Real*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA  
*HIGH LOW*, Irvine Fine Arts Center, Irvine, CA  
*Salon No. 10: The Boy's Club*, Marine Art Salon, Venice, CA  
*The White Album*, Louis B. James Gallery, New York, NY  
*A Thousand Hours*, Jane Deering Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

2012 *Americana*, Grey Area, New York, NY



Venice Beach Biennial, curated by Ali Subotnik, Venice, CA  
The Planter Show, ForYourArt Space, Los Angeles, CA  
.SUM: Matthias Merkel Hess, William J. O'Brien, Arlene Shechet, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS  
Material: A Group Show Curated by Duro Olowu, Salon 94 Freemans, New York, NY

- 2011  
001, Favorite Goods, Los Angeles, CA  
Works of Paper, ACME, Los Angeles, CA  
Paul Clay, Salon 94, New York, NY  
Los Angeles Museum of Ceramic Art, ACME, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010  
Monster Drawing Rally, Outpost for Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA  
Haunted JMOCA, Justin's Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA  
(N)either Swords (N)or Plowshares, Cerritos College Gallery, Norwalk, CA  
Wet Paint II, Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles  
Keramik, Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood, CA  
MFA Thesis Show, New Wight Gallery, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009  
MFA 2010 Exhibition, New Wight Gallery, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA  
Greater Los Angeles MFA Exhibition, California State University, Long Beach, CA  
College Art Association Los Angeles MFA Exhibition, University of Southern California, Roski Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008  
Greater Los Angeles MFA Exhibition, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
- 2006  
Insights 2006, University Art Museum, California State University, Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY | PUBLICATIONS

- 2013  
Graves, Jen. "Touching Things," *The Stranger*, Vol 23, No. 2, September 11-17, page 27  
Zara, Janelle. "Art for the Afterlife," *Modern Painters*, June 2013, p. 25  
Donelan, Charles. "Light Touch: Ceramics and Photography on Display," *Santa Barbara Independent*, January 7  
Ollman, Leah. "Review: Matthias Merkel Hess' sculptures at once earnest and sly," *Los Angeles Times*, June 19  
Suqi, Rima. "Ceramics that make the afterlife more fun," *New York Times*, June 19
- 2012  
Ollman, Leah. "The Happy Medium," *Art in America*, December 2012, p. 156-161.  
Harris, Gareth and Riah Pryor. "Domestic Bliss Meets DIY," *The Art Newspaper*, Frieze Art Fair Friday edition, October 17.  
Finkel, Jori. "Venice Beach gets a Breezy Biennial on the Boardwalk," *The Los Angeles Times*, July 11  
Drohojowska-Philp, Hunter. "Biennial Goes to the Boardwalk," KCRW Art Talk, July 12  
Wagley, Catherine. "Venice Beach Biennial Preview: 'Art World' Artists Meet Boardwalk Vendors," *LA Weekly*, July 12  
Rolnik, Daniel. "Recap of the 2012 Venice Beach Biennial," *Argot & Ochre*, July 18  
Thorson, Alice. "Nerman Museum Exhibit Shows the Power of Ceramics," *The Kansas City Star*, June 16  
"Artist of the Week: Matthias Merkel Hess," [lv3.tumblr.com](http://lv3.tumblr.com) April 2  
Artist Project, *Slake*, Issue #4 "Dirt," P. 208-211, April  
Smith, Roberta. "Duro Olowu: Material," *New York Times*, March 2  
Ollman, Leah. "Clay Keeps Breaking the Mold," *Los Angeles Times*, January 29  
Shaw, Michael. "Matthias Merkel Hess: Come for the Merkel, Stay for the Bucketry," *The Conversation: an Artist Podcast*, [notesonlooking.com](http://notesonlooking.com), January 13
- 2011  
Hodge, Brooke. "Seeing Things: Matthias Merkel Hess," *New York Times T Magazine Seeing Things Blog*, December 8  
Ollman, Leah. "Art Review: Aaron Morse and Matthias Merkel Hess at ACME," *Los Angeles Times*, December 8



Wagley, Catherine. "Five Artsy Things to See This Week," *LA Weekly*, December 1  
Baum, Gary, Marissa Gluck and Alexis Johnson. "Arts & Power: On the Make," *Angeleno Magazine*, December  
"Pin-Up Menagerie: A Collection of 69 Beautiful Things," *Pin-Up Magazine*, Issue 11,  
Fall/Winter 2011-2012, p. 167.  
Hodge, Brooke. "Iko Iko Goes West," *Seeing Things blog, New York Times T Magazine*, August 18  
Ollman, Leah. "Art review: 'Works of Paper' at ACME," *Los Angeles Times*, July 21  
Smith, Roberta. "Art in Review: 'Paul Clay,'" *New York Times*, June 30  
Kilston, Lyra. "Los Angeles Museum of Ceramic Art," *Artforum.com* critics pick, January 20  
Pagel, David. "Art Review: 'Los Angeles Museum of Ceramic Art' at ACME," *Los Angeles Times*, January 13

#### LECTURES

- 2014 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
The University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2013 Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA  
Biola University, La Mirada, CA  
Chapman University, Orange, CA  
Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2012 Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS  
Visiting Artist Talk, Ceramics Department, Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 Visiting Artist Talk and Seminar, West Texas A&M, Amarillo, TX
- 2010 Visiting Artist Talk, Ceramics Department, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA  
Visiting Artist Talk, Ceramics Department, Cerritos College, Norwalk, CA

#### CURATORIAL

- 2012 *The Planter Show*, ForYourArt Space, Los Angeles, CA co-curator with Lisa Sitko
- 2008 *Group Effort: Collaboration as Form and Process*, Wight Biennial 2008, Wight Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles, co-curator with Jennifer Gradecki, Alexandro Segade and Wu Tsang

#### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Hallmark Art Collection, Kansas City, MO  
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

#### FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Fellowship for Visual Arts, Emerging Artist, California Community Foundation, 2014



18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center Project Room Award, 2010  
Elaine Krown Klein Award, University of California, Los Angeles, 2009  
Laura Andreson Ceramics Scholarship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2009  
Matthias Denny Award, University of California, Los Angeles, 2009  
Hoyt Scholarship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2009  
Hyman Eugene Oxman Scholarship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2008  
Laura Andreson Ceramics Scholarship, University of California, Los Angeles, 2007  
Fine Arts Affiliates Scholarship, California State University, Long Beach, 2006  
Art Department Scholarship, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA, 2005