

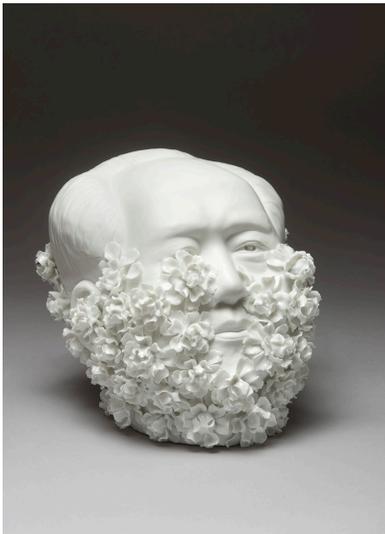
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**MADE IN CHINA:
NEW CERAMIC WORKS BY KEIKO FUKAZAWA
JANUARY 24 – MAY 8, 2016**

Keiko Fukazawa's porcelain objects examine the contradictions of China's new capitalism through the eyes of an outsider



Bearded Mao, porcelain, glaze, 2015.
Collection of the artist.
Photo: Susan Einstein



Red to Gold #2, earthenware, glaze, gold luster, decal, 2014. Collection of the artist.
Photo: Susan Einstein

LOS ANGELES — The Craft & Folk Art Museum presents ***Made in China: New Ceramic Works by Keiko Fukazawa***, the first solo museum exhibition of the Los Angeles-based ceramic artist. For the past three years, the Japan-born artist has visited Jingdezhen, China — the “porcelain capital” of the world — for artist residencies, where her observations of Chinese capitalism sparked a new body of concept-based work. Using porcelain busts of Chairman Mao Zedong, luxury brand logos, and timeless glazes, *Made in China* represents Fukazawa’s playful and ironic examinations of the effects of globalization and consumerism in China. *Made in China: New Ceramic Works by Keiko Fukazawa* is on view from January 24 – May 8, 2016.

Fukazawa has been studying porcelain in Jingdezhen. The city has been a global center of ceramic production and innovation for almost 2,000 years, and its ceramics were one of the world’s first globalized products. Jingdezhen serves as an appropriate anchor point for Fukazawa to explore the rapid spread of industrialization and capitalist strategies in China since the death of Chairman Mao Zedong in 1976. With 20% of the world’s population and the second largest economy, China represents the worldwide challenges of globalization: loss of cultural practices, rampant consumerism, and severe environmental degradation.

The artist’s fascination with China’s state capitalism began in the late-2000s after reading an article on the exploitative child labor conditions in Chinese factories. Subsequently, she created cast ceramic Beanie Babies sculptures shaped into iconic scholars rock sculptures to reflect on the rise of Chinese capitalism as a response to American consumer demand. During her time in Jingdezhen the last three years, Fukazawa has observed the lifestyle shifts in Chinese society as American-style consumer habits are being adopted.

The works for *Made in China* were made collaboratively with local artisans to create several series’ representing various processes and materials from Jingdezhen, including porcelain flower-making and traditional landscape painting. A series of porcelain busts representing mass-produced statues of Chairman Mao show him adorned, and almost drowning in, delicate porcelain flowers—a reference to his Hundred Flowers Campaign, in which the public was encouraged to openly criticize the government but met with repression after doing so. A site-specific installation of Mao’s outstretched arms will invite visitors to contribute paper flowers to the piece.

She goes on to decorate another series of multiples, based on domestic objects like spoons and tea flasks, with mass-produced decals of Chairman Mao in various stages of his life. These objects are glazed in a gradient ranging from red to gold, symbolizing China’s journey through communism to its current iteration of state capitalism. A series of large porcelain boxes shows Chinese landscape paintings infiltrated by multinational corporate logos like Louis Vuitton and McDonald’s.



Spout Monster No. 3, porcelain, glaze, 2015.
Collection of the artist.
Photo: Susan Einstein



Chinese Still Life #1, earthenware, glaze, transfer, gold luster, 2013. Collection of the artist.
Photo: Susan Einstein

Rejected parts from Jingdezhen's ceramic factories make their way into a series called *Spout Monsters*, in which mutant teapots have grown multiple limb-like spouts. The series *Chinese Still Life* shows groupings of cast plastic bottles glazed in a range of lustrous glazes and other finishes unique to Jingdezhen. Fukazawa often saw these bottles being discarded then reused as containers by glaze makers.

"Keiko has been an active, long-time presence in the Los Angeles arts community, and we are very excited to present her work to a larger audience," says CAFAM Exhibitions Curator Holly Jerger. "The vast technical resources she encountered in Jingdezhen have allowed Keiko to make an important transition in her artistic practice and focus on conceptual issues she wanted to explore. This body of work is also a potent example of contemporary craft's relevance to world events, both historically and today."

Born and raised in Japan, Fukazawa currently lives and works in Pasadena, California. She studied at Musashino Art University in Tokyo and Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, where she also taught ceramics for four years. She is currently assistant professor and head of the ceramic department at Pasadena City College. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, California; the National Museum of History, Taipei, Taiwan; and Racine Art Museum, Racine, Wisconsin. Fukazawa is the recipient of a 2016 COLA Individual Artist Fellowship from the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles.

An opening reception for ***Made in China: New Ceramic Works by Keiko Fukazawa*** will take place on Saturday, January 23 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. The reception is free for CAFAM members and open to the public for a \$12 admission fee.

The exhibition is sponsored in part by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles, Asian Cultural Council, New York, and The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles.

CATALOGUE

Made in China is documented by a fully illustrated publication authored by CAFAM Exhibitions Curator Holly Jerger and with an essay by art critic Scarlet Cheng. The publication is available both in-store and online at CAFAM Shop (www.cafamshop.org).

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

CAFAM will offer exhibition-related workshops and events in conjunction with the exhibition, including CraftLab family workshops on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Artist Talk with Keiko Fukazawa

Sunday, March 20 | 3:00pm | Free with general admission

Situated on historic Museum Row since 1973, the **Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM)** is an invaluable contributor to Los Angeles culture, exhibiting current artists with intriguing perspectives and distinctive practices. Exploring the leading edge of craft, art, and design, CAFAM gives audience to diverse makers and artists whose work is often not represented in larger art institutions. The museum is a place to see art and make art — all under one roof. CAFAM coordinates a robust roster of hands-on workshops led by professional artists and makers. The intimate, atypical museum space and independent spirit at CAFAM combine to create an atmosphere of excitement and innovation, where people in Los Angeles deepen their relationships to art, creativity and one another. For more information, visit www.cafam.org

Location: 5814 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Admission: FREE every Sunday

Regularly: \$7 for adults; \$5 for students, teachers, and seniors; free for CAFAM members

Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; closed

Mondays. Every first Thursday of the month, extended hours 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.