

LILLSTREET

GALLERY & ARTISAN GIFT SHOP

The Language of Line

Visiting Workshop Artists

Sam Chung

Josh DeWeese &

Heather Mae Erickson

with Neha Vedpathak



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Cover: Sam Chung, *Cloud Vase*, 2012



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The Language of Line

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LILLSTREET ART CENTER

The Language of Line

by Rachel Sampson

“The Language of Line” showcases the ceramic and two-dimensional works from visiting artists Sam Chung, Josh DeWeese, Heather Mae Erickson, and Chicago-based artist Neha Vedpathak. Though varying in approach and materials, the artists’ shared interest in cultural histories and repetition of forms allows each to uniquely explore the tactile relationship between their audience and their works.

With sleek curves and engaging shapes, Erickson’s ceramic work reexamines the dining ritual that occurs between people and pottery.

Her cleanly constructed aesthetic and play with shapes breaks her from traditional approaches and recreates the way viewers engage with functional ceramics.

DeWeese also explores this intimate relationship between mankind and ceramics but chooses to experiment with high temperatures and different types of glazes to investigate this connection. His vessels take on organic and rather whimsical forms that invite the viewer in with their flowing, underpainted designs and warm coloring.

Chung, meanwhile, elegantly integrates historical and cultural references in striking shapes and colors to create what he refers to as a new language of ceramics. He makes vases, pots, and dish sets that challenge traditional forms by using strong motifs to guide his work.

Vedpathak's two-dimensional mixed media works allow the viewer a different perspective on embracing form, line, space, and how they create a tactile relationship with the audience. She utilizes a variety of materials, from handmade paper to acrylic polymer to dried flowers, to create series of repeating and evolving patterns.

Her pieces draw the viewer in with their subtle textures, muted colors, and gentle strokes and slowly capture the space and attention of those around them.

Together, this group showing pushes the boundaries for functional ceramics and minimalist two-dimensional work through each artist's reinterpretation of form, materials, and relationship with the viewer. By drawing the audience to the concept of the line, "The Language of Line" seeks to demonstrate how each artist alters interactions and interpretations at the foundational level of their work.

Sam Chung

Based in Tempe, Arizona, Sam Chung focuses on creating functional ceramic pieces such as vases, pots, and dish sets that challenge traditional forms, using graphically strong two-dimensional images to guide his hand. He often melds various cultural or historical references with his contemporary techniques to create works that create new shapes and interactions with ceramics.

This exhibition showcases the artist's *Cloud* series, which shows Chung's focus on replicating the cloud motif through bulbous shapes and thick sections of line and bold color. His image selection and inlay approach draws from the ancient Korean decorative technique known as sanggam, which was used on vessels for the court and nobility from the mid-twelfth through the sixteenth century. Potters inserted white-and-black clay-based pigments in liquid form into stamped or carved motifs on the surface of the vessel, which was then coated with a translucent celadon glaze. Chung embraces this cultural tie with his own interpretation of clouds, which he feels suggest a fluidity and freedom in their physical form. He finds their imagery inspiring and believes they motivate him to introduce shapes that are not bound by a tradition. One can see this unique rendering in works like *Cloud Teapot*, which has a playful feel with its bright orange coloring and playful cloud outline.



Cloud Teapot, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire
7 x 9 x 3 inches



Cloud Teapot, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire
6 x 7 x 5.5 inches



Cloud Bottles, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire
17 x 7 x 7 inches (left) 10 x 5 x 5 inches (right)



Cloud Teapot, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire
7 x 7.5 x 3 inches



Ewer, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire
8 x 5.5 x 3 inches



Cloud Teapot, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire



Creamers, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire
5 x 3 x 1.5 inches



Ewer, 2012

Porcelain, Glaze, China paint
Cone 10 and low-fire
8 x 5 x 2.5 inches



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