

THE DRAWING ROOM 66H Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937 T 631 324.5016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2014

DIANE MAYO sculpture

January 17 – March 10, 2014



Ultramarine, 2013, glazed ceramic, 14 ¼ x 12 x 4 ½ inches; *Turquoise*, 2013, glazed ceramic, 10 ¾ x 14 ½ x 3 ¼ inches

Opening January 18 and on view through March 10, The Drawing Room in East Hampton presents **DIANE MAYO sculpture**, featuring recent ceramic work from this longtime Montauk resident. In our third one-person exhibition of this artist's distinctive work in clay, Diane Mayo continues to refine the art of hand-built ceramics. Also on view, a concurrent exhibition, **CHRISTINE HIEBERT ten drawings**.

With her characteristic energy and endless sense of invention, Diane Mayo's new sculptures engage the viewer in a lively examination of flatness, volume, color and texture. Balanced between animation and the edge of monumentality, the abstractions possess both a sense of muscularity and of levity. Shed of any utilitarian characteristics, the works exist outside of function or ornamentation, inviting the viewer to experience their pure form.

While perusing an exhibition catalogue on the art of the first generation abstract expressionist, Conrad Marca-Relli, Mayo found herself drawn to the silhouettes anchored in the late artist's collaged canvases. Responding to the power and sovereignty of these idiosyncratic shapes – ovoids, crosses, kidney beans, biscuits – Mayo began to extract selected forms, interpreting and adapting them into three dimensions. The resulting ceramic sculptures offer the joie de vivre for which Mayo's work in clay is celebrated as well as an evolving alphabet of new forms. With origins in both homage and appropriation, this body of work is unique in her oeuvre for its sense of pure abstraction and for the finesse with which she has seamlessly translated two-dimensional imagery into sculptural form.

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Mayo has emerged over the past three decades as a masterful colorist, employing subtle tonal variations and luminous, pigment-rich surfaces. In *Yellow*, 2013, mirrored curves are conjoined in a gentle clutch, their smooth skin a viscous, golden yellow with undertones of umber and rust. *Ultramarine*, 2013 comprises a complex structure where aggregate shapes augment and define the subject. Its mottled surface, a rich, matte blue with green accents is further articulated in the composite shadows that result from its facets. Their surfaces, a velvety mélange of softness and diffuse tactility, imbue the works with a nuanced and soulful presence.

Diane Mayo's ceramic works have been exhibited across the country and in Germany, with reviews appearing in multiple publications including *The New York Times*, *Artnews*, *The East Hampton Star* and *Ceramics Monthly*.

Gallery hours: Monday, Friday and Saturday 10-5; Sunday 11-5

For further information and reproduction quality images, please contact Janet Goleas at 631.324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com