

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Tom Bunnell and Samantha Briegel

Orange Stripes Purple Lace

May 25 - July 20, 2019

WAS gallery is pleased to present *Orange Stripes Purple Lace*, a duo exhibition featuring oil paintings by Tom Bunnell and functional pottery by Samantha Briegel.

The subjects in Tom Bunnell's paintings are common and naturally occurring. They are the patterns and shapes he sees in sea shells, puddles, candy wrappers, televised weather alerts, and city maps. In his paintings, the subject becomes altered and constantly revisited, constructed, wiped down and coaxed back into life. Patterns and forms overlap and contradict and the painting moves from a predetermined order to a place of emotion, revealing in its very essence the troubled marriage between memory and experience.

Samantha Briegel's subject is the body, which as a potter is suitable. The body and the vessel share a similar vocabulary of lips, shoulders, bellies, and feet. Briegel uses this comparison to clothe these implied bodies. As functional pottery, these works demand interaction through use. Akin to our clothing, these interactions also make us aware of our bodies. What happens to the clothes that we love but can never wear again? These articles contribute to our identities. What happens when our clothes no longer comfort us? As a potter, Briegel offers a reclaimed comfort that delivers nourishment, tactile moments, and conversation.

About the Artists

Tom Bunnell received his BA and BFA in Art and Art History from the University of Oregon in 1995. And his MFA in Painting from American University in 1998. He has exhibited both in the DC area, nationally and internationally. He has taught at American University, University of Maryland, St Stephen's & St Agnes School, and the Chautauqua Institution. He has also worked at the Phillips Collection, Corcoran Museum of Art, and the National Gallery of Art. Tom's studio is at 52 O Street in Washington, DC.

Samantha Briegel was born and raised in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Knoxville, Tennessee. Samantha received her BFA in Three-Dimensional Arts at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in May of 2013. After graduation, her passion for pottery led her to Helena, Montana for the opportunity to intern at the Archie Bray Foundation Clay Business. As an intern for the Archie Bray Clay Business, Samantha worked in research and development in exchange for studio space and materials. After completing her internship, Samantha moved to Missoula, Montana to study ceramics at the University of Montana as a post-baccalaureate student. Samantha has recently received her Masters of Fine Arts in ceramics at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Samantha is currently a resident artist at District Clay Center in Washington, DC.

The gallery is open to the public every Saturday 2-6pm and by appointment.

Images:

Tom Bunnell. Fytro 1. Oil on linen panel, 8 x 10 in. 2019

Samantha Briegel. Purple Lace. Porcelain. 6 x 9 x 5 in. 2019