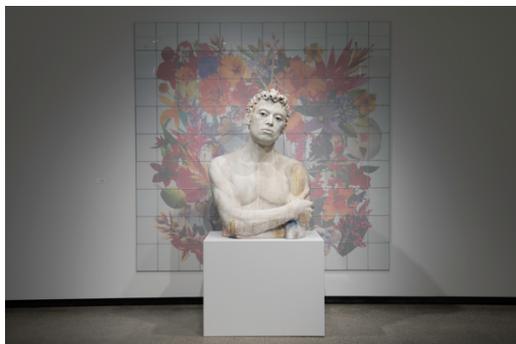




Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release
Contact: Cynthia Milledge: 334.625.4369; cmilledge@mmfa.org



The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Debuts Two of the Most Extraordinary Exhibitions of its Winter Season

Montgomery, AL, December 3, 2018– The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts announces two concurrent and complementary exhibitions: *About Face: Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture*, which consists of works by over 40 ceramic artists, and *Bouke de Vries: War and Pieces*, a solo exhibition by London-based artist Bouke de Vries (Dutch, born 1960). Both exhibitions will open to the public on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at 10 AM. Curator of Art, Jennifer Jankauskas, will be available to give members of the media a behind-the-scenes preview of each exhibition prior to the opening date.

With uncanny detail, *About Face* examines the lineage and influence between the revolutionary first generation of artists working in the figural genre and artists working today. Museum visitors can view 90 objects that highlight the work of emerging, mid-career, and master artists.

Within the exhibition, works of art by important ceramic artists of the 1960s are seen alongside their contemporary successors to create an unfolding narrative of American figurative ceramics, one of innovative sculpture that moves away from the historical, decorative tradition of European clay figurines. The artists, who have all worked in the United States, use the human form as a way to explore issues relating to the body, various social and cultural concerns, and ideas relating to the female/male gaze among others. *About Face* reveals how contemporary figurative ceramics has flourished in the United States and is a celebration of the creative and artistic triumphs of artists working in this field.

Artists in the exhibition: Wesley Anderegg, Chris Antemann, Robert Arneson, Rudy Autio, Russell Biles, Jerry Brown, Judith Condon, Cynthia Consentino, Cristina Córdova, Miriam Davis, Jack Earl, Edward S. Eberle, Sean Erwin, Viola Frey, Alessandro Gallo, David Gilhooly, Georgia Jones Godwin, Gerit Grimm, Sergei Isupov, Doug Jeck, Howard Kottler, Curt Lacross, Peter Lenzo, Michael Lucero, Walter McConnell, Gerardo Monterrubio, Jim Neel, Virgil Ortiz, Clifton Pearson, Andrew Raftery, Alan Rosenbaum, Katy Rush, Akio Takamori, Yoshio Taylor, Jason Walker, Kurt Weiser, Christina West, Beatrice Wood, Kerry Wooten, Kensuke Yamada, and Sunkoo Yuh.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full-color catalogue with essays by exhibition curator, Jennifer Jankauskas, and Glenn Adamson, Senior Scholar at the Yale Center for British Art.

Organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, *About Face: Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture* will remain on view until May 12, 2019, and a condensed version of the exhibition will travel to the Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, January 24 to April 19, 2020, and the Figge Art Museum, Davenport, Iowa, June 20 to August 30, 2020.

Make plans now to attend the workshop “Expressive Faces in Clay” in the Museum’s studios on Saturday, March 20, 2019, at 10 AM, to learn techniques and tips for creating either abstract or realistic faces using clay.

On view simultaneously is the exhibition *Bouke de Vries: War and Pieces*. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is part of the exhibition’s tour of North America. In *War and Pieces*, created in 2012, Bouke de Vries creates an elaborate tablescape sculpture inspired by those created by master chefs of the 18th-century using sugar—a rare and valued commodity at the time. Not meant to be consumed, these assemblages were prestigious objects that signaled the wealth of the host. During that period, porcelain factories such as Meissen and Sévres began to manufacture replacements for these sugar forms.

A former conservator of art objects, de Vries’ practice often consists of taking broken and discarded ceramic objects from these manufacturers and by presenting them in a new form that incorporates 21st century objects he gives them new life.

This 26-foot long installation links sugar, which once defined the status of the patron, with the beginnings of European porcelain-making. Presented as a grand war banquet similar to those held on the eve of important battles in the seventeenth century, de Vries combines porcelain shards with modern plastic elements to illustrate the ravages of war. The past and present clash in a battle of objects, climaxing in a nuclear mushroom cloud. *Bouke de Vries: War and Pieces* will remain on view through May 12, 2019.

The Museum, located at One Museum Drive, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM; Thursday from 10 AM to 9 PM; and Sunday from Noon to 5 PM. The Museum Store is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 AM to 4 PM; and Sunday, Noon to 4 PM. Admission is free and donations are welcome. For more information, call at 334.625.4333.

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a department of the City of Montgomery, is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery, with support from the Montgomery County Commission, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Cristina Córdova (American, born 1976), *Dame Flores*, 2017, ceramic, steel, photographic images of native Puerto Rican flora in magnetic frames on steel, Lent by the artist and Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, Massachusetts

Bouke de Vries (Dutch, born 1960), *War and Pieces (detail)*, 2012, 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century porcelain, plastic, sprayed plaster, Perspex, steel, aluminum, gilded brass, and mixed media, Lent by the artist and Ferrin Contemporary, North Adams, Massachusetts

###