

Earth Moves

Shifts in Ceramic Art and Design



Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities
National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts

Mia Mulvey

Denver, Colorado

Mia Mulvey earned her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and her BFA from Arizona State University. Her ceramic sculptures are inspired by natural history, science, and early museum practices. Mia actively exhibits her work nationally and internationally and has had recent solo exhibitions in Colorado and Michigan. She recently exhibited at the Denver Art Museum in the “Overthrown: Clay Without Limits” exhibition. Her grants and awards include a Colorado Council on the Arts Fellowship and a John Michael Kohler Arts Center Arts in Industry Residency. She is Associate Professor of Art at the University of Denver.

These works are inspired by 17th century Dutch flower paintings. The collections of blooms were sought after for their beauty, rarity and symbolism. This symbolism was moral and cultural, and exemplified scientific interest and exploration in relation to the natural world.

For these sculptures I am investigating history, materials and digital technologies. They include the traditional: hand building, mold making and drawing; alongside 3D scanning and printing. I am interested in how each process leaves its own visual mark and reveals itself through form and material.

Through the lens of the natural world these still lifes are collections that explore materiality, process and weave together the past with the new.



Left to Right:

Roses and Tulips in a Vase, 2013

Hand-built, press molded stoneware, oxidation glaze, felt,
3D-printed nylon
18" x 12" x 8"

Bouquet, 2013

Hand-built, press molded porcelain, oxidation glaze, felt
18" x 18" x 10"