

Molly Schulps

“Hello Chimera”

September 1 – October 31, 2009

GALLERY
Armstrong's



Gold pike, 2009, Hand-built, slip-cast, luster
14”x6”x6”



Velvet, 2009, Hand-built, multiple firings, low fire
21”x17”x15”

If you combine Bambi, Tim Burton and radiation, shake vigorously, you will have the Alice in Wonderlandesque works of Molly Schulps. “Hello Chimera” high-lights her Frankenstein like ceramic studio, the breeding ground where the macabre and cotton candy produce scumdidlyumptious animals. There is an oddly hypnotic effect Schulps’ chimeras have on the viewer. Their bodies are regal and pristine; their faces are innocent inviting you in. The radioactive color and misplaced heads should repel...but they don’t. The strange and macabre draws you in as well. Everything about her work is eye candy even with the disturbing genetic mutations; the oddity pulls you in to examine it. The radioactive colors combined with the velvet texture remind you of cotton candy, and the gold and silver luster act like tempting jewels. You want to touch...you want to have the exotic and the familiar. Who cares if the

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bunny rabbit with the horns has a skull head; it's so cute and gold! Will our future give birth to our wildest dreams or will they produce the nightmares of our present crimes?

The question of global warming's effect on nature and genetic manipulation has taken an effect in today's psyche. Recently, there has been a new trend in hybrid animals in contemporary art. Artists are working towards making head or tails of the present time in mankind and nature. Some face it with anticipation and reverence, while others with trepidation and fear. According to an article "Unnatural Selection" by George Melrod in Art Ltd. Magazine, artists are frequently adopt mutant or hybrid animals to address different subjects and even cultivate a certain fear of the possible outcome of genetically altered creatures. Observes can't help but be struck and awed by the strangeness of these type of images seen in recent art.

Schulps' chimeras embody and investigate creation, evolution, science and death. "Hello Chimera" features the luminous and genetically altered animal figures created from classic collectable molds. Schulps is playing with the battle of high end and low end art with this combination of kitschy and contemporary art. By using collectable molds, which is deemed today as low end art, then reviving them into a new contemporary state brings the image back to a high end art status. Coupled with the humbling subject of creation and death, her work is a tongue and cheek look at the process.

According to Schulps, her work conceives new possibilities of life and "fosters the development of new-fangled combinations of animals. They will keep evolving into various amalgamations of forms." Molly is a Los Angeles based artist and received her M.F.A. from California State University, Northridge in 2001. She is currently an assistant professor of Ceramics at Cypress College, California.

Molly Schulps' work will be on exhibition from September 1st through October 31, 2009. The opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A second reception will be held on Saturday, October 10 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Armstrong's is located at 150 East 3rd Street Pomona, Calif., 91766. The gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and every second Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

CONTACT: Armstronggallery@verizon.net
HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 150 East 3rd Street Pomona, CA 91766
PHONE: (909) 623-6464

www.armstronggallery.net