

Sophia Contemporary

Veronica Brovall - Wear the Heat

June 27 – July 28, 2018

Sophia Contemporary is pleased to announce *Wear the Heat*, the first solo exhibition of Swedish artist Veronica Brovall in the UK. The exhibition will feature seven new glazed ceramic and steel sculptures created in 2018. *Wear the Heat* will open to the public with a reception from 6-8PM on Tuesday, June 26, and will remain on view through August 4, 2018. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with a foreword written by Natasha Morris.

Brovall's artistic practice explores themes of femininity, gender dynamics, sexuality, and violence through the medium of ceramics. The artist questions the role of ceramics as a material traditionally regarded throughout the history of art as feminine, refined, fragile, and belonging to the field of crafts or to the private realm of the household. In the hands of the artist, ceramic sculpture becomes powerful, playful, and raw while negating any association with traditional conventions of femininity and craft.

The artist's complex abstract sculptures evoke the body, in particular male and female anatomy, while often merely alluding to it. Elements resembling elongated arms, fingers, and body parts protrude from their bases as if the sculptures were constantly and violently expanding, trying to break their mould and give birth to more material. The sculptures are punctured with holes; tongues stick out of their surfaces; daggers pierce their forms in a sort of macabre yet transcending and cathartic dance. Scribbles and notes sometimes cover their skin, like tattoos on human flesh or graffiti on walls. Paint drips from the sculptures, splattered across their delicate surfaces, invoking violent feelings and primal human urges.

Throughout her artistic practice, Brovall turns ceramics into raw and physical anthropomorphic artworks that straddle the fine line between contested notions of femininity and masculinity, life and death, fragility and strength, violence and beauty, and materiality and allegory. By calling into question the conventions permeating history and creating artworks defying easy interpretation, the artist challenges the boundaries of her medium while giving shape to original objects possessing their own internal logic and narrative, both metaphorical and poetic. Her radical approach to ceramics places Brovall at the forefront of a new generation of female sculptors questioning conventional notions of womanhood while striving to reinvent and reshape the century-old medium of ceramics in a contemporary context.

The new series of works exhibited at Sophia Contemporary continues with the artist's exploration of the human form. While her new ceramic and steel sculptures explore the abstract qualities of the body, they also allude to objects from everyday life through the particular process used by the artist. Brovall collects an array of everyday objects such as buckets, containers, pieces of woods, dumbbells, and ties to create shapes that are then used as moulds for her ceramic sculptures. The resulting artworks transform the objects into complex anthropomorphic sculptures, neither male nor female, whose visceral forms operate in constant tension with their delicate glazed surfaces, creating ambiguous artworks defying categorisation.

Wear the Heat refers to the artist's material process of heating ceramic and steel in the kiln to create her sculptures. However, the title also operates on a symbolic level. For the artist, it represents an injunction, a call to action: to face the fact, be in the spotlight, to 'wear the heat'. It also alludes to the anthropomorphic element of the artist's work: the underlying sexuality conveyed by her sculptures, the 'heat' of the body and sweat of the flesh captured by the artist for a fleeting moment in the kiln before they turn cold to the touch in their final iteration.

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Notes to editors

About Veronica Brovall

Veronica Brovall (born 1975, Falun, Sweden) is a sculptor, ceramicist and installation artist living and working in Berlin. Brovall's work has been exhibited through the world in solo and group exhibitions. Her sculptures are part of numerous institutional collections, including the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, USA; Kaviar Factory, Lofoten, Norway; Uppsala Art Museum, Sweden and Malmö Art Museum, Sweden, among others. In addition, her sculptures have been commissioned for numerous public areas throughout Scandinavia. Veronica Brovall will be the subject of two solo exhibitions of new sculptures from the same series of works exhibited at Sophia Contemporary in February 2019 at the Uppsala Konstmuseum, Uppsala, Sweden and at the Bror Hjorths Hus, Uppsala, Sweden.

About Sophia Contemporary

Sophia Contemporary is a contemporary art gallery located in a 3,000 square foot space in the heart of Mayfair, London. The gallery exhibits, represents and champions a diverse group of emerging and established artists from the USA, Europe, the Middle East and Asia working in a variety of media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video and photography. The gallery is committed to nurturing the careers of artists from both East and West with a view to create and promote a creative global dialogue in contemporary art beyond cultural boundaries. In addition to its dynamic exhibition schedule, Sophia Contemporary publishes catalogues and books with essays by world-renowned scholars, hosts regular educational panels and works with museums and institutions worldwide in order to place the gallery's artists in major public and private collections.

Exhibition Details

Title: *Veronica Brovall - Wear the Heat*
Address: Sophia Contemporary Gallery, 11 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QB, UK
Website: www.sophiacontemporary.com
Dates: Wednesday 27 June – Saturday 4 August 2018
Private View: 6-8 pm, Tuesday 26 June 2017
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm, Saturday 11am to 5pm
Admission: Free
Travel: Green Park, Bond Street or Oxford Circus Tube Station
Twitter: [@SophiaCGallery](https://twitter.com/SophiaCGallery)
Facebook: [SophiaContemporaryGallery](https://www.facebook.com/SophiaContemporaryGallery)
Instagram: [SophiaContemporaryGallery](https://www.instagram.com/SophiaContemporaryGallery)

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