

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Hennessy at 212.991.0003 ext. 402

lhennesy@greenwichhouse.org

High res images available

Jane Hartsook Gallery

Greenwich House Pottery

16 Jones Street

New York, NY 10014



Folly

A New Installation by Beth Katleman

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 20, 6 - 8pm

1.

New York, NY - The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present a new installation by New York-based artist Beth Katleman, whose work has been described by Ken Johnson in the *New York Times* as “doll-sized rococo theaters of murder and domestic mayhem.” Her deliciously subversive porcelain sculptures combine rococo ornament with icons from popular culture.

The intimate Jane Hartsook Gallery, with its marble mantel and double-height windows, hints at a domestic past. Katleman responds to the genteel surroundings by covering an entire wall with three-dimensional porcelain “wallpaper”. Fifty white sculptural tableaus hover just off the turquoise wall, surrounded by an explosion of fruit and flowers. Each tableau is a miniature landscape with water features, topiaries, architectural follies, figurines and toys from the flea market. Dark humor infuses the narratives: an elf sits astride a giant smiling snail in the shadow of the Sacre-Coeur Basilica; a parade of bridesmaids ends badly with one attendant drowning in a pond; and a toothless boy cavorts with a kindly reindeer as a duckling tumbles over a waterfall.

THEMES AND INSPIRATION

Inspired by the florid designs of 18th century wall coverings, Katleman explores themes of consumption and desire. She writes: “I have long been fascinated by Toile de Jouy, the printed fabrics that drape the walls and beds of 18th century France. Peasants cavort in bucolic landscapes decked out with flowers, all in the shadow of classical ruins. There is something surreal about these scenes, which float, disembodied in a world without gravity. I love the contrast between the frivolity of the scenes and the incongruous settings.” Her process involves scouring the flea markets in search of trinkets. “Often the 2nd and 3rd generation knock-offs catch my eye, especially those that seem to pine for a grander existence. I cast these trinkets in porcelain, a material that suggests luxury, refinement and royal provenance.” Katleman’s installation at the Jane Hartsook Gallery will be her largest and most ambitious work to date.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Beth Katleman was born in Park Forest, Illinois. She holds a BA in English from Stanford University, an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and an MBA in Arts Management from UCLA. Her work is included in many national collections, including the M.H. de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI, Kohler Company, Kohler, WI, and the Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, MT. Her sculptures have been featured in solo exhibitions in the Barneys New York windows and at the Sybaris Gallery, Royal Oak, Michigan. She has appeared in numerous group shows at institutions such as the M.H. de Young Museum, the Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, Garth Clark Gallery, New York, Thomas Healy Gallery, New York, the Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York, and the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C. Her work has garnered critical attention in the *New York Times*, *American Ceramics*, the *New Art Examiner*, *Sculpture Magazine* and other publications. She is the recipient of a Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation grant, a Kohler Arts/Industry Fellowship, the Watershed Generation X Award, and a residency in Cortona, Italy sponsored by the University of Georgia, Athens. She has taught at Pratt Institute, New York University and Greenwich House Pottery in New York. Katleman lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. www.bethkatleman.com

LOCATION AND HOURS

Jane Hartsook Gallery at Greenwich House Pottery

16 Jones Street, 2nd Floor (Between Bleecker and West 4th and 6th and 7th Avenues)

New York, NY 10014-4132

(212) 242-4106

Subway: West 4th Street, A,B,C,D, E and F trains

Hours: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12-6

www.greenwichhousepottery.org



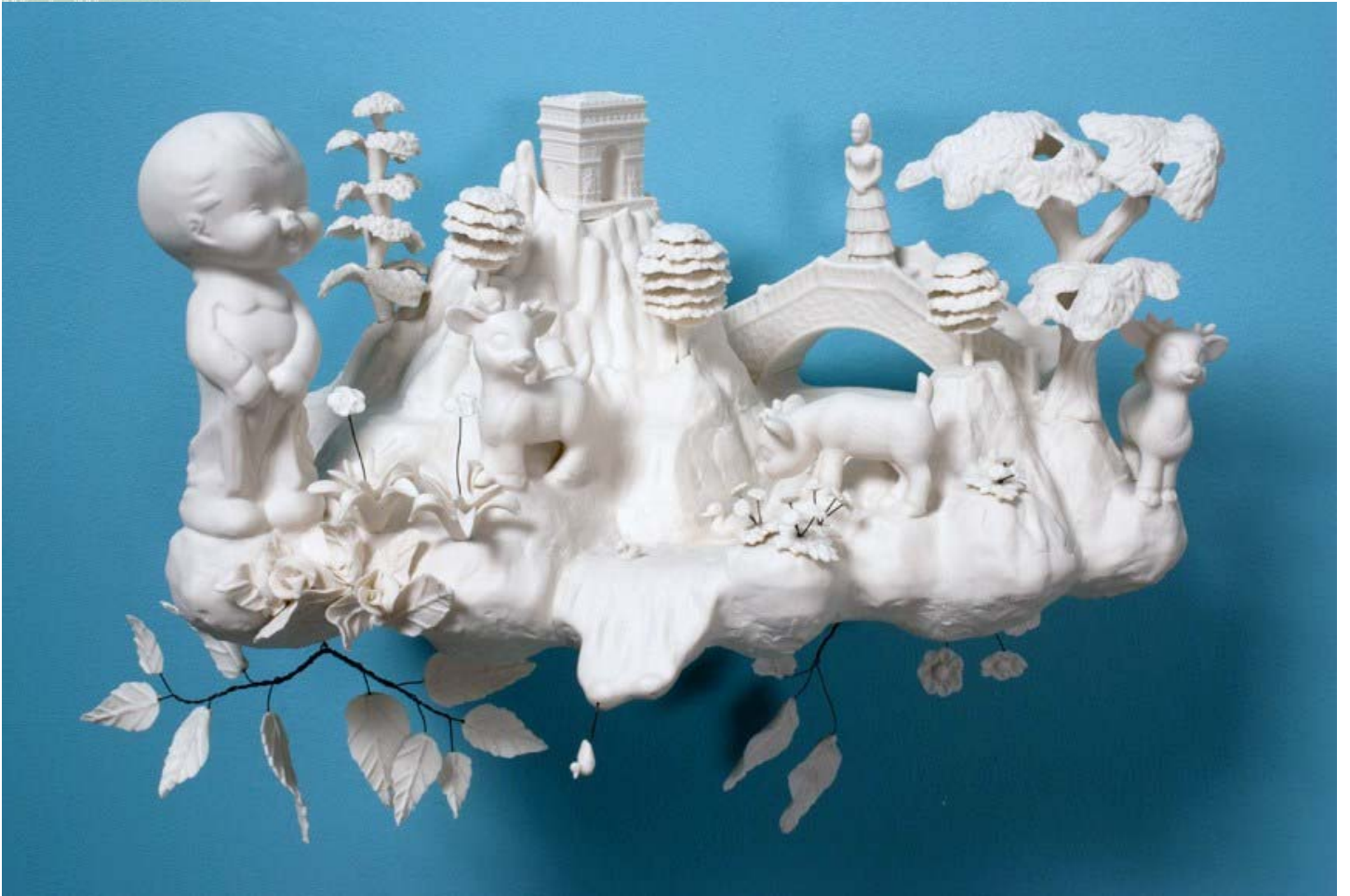




IMAGE DESCRIPTION LIST

All images are details from the solo installation, *Folly* at the Jane Hartsook Gallery, opening January 20, 2011. Photography by Alan Wiener.

1. *Folly*, installation detail, 2010
Porcelain and wire; dimensions variable

Three-dimensional porcelain sculptures hover just off the turquoise wall. The sculptures are repeated across the wall to form a pattern reminiscent of Toile wallpaper.

2. *Folly*, detail, 2010
Porcelain and wire; 15 x 9 x 6 inches

Landscape with topiaries, flowers, grazing sheep, giant bird and reclining bikini girl.

3. *Folly*, detail: lost duck, 2010



Porcelain and wire; 12 x 15 x 11 inches

Toothless boy cavorts with kindly reindeer as a duckling tumbles off a waterfall.

4. *Folly*, detail: lost duck, 2010

Porcelain and wire, 12 x 15 x 11 inches

A bridesmaid on a bridge takes in the view of the Arc de Triomphe.