

Susan Collett

Concurrents

June 14 - July 29, 2017 Sandra Ainsley Gallery Toronto

www.susancollett.com

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In her practice Toronto-based artist, Susan Collett manipulates the pliant qualities of clay and the intricacies of engraving on paper resulting in wondrous forms of interlacing branches, undulating ribbons, shells and fibrous roots, which elicit the delicate balance between strength and fragility found both in the natural environment and the human psyche. For Collett, the two media, which she works on concurrently, are closely linked and inform each other offering alternative paths to pursue form, line and composition. The mono-prints embossed in relief often focus on a singular element that echo a detail of the ceramic sculptures or the latter represent an expansion and three-dimensional manifestation of the engravings.

Labrynths, Collett's first ceramic series, which she began in 2007 and continues to make, appear as beautiful, ornamental vessels, and generous sized ones at that, but the twisted yet elegant contortions are surely figurative reflecting that the artist herself once trained as a dancer. Glazed in hues of black or white slip, light seeps through the curving lace clay walls. They are nothing less than luminous, and this is true of all her work.

In the subsequent, *Aggregates*, the ceramic bands and scallops are arranged to similarly capture and contain motion but appear to collapse into dense masses or extend high into meandering spires. As such, they do not reference the functional or the figurative but are evocative of biologic organisms found in the wood forest or in the deep blue sea. Blemishes of colour heighten the tactility and sensuality of the cracked clay surface, adding another layer of patina that further animates and embellishes the clay formations.

Lastly, *Racines*, her most recent body of work, and by far the most exuberant and florid of the tripartite ceramic collection, resemble perforated mounds seemingly bejewelled with accents of gold, pearls of white and corals of red or adorned with lavender buds. Despite their decorative and seductive blushes of flora, there remains an overall strangeness and disruption of form instilling a deeper darkness.

Critical to viewing Collett's artwork is acknowledging that it does not replicate or reproduce life but rather evokes its forces of nature, and the psychological traumas of the creative mind embodying a moment or a space between chaos and order, tranquillity and disruption. Collett's ceramic sculptures and mono-prints beckon the beholder to join in her artistic journey of process and making, while each work unfurls into the world as a self-referential and autonomous object that expresses the dualities of beauty in nature and the polarities of the subconscious that ultimately defy explanation.

Rachel Gotlieb Gardiner Museum, Adjunct Curator Theodore Randall International Chair in Art and Design at Alfred University, New York

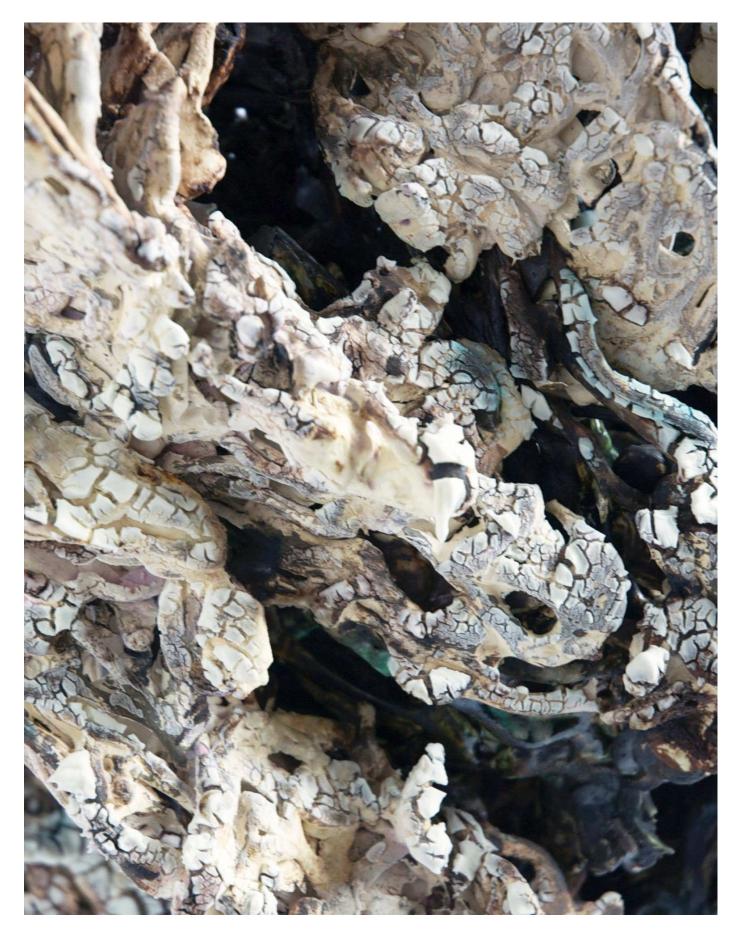




























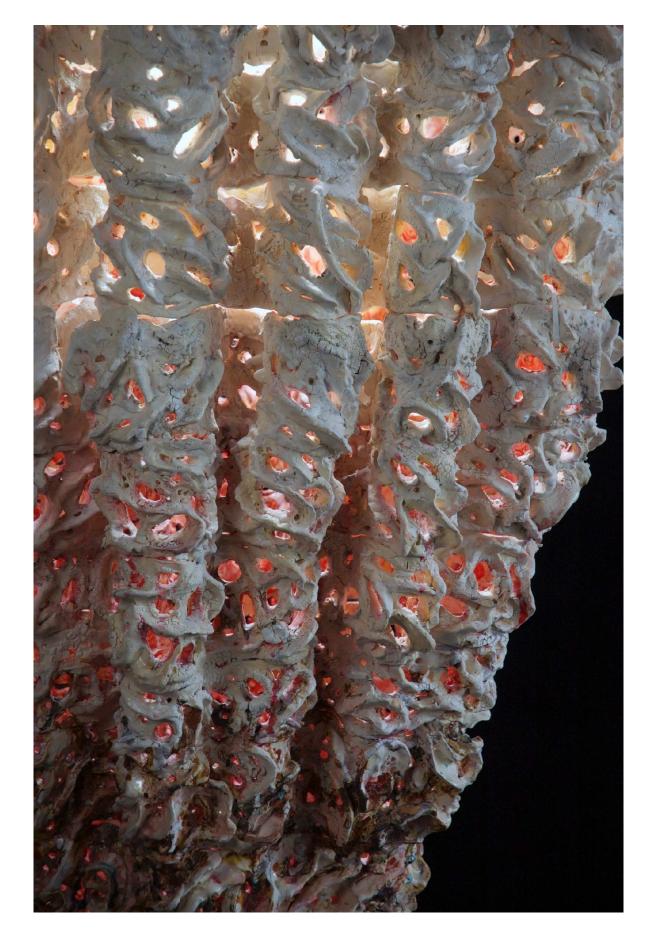


























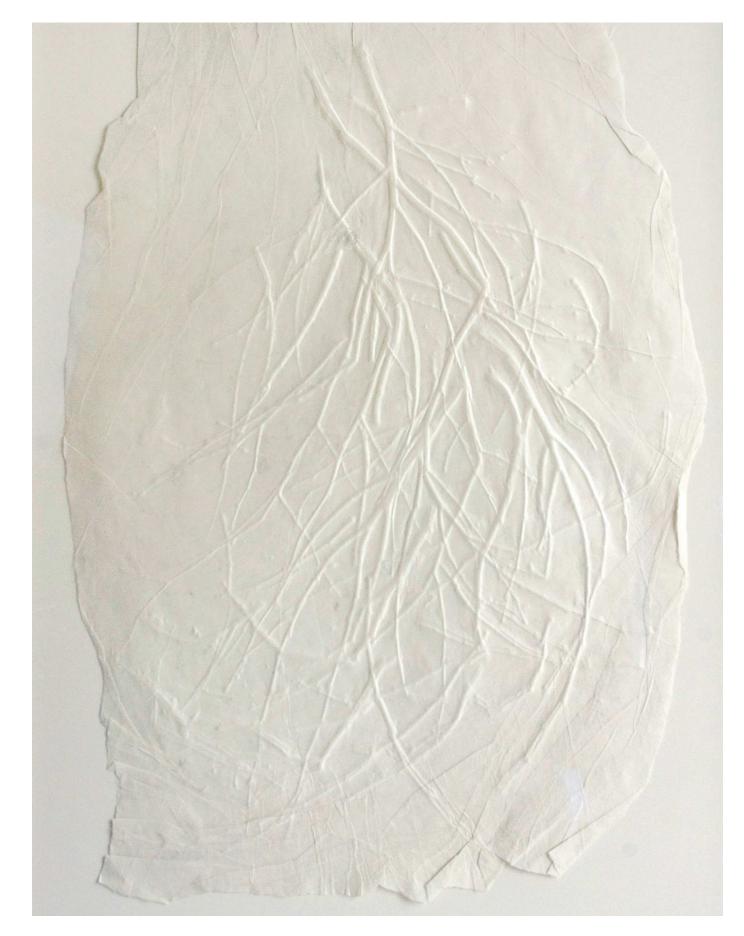














Susan Collett RCA, IAC, a graduate from the Cleveland Institute of Art U.S.A, holds a BFA degree in Printmaking, Minor in Ceramics.

Since 1993 she has run a full-time studio art practice in downtown Toronto. Public and private gallery exhibitions and commission work sustain her practice.

Her work is included in the collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Canada House London UK, Kasturbhai Lalbhai Museum India, Sevres Porcelain Museum Paris and has exhibited at SOFA Chicago, New York, Korean and Taiwan Biennales, Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery and the Toronto International Art Fair. As well, through the Canadiana Fund, Collett's sculpture Filigree was placed in the private office of the Governor General of Canada.

Collett's work has appeared in Ceramic Review, Ceramic Art & Perception, Ceramics Technical, Canadian Art, Vie des Arts, catalogues, books and online at Studio Ceramics Canada.

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Susan Collett RCA, IAC: Selected Biography

Education

BFA Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio, U.S.A., Printmaking/Ceramics Minor Agnes Gund Memorial Award, 1st Place, BFA Exhibition, Cleveland, U.S.A.

CEBIKO, 5th World Ceramic Biennale, Korea, international juried

Exhibitions

2017	SANDRA AINSLEY GALLERY, Toronto, Concurrents, New Work, solo, clay & prints
2016	KARL & HELEN BURGER GALLERY, Kean University, NJ, U.S.A., 3-person invitational
	MASTER CERAMISTS, Galerie Elena Lee, Montreal, 3-person invitational, clay & print
	NAKED CRAFT EXHIBITION, International touring, Scotland, group Invitational, clay
	BELGER ART CENTRE, Kansas City, Mo. U.S.A., NCECA group invitational
2015	SOFA CHICAGO, Barbara Silverberg, Montreal, group, clay
	TORONTO INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR, Sandra Ainsley Gallery, Toronto, gallery artists feature
	CHRISTINE KLASSEN GALLERY, Calgary, Alberta, Amalgam, solo, clay & prints
	GYEONGGI International Ceramic Biennale, Korea, international juried
	NAKED CRAFT EXHIBITION, International touring
2014	McClure Gallery, Montreal, Caméléon, group show, curator Jean-Pierre Larocque
2013-15	Toronto International Art Fair, Sandra Ainsley Gallery, Toronto, gallery artists
2012	Doris McCarthy Gallery, University of Toronto, "The C Word", group Invitational
	Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Why Make in China?, invitational
	Taiwan International Ceramics Biennale, Taipei, Yingge Museum, international juried
2011	Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, Open Studio, printmakers, group show
	International Triennal of Ceramic Arts, Kecskemet, Hungary, international juried
	Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, Ontario, "Groundbreakers in Canadian Clay", invitational

Select Awards

2010

2009

2015	GYEONGGI International Ceramic Biennale, Korea, International juried, honorable mention ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL, Project Grant: clay
2011	ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL. Exhibition Assistance Grant, Aggregates, Weiss Gallery, Calgary
2010	CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS, Project Grant, International Academy of Ceramics, Paris
2009	CEBIKO, Korean International Clay Biennale, honorable mention
	ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL, Project Grant, clay
2007	Canada Council for the Arts, Travel Grant, Fuping, China
2002	Ernst & Young Great Canadian Printmaking Competition, 2nd Prize, juried
2001	Winifred Shantz Award, Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, First Prize, juried

Sevres Porcelain Museum, Paris, France, International Academy of Ceramics, group, clay

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Select Collections

AlMIA, Toronto & Montreal Aaron Milrad Collectio Burlington Art Centre

Bronfman Collection

The Claridge Collection, Montrea

Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery

Crown Collection of the Official Residencies of Canada, Rideau Hall, Department of Foreign Affairs

Ernst & Young, Canada

Four Seasons Hotel, Toronto, Vancouver

401 Richmond, Toronto

Greenspan, Humphries, Levine

FULE International Canadian Museum, China

Musée des Beaux Arts, Montreal

Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art

Icheon, Korea, World Ceramic Centre

Kecskemet, Hungary

Kasturbhai Lalbhai Museum, India

Ontario Securities Commission

Sevres Porcelain Museum, Paris

Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery

Trump Tower, Miami

Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal

Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taiwan

Acknowledgements

Photography: Nicholas Stirling, Toronto

Clay Essay: Rachel Gotlieb

Gardiner Museum, Adjunct Curator

Theodore Randall International Chair in Art and Design at Alfred University, New York

Production: LuxuriaMedia, Toronto

Design: Susan Collett Front Cover: Alluvium I (2017)

Susan Collett Gratefully Acknowledges the Generous Support of the Ontario Arts Council

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IMAGES LIST

RACINE SERIES

Page	
8 - Rostrum, side	13"H x 15"W x 11"D
9 - Rostrum	13"H x 15"W x 11"D
10 - Racine II, detail	15"H x 16"W x 18"D
11 - Racine II	15"H x 16"W x 18"D
12 - Drift, side	15" H x 19"W x 16"D
13 - Drift	15" H x 19"W x 16"D
14 - Racine I	13"H x 17"W x 15"D
15 - Cirrus	15"H x 20"W x 14"D
16 - Alluvium I	12"H x 15"W x15"D
17 - Alluvium II	16"H x 16"W x 12"D
18 - Centrifuge	14"H x 14"W x 12"D
19 - Lucidem	
20 - Vernal, side	16"H x 18"W x 15"D
21 - Vernal	16"H x 18"W x 15"D

LABYRINTH Series

22 - Labyrinth Skin	43"H x 26"W x 24"D 70"H on steel pedestal
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	43"H x 20"W x 19"D 66"H on steel pedestal
24 - Labyrinth Cistern, detail	35"H x 29"W x 25"D 64"H on steel pedestal
25 - Labyrinth Cistern	35"H x 29"W x 25"D 64"H on steel pedestal

AGGREGATE Series

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26 - Reef	10"H x 12"W x 10"D
27 - Bud	9"H x 11"W x 10"D
28 - Iris, side	9"H x 9"W x 10"D
29 - Iris	9"H x 9"W x 10"D
30 - Glade	10"H x 12"W x 11"D
31 - Lyceum	8"H x 13"W x 9"D
32 - Palmetto	10"H x 12"W x 12"D
33 - Plateau	11"H x 11"W x 10"D
34 - Vista	11"H x 11"W x 10"D
35 - Domain	9"H x 13"W x 10"D

MONOPRINTS	
36 - Parchment I, detail (monoprint)	.28"W x 43"H
37 - Parchment I (monoprint)	.28"W x 43"H





Susan Collett www.susancollett.com instagram: susan.collett

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