

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERIN CLULEY GALLERY

Robert Horvath: *STATIC*

May 11 – June 15, 2024

Opening Reception: May 11, 5 – 7pm



Hyper Over-Disposal, 2023, Glazed White Stoneware.

Erin Cluley Gallery is pleased to announce *STATIC*, an exhibition of new sculpture by Indiana-based artist, Robert Horvath. The exhibition will debut a series of ceramics continuing the artist's exploration of queer aesthetics and internet / meme cultures. Since 2013, Horvath has refined his distinctively polished and vibrant ceramics — *STATIC* shows the artist expanding his artistic range with textural sculptures that recall the *viral* spread of media and misinformation in contemporary culture. Embracing maximalist and camp aesthetics, Horvath's newest collection of sculpture examines the complex psychologies of attention in the age of mass media consumption.

Robert Horvath began his artistic career as a painter focused on capturing the erotic hedonism of queer club culture (of which he was a part). Horvath's sculptural work imports these earlier concepts into three-dimensional space: the organic forms that once surrounded painted club kids are recreated in porcelain entering the physical space of the viewer. To build his ceramics, Horvath utilizes an intuitive process: slip-casting objects he denatures forms from their commercial context into geometric abstractions for his artistic use. Some of these objects include ornaments, packaging and plastic icicles. In *STATIC*,

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Horvath assembles these ceramic castings into amorphous forms; however, their high sheen and bright color juxtaposes the objects' organic nature. Through this juxtaposition, the artist's works become reliquaries for the chaotic electronic superhighway viewers experience in their everyday life.

In his seminal text, *The Selfish Gene* (1976) evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins defines a "meme" as a cultural unit that proliferates — similar to a gene — through reproduction. Since then, Dawkins' definition has been co-opted by the internet to describe replicable humor, typically using a templated form. Horvath's ceramic works straddle the biological and technological meanings of the *meme*. His work *Hyper Over-Disposal* (2023) features an oblique ceramic coated in pink and gold glazes. This work formally recalls the whiplash and absurdity of mass media communications especially from the internet. *STATIC* recreates the disorienting feeling of contemporary media cultures and viewer's navigation of them all while retaining Horvath's appreciation for overwhelming beauty and aesthetic allure.

STATIC will be the artist's second solo presentation with Erin Cluley Gallery. It will be exhibited concurrently with *Daydreaming*, a solo exhibition by Australian artist Stephen Ormandy.

Robert Horvath (born Nitra, Slovakia, 1974) received a BFA from Midwestern State University (1999) and an MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2002). Horvath follows a philosophy unbound from any one medium, reflected in his facility with painting, digital media, sculpture, and ceramics. Guided by multidisciplinary reflections on gender and sexuality, his work has spanned explorations of youthful hedonism in the early 2000s to temporal pastiches of homo-erotica that draw on Rococo aesthetics.

Horvath's present work plays with ideas of inventiveness and amorphism, an unsuspectingly natural development in his diverse corpus to date. He has exhibited his work at Packer-Schopf Gallery in Chicago; Bert Green Fine Art in Los Angeles and Chicago; Lyonsweir Gallery in NYC; and Jolie Laide in Philadelphia, among others. Horvath is an Associate Professor of Painting at the Herron School of Art and Design at Indiana University.

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication

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Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

In April 2021, Cluley opened Cluley Projects – a satellite location in West Dallas acting as an incubator space focusing on regional artists and providing a platform for discovery and mentorship.

For all press inquiries contact
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