

# Éditions Lord Byron



## **Derek Weisberg. Masques et bergamasques**

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### **The Artist**

Derek Weisberg (born in 1983) is an American artist. He began sculpting at a very early age starting with the medium of mashed potatoes as soon as he could hold a fork and knife, moving onto action figure assemblage when he could load a hot glue gun, and at age 7 he transitioned into the medium of ceramics, which was the beginning of his lifelong love and ultimate passion. He unwaveringly pursued ceramics sculpture throughout his childhood and teens, in Benicia, CA, where he was raised. At age 18 he moved to Oakland, CA, to pursue his love for ceramics and art in general and attended California College of Arts and Crafts. At CCAC he received several awards and graduated with high honors in 2005 with a BFA. Since then Weisberg has co-owned his own gallery, Boontling Gallery, as well as curated numerous other shows. He has also worked with highly esteemed artists such as Stephen De Staebler, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Manuel Neri, and many others. In addition Weisberg has maintained a strong and demanding studio practice, exhibiting regionally, nationally, and internationally. Weisberg has participated in over 90 shows in the last 8 years, and there are no signs of slowing down in the future. Weisberg currently lives and works in NY and is faculty at Greenwich House Pottery.

### **The Editor**

Laurent de Verneuil is an art historian. He studied art history at University Pantheon-Sorbonne in Paris. He began a long and seminal relation with Patrick Favardin in 2004 at the galerie A Rebours and ran the galerie Favardin & de Verneuil until 2012. Their collaboration led to numerous critically acclaimed exhibitions and publications such as *Les frères Cloutier*, *La lampe Gras*, *Steiner et l'Aventure du Design*, *Body & Soul*. *New International Ceramics*, *Le Décor est Planté* and *My Blue China* at the Bernardaud Foundation in Limoges. In addition to his curatorial activities, he has researched and written on the 1960s California Funk and the place of the savoir-faire in the Fine arts. He is also a noted writer on the subject of ceramic in contemporary art with a lot of exhibition catalogues and artist monographs in preparation.



Weisberg develops very early among artists of whom he becomes the assistant and the disciple. Committed in his art and in voluntary service, he remains active at the core of the community art center, Arts Benicrà, which organizes numerous exhibitions of local artists. The adolescent works notably in one of these with Manuel Neri in 2001. The exhibition «A Private Need», a Private Collection - the Personal Collection of Manuel Neri marks the debut of a relationship with the one whom he begins to work. At the end of 2005, chance brings the young graduate together with Stephen De Staebler, with whom he begins to work. «I had always wanted to live and make a career in NYC. But then I started working for my favorite artist. An icon. How could I leave that? I couldn't leave. So I stayed.»<sup>19</sup> He becomes the only assistant whom the artist has ever had and the collaboration continues until his death in 2011. De Staebler has just finished working with wet clay in order to concentrate on ceramic assemblages. For a period of four to five years he gets Weisberg to excavate fragments and discarded scraps of ceramic from a mound at the bottom of his yard which he

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<sup>19</sup> Interview with Derek Weisberg, 16 October 2019.

Atelier de l'artiste à la Greenwich House Pottery, New York, NY, Photographie, 2012.

Paper sculpture, Knowing Autumn III, 2014, Gips et porcelaine, 66,6 x 50,8 x 38,1 cm (27 x 20 x 15").





