

10 Cool Ceramic Trends in Contemporary Art

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Glazed and confused with the profusion of ceramics in museums and galleries these days? Here's an ARTnews guide to trends in contemporary ceramic art, from porcelain that riffs on global trade routes to clay heads that have been decked out with hair extensions and shades.

Fractured Fairytales

"The Hobo, as a visual trope, represents the last truly transgressive figure in art... kitsch paintings of clown-like characters with bindlestiffs and colorful handkerchiefs camouflage a predatory underclass of thieves, pedophiles, rapists, and murderers."

-Dr. Hope Ardizzone, *Oblivion and Contingency in Post-Modern Painting*



Clockwise from top left: Allison Schulnik, Miwa Ryôzaku, Klara Kristalova, Kate MacDowell.

Allison Schulnik and Simone Leigh turn to nature for their inspiration, specifically the beach, crafting everything from heavily textured, impasto conches to sleek and smooth cowries. This trend features a strong environmental slant, with Lisa Sanditz's ceramic cacti fracturing and splintering under the unnatural stress of commercial interests.