

NICODIM

Stanley Edmondson

Stanley's Circus

Nicodim, Los Angeles

May 15 – June 26, 2021



Stanley Edmondson, *Untitled*, 2020

When Alexander Calder moved to Paris in 1926, he began to concoct *Cirque Calder*, or *Calder's Circus*, which would become his most beloved work. A complete miniature Big Top, the circus was an elaborate troupe of animals, clowns, acrobats, nets, flags, carpets, lamps, phonographic records, noisemakers, and an orchestra of musical instruments, the entirety of which were constructed of easy-to-find household materials. Calder's Parisian guests would sit indoors while the artist brought the kinetic sculptures to life in choreographed spectacles that could last for hours.

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Over the course of the past year, Stanley Edmondson found himself considering Calder's diminutive traveling circus, the life and joy it brought to tiny Parisian salons, and the current global circumstance in which experiencing things indoors with friends and loved ones is dangerous, if not impossible. He assembled and choreographed his own sort of circus: literally larger-than-life ceramic performers engaging with abstractions of trampolines and onomatopoeic visualizations of the tumbles and flips about to ensue. *Stanley's Circus* would become a delightful, traveling ensemble as at home indoors as out.

Edmondson is the missing link between the Peter Voulkos generation of ceramicists and the current one in Los Angeles. He has been creating and firing his work in his magical home studio in Pasadena his entire life.

A lifelong printmaker and ceramicist, Edmondson's late father, Leonard Edmondson, was the Chairman of the Design Department at Otis Art Institute during the clay revolution in sculpture, and imbued an eye for color, form, and process in his son at an early age. The younger Edmondson threw his first pot with Malcolm "Mac" McClain, and Voulkos was a constant presence in his early life. Throughout the years, Stanley Edmondson honed his skills with the likes of Michael Frimkess, Ynez Johnston, and John Mason.

Working predominantly in homemade clay, Edmondson embraces the Bauhaus practice of weaving craft with fine art and the technical challenges of fabrication: the materials, the time and sweat, the invention of tools for new developments, the constant threat and opportunity presented by technical failure. Crafted with Edmondson's own clay and glaze recipes, his sculptures emphasize their innate raw materiality grounded in their connection to the earth. In recent years, Edmondson has aided in the practices of contemporary artists Roger Herman, Jasmine Little, Ruby Neri, and Kenny Scharf.

Stanley's Circus, Edmondson's first exhibition with Nicodim, is a synthesis of a solitary reaction to an unprecedented year of global upheaval, the artist's unique place in Southern California and world art history, and the very earth Los Angeles and its surroundings are built upon. There is room for everyone under his Big Top, and his end goal is unbridled joy.

Recent exhibitions include *Alchemy at Lefebvre et Fils*, Paris (2018, solo); *Clay for John Mason* at South Willard, Los Angeles (2017, solo); *Lifted Spirits* at the Los Angeles Arboretum, Arcadia (2015), and *Outdoor Exhibition* at the Maloof Foundation, Rancho Cucamonga (2014).

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Stanley Edmondson

° Born 1962, Pasadena, United States
Lives and works in Pasadena, California

Education

1986 MFA, Sculpture, California State University, Los Angeles

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 *Stanley's Circus*, Nicodim, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *Alchemy*, Lefebvre et Fils, Paris, France
- 2017 *Clay for John Mason*, South Willard, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 *Another Clay Show*, South Willard, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 *Gigantor Returns*, Future Studio Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 *Stanley Edmondson*, Future Studio Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2001 *Stanley Edmondson*, Los Angeles City College Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2000 *Global Positioning System*, Lankershim Art Center, North Hollywood, CA
- 1999 *On and Off the Wall*, Jose Drudis-Biada Art Gallery, Mouth Saint Mary's College, Brentwood, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *Lifted Spirits*, Los Angeles Arboretum, Arcadia, CA
- 2014 *Outdoor Exhibition*, Maloof Foundation, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
- 2010 *Faculty Show*, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA
- 2009 *Faculty Show*, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA
- Fahrenheit*, Glendale City College, Glendale, CA
- Lubbock Texas Centennial Banners*, Lubbock, TX
- Wandering Library Banners*, Venice, Italy
- 2001 Lisa Kruger Gallery, Pasadena, CA

Collections

Fred Marer Collection, Scripps College, Claremont, California

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Residencies

- 2021 Visiting Studio Artist Residency, American Museum of Ceramic Arts, Pomona, CA
2017 Artist in Residence, Lefebvre et Fils, Contemporary Art Ceramics, Paris, France