

# UNE SECONDE VIE

## ROBIN CAMERON



Photograph by Wilson Cameron, 2013

A Solo Exhibition  
at Lefebvre & Fils gallery  
Octobre 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 - January 31<sup>st</sup> 2014

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A Solo Exhibition on view October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 - January 31<sup>st</sup> 2014



Photograph by Wilson Cameron, 2013

From October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 to January 31<sup>st</sup> 2014, Lefebvre & Fils gallery presents *Une Seconde vie* from Robin Cameron. For her first exhibition in France, Robin Cameron (b. 1981, Canada) presents a new body of ceramic works.



*The Grasp and Crumble*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
14 x 7 x 6 inches

Robin Cameron's practice encompasses writing, prints, slideshows and short films as well as sculpture. Her ceramic works examine the concept of productive failure by combining broken shards of discarded pottery with procelain creating new forms. These forms reflect injured or isolated parts of the human body. The title *Une Seconde vie* is a reference to Henri Matisse's illness and creativity during that period of his life.

Robin Cameron lives and works in New York where she is represented by ROOM EAST Gallery (41 Orchard Street New York, NY 10002).

A comprehensive selection of her publications is held in the MoMA Library and her artwork has been promised as a gift to the Whitney Museum.

### Lefebvre & Fils Gallery

Established in 1880, Lefebvre & Fils gallery is dedicated to old and modern ceramics from France and Europe. Well known for its historical expertise, the gallery is now oriented towards contemporary art. Previous exhibitions include works by Olivier Gagnère, Ron Nagle, Meekyoung Shin and Wayne Fisher.

Opening reception - Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013, from 4:00 to 9:00pm.

# UNE SECONDE VIE

## ROBIN CAMERON



*The Slight Misadventure*, Robin Cameron, 2013, 13 x 8 x 15.5 inches

"Robin Cameron's ceramics incorporate fragmented shapes in an idiosyncratic assemblage of colorful forms. To create these ceramic sculptures the artist first gathers broken shards of failed pottery discarded by others. She uses new porcelain to combine the castoff shards thereby creating *ad hoc* new forms that conjure up injured or isolated parts of the body. Each angle of these works, mounted to steel rods and displayed on their pine bases, reveals alternative anatomies: a mask seems to have a jaw or an eye, a hand manifests its palm or articulated digits, a foot finds its sole and accompanying toes. From hip to head, from foot to finger; these new works explore the human figure as fragmented, each facet conjoined to the next in careful juxtaposition. Cameron is fascinated with the concept of productive failure, a territory of proposed conflict in which something—an object or an idea—that in itself is a lost cause, can find new significance. They are what they are not supposed to be: fragments that are re-fired; failures that find new form."

Jenny Borland

On the occasion of her solo exhibition at Lefebvre & Fils gallery in Paris in October 2013, which will coincide with FIAC 2013, a fully illustrated catalogue of her ceramic sculptures will be published with design by Project Projects.

# BIOGRAPHY



Photograph by Wilson Cameron, 2013

Robin Cameron, (b.1981, Canada, lives and works in New York) studied at Emily Carr University in Vancouver and received an M.F.A. from Columbia University, New York, NY in 2012. She had solo exhibitions at Art Metropole (Toronto) and ROOM EAST (New York), with an upcoming show at Lefebvre & Fils Gallery (France). Her artwork has been promised as a gift to the Whitney Museum of American Art. A comprehensive selection of her books are held in the Library of The Museum of Modern Art. Library presentations of her books have been included at the ICA in Philadelphia, Art In General, New Museum's Resource Centre and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. She has been a jury member for Printed Matter's grant Books For Artists and she has attended a residency at the Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta. She is currently represented in New York by ROOM EAST.



# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Education

2012 MFA, Visual Arts, Columbia University

2004 Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design

## Selected Exhibitions

2013

Une Seconde Vie, Galerie Lefebvre & fils, Paris, France

Sense and Sensibility, SpazioA, Pistoia, Italy

\_\_\_\_\_. Robin Cameron and Sebastian Black. Bodega, Philadelphia, PA

Broken Windows, Organized by Benoît Maire, New York Gallery, NY

2012

P-R-O-C-E-S-S-E-S, Room East, New York, NY

UR, Room East, New York, NY

T-R-U-T-H, Art Metropole, Toronto, ON

Columbia University Thesis Show, Emily Fisher Landau Center, Queens, NY

III, Martos Gallery, New York, NY

2011

Outdoor Sculpture, C L E A R I N G, Brooklyn, NY

Paul Theobald and Company, Golden Age Bookstore, Chicago, IL

160 km, Kidd Yellin Project Space, Brooklyn, NY

Harvest Moon, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn

1st Year MFA Show, Wallach Gallery, Columbia University, New York

Unstable Ground, UNIT/PITT Projects (Formerly The Helen Pitt) Vancouver, BC

Wax Apple, Bodega, Philadelphia, PA

2010

The Assembled Picture Library of New York City, Esopus Gallery, New York

The Page Exhibition, Guggenheim Gallery (Chapman University), Orange, CA

## Library Presentations

2013

Primary Information at Excursus, ICA, Philadelphia, PA

2011

Reference Work, curated by Golden Age Bookstore, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL

2010

Short Term Deviation, curated by Jesse Hlebo, EFA Project Space, New York, NY

General Public Library, curated by Mylinh Nguyen, Art in General, New York, NY

2009

The Generational, New Museum's Resource Center, New York, NY

2008

Nieves Library at Ooga Booga Store, Los Angeles, CA

## Collections

The Whitney Museum of American Art

The MoMA Library

The New Museum's Resource Center



# THREE QUESTIONS FOR ROBIN CAMERON



*The Worst Stop*, Robin Cameron, 2013, 15.25 x 5 x 5 inches

"I've always tried to see the positive usefulness and strength in objects and situations."

Robin Cameron

**Your work already involves writing, sculpture, drawing, collage, photos, films. How did you get to ceramics?**

I took a class on ceramics when I was in graduate school at Columbia University and learned about the properties of clay. I was fortunate to be taught by the artist JJ Peet who let me experiment in class by pushing the materials. I was taking a lot of broken and discarded shards of leftover fired work and rebuilding those shards into new forms. Now, I work at a studio in the west village now called Greenwich House Pottery and the community and performative nature of producing in that environment I think alters how the work is made.

**How did you conceive your exhibition *Une Seconde vie* at Lefebvre & Fils gallery?**

The title comes from something that Henri Matisse referenced after he was diagnosed with cancer and had to be wheelchair bound. He called what he had left of life "Une Seconde Vie". I believe that these works are given a second chance by remaking the work from discarded pieces. I like the idea that these ceramics could just be seen as something to throw away, but the transformation of the pieces into artworks makes them into something beautiful.

***Une Seconde vie* explores the concept of productive failure in forms that evoke the human figure as fragmented. How is this new production linked to the constant examination of the "unfolding narrative of your life" that seems to form the pattern of your art work?**

The works look at failures or injuries that my family or I have sustained. When I was younger I stepped on a nail and it went right through my shoe into my foot, a few of the works are based on that experience. My younger brother fell out of a tree house when he was very little and broke his elbow, one of the works is taken from that story. I think that everyone can relate to failure, but it's how one manages those moments. I've always tried to see the positive usefulness and strength in objects and situations.

# VISUALS AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS

All photos courtesy of ROOM EAST by Genevieve Hanson



*Bail Flail Fail*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
16 x 9.5 x 9 inches



*Low Woe Toe*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
15.5 x 5.5 x 5.5 inches



*The Flop*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
15 x 6.5 x 5.5 inches



*The Gold Debauch*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
13 x 6 x 6 inches



*The Grasp and Crumble*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
14 x 7 x 6 inches



*The Last Promise*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
13 x 7 x 6 inches



# VISUALS AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS

All photos courtesy of ROOM EAST by Genevieve Hanson



*The Slow Downfall*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
16 x 8 x 7 inches



*The Worst Stop*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
15.25 x 5 x 5 inches



*The Let Down*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
13 x 4.5 x 7 inches



*The Loud Defeat*, Robin Cameron, 2013,  
14 x 7 x 8 inches



*The Slight Misadventure*, Robin Cameron, 2013  
13 x 8 x 15.5 inches

# VISUALS AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS



Photograph by Wilson Cameron, 2013



Photograph by Wilson Cameron, 2013

# THREE QUESTIONS FOR LOUIS LEFEBVRE



**"*Une Seconde vie* is a fantastic trip through the human being vulnerability."**

Louis Lefebvre

Louis Lefebvre's portrait

**Lefebvre & Fils gallery presents Robin Cameron's artwork in Europe for the first time. What has got your attention in her work?**

What surprised me most was Robin Cameron's ease of adaptation, her capability and precision in the multiple disciplines that she works in: wood sculpture, short films, photography, painting, drawing and of course ceramic. I believe Robin has a brilliant future ahead of her. She knows what she wants and also what she doesn't want!

**How do you look at Robin Cameron's ceramic works? How is it singular?**

Robin Cameron has understanding of the material and she is adept with pushing the traditional medium further. Last June when I discovered her work at ROOM EAST in New York, (with thanks to the curator Gilles Renaud), I was immediately struck by her sculptures and the complexity of her work. The idea of picking up these broken shards, this failed pottery, these ruins, the idea of breaking it all over again, then putting back together the fragments with porcelain, while doing so, giving them a second life impressed me most. *Une Seconde vie* is a fantastic trip through human vulnerability. Like Alina Szapocznikow, Robin Cameron is a very experimental sculptor who uses this medium to bring forth her concepts through her use of materials. For her, one of the most relatable subjects is the human body. In her exhibition *Une Seconde vie*, she destroys, breaks, tears up and then puts back together and while creating abstract forms through anthropomorphic ones.

**Well-known for its expertise in French and European ceramics from XVI<sup>e</sup> to XX<sup>e</sup> centuries, Lefebvre & Fils gallery is more and more opened to contemporary creation. Does ceramic still play a part in contemporary creation today?**

Like every artistic discipline, ceramic has always played a part in art and will continue to.



# ABOUT LEFEBVRE & FILS GALLERY



Lefebvre & Fils gallery, 24 rue du Bac, Paris 7<sup>e</sup>

Established in 1880 by Henri Lefebvre, Lefebvre & Fils gallery is dedicated to old and modern ceramics from France and Europe. Located rue du Bac in the curators and art collectors' favourite area in Paris, Lefebvre & Fils gallery has contributed to the greatest private and public collections in France, as well as all over the world. Well-known for its expertise, Lefebvre & Fils gallery is now oriented towards contemporary art under the influence of its director, Louis Lefebvre.

Louis Lefebvre's skills in ceramics have been recognized by Drouot, Paris Court of appeals and Christie's London who asked for his help in expertise works. As a passionate collector of contemporary art and design, he simply opened Lefebvre & Fils gallery to contemporary artists in 2009 and while doing so brought together his passion and his profession.

ARTISTS REPRESENTED BY LEFEBVRE & FILS GALLERY:

WAYNE FISCHER  
OLIVIER GAGNERE  
GEORGES JOUVE  
FERNAND LEGER  
RON NAGLE  
KARIM RASHID  
MEEK YOUN SHIN  
ETTORE SOTTASS





# PRATICAL INFORMATION

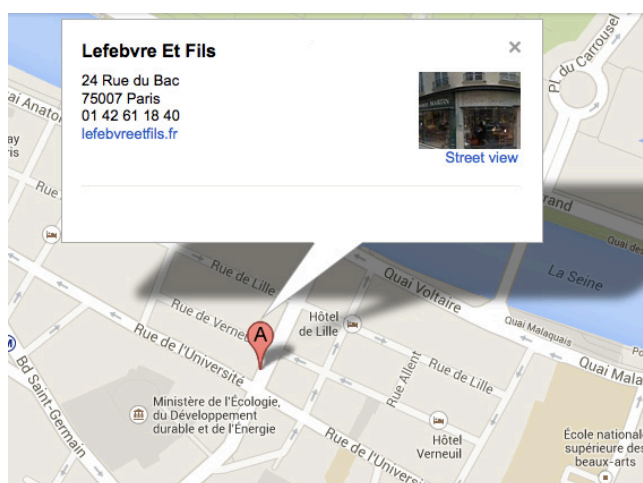
## UNE SECONDE VIE ROBIN CAMERON

A SOLO EXHIBITION AT LEFEBVRE & FILS GALLERY  
FROM OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 TO JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> 2014

OPENING CEREMONY TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2013 FROM 4PM TO 9PM

### Exhibition *Une Seconde vie* Robin Cameron

Lefebvre & Fils gallery  
24 rue du Bac - 75007 PARIS  
Métro Rue du Bac (ligne 12)  
Tuesday to Saturday from 11AM/7PM  
Tel: +33 (0)1 42 61 18 40  
Email: [info@lefebvre-et-fils.fr](mailto:info@lefebvre-et-fils.fr)



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