

# LEFEBVRE & FILS

CONTEMPORARY ART CERAMICS

presents

## *THE LAST BANQUET*

Zachary ARMSTRONG  
and Raul DE NIEVES

May 31st - June 23rd, 2018  
Opening Thursday 31st May  
from 6 to 8pm



# THE LAST BANQUET

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Louis Lefebvre is pleased to present «The Last Banquet», an exhibition by American artist Zachary ARMSTRONG and Mexican born artist Raul DE NIEVES, a collaboration lasting the Residency in Versailles, from May 31st to June 23rd, 2018.

Deep colors, deep reminiscences, between dreams and phantasmagoria, their parallel worlds meet in the memory of confused visions: the two artists, whose first collaboration, have each created their own universe.

For one, Zachary Armstrong, everything revolves around an almost fetishistic atmosphere of grotesque masks, scarified, sometimes similar to the Commedia dell'Arte, sometimes to ancestral cults, or carnivals masks, provided with amazing appendages: fish, bottles, ...

Alongside this tortured and funny microcosm, Raul de Nieves seems to cultivate an abounding and colorful garden where mutant plants, half aquatic, half terrestrial, make their way.



Raul de Nieves, RDN#07, Untitled, 2018, Glazed ceramic, 25 x 45 x 48 cm

Visuals on the front page :

## Zachary ARMSTRONG

Born in Dayton, Ohio, 1984

Lives and works in Dayton, Ohio, USA.

Zachary Armstrong is a self-taught artist. His father was an art teacher, and as a kid, he already knew all kind of medium as painting, clay, drawing...

His work is really based and inspired by the symbolic of nostalgia and themes about youth and childhood.

He has a lot of diverse practice, from wallpaper and neon signs, to lamps and paintings.

He found a universal truth in his artwork - that a yearning for the open mind of childhood connects us all.

He spends a lot of time in his studio, sometimes 10-12 hours a day, and uses repetition a lot in his creation process.

He is inspired by well-known artists such as de Kooning, Rauschenberg, Picasso or Jasper Johns.



Zachary Armstrong, ZA#46, Untitled, 2018  
Glazed ceramic, 37 x 23 x 16 cm

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

#### **2017**

*NOAH*, Ever Gold [Projects], San Francisco, USA.

*Zachary Armstrong*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany.

Keith Paintings, China Art Objects Galleries, Los Angeles, USA.

#### **2016**

Tilton Gallery, New York, NY, USA.

Mesler/Feuer Gallery, New York, NY, USA.

#### **2015**

*Goodnight Bojangles*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

#### **2014**

*Dinos*, Robert Blumenthal Gallery, East Hampton, USA.

*Elder-Beerman*, Dayton Visual Arts Center, Dayton, USA

### TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

#### **2017**

the glass hat (With Tyler Macko), Phil Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

#### **2015**

*Boy Meets Girl: Zachary Armstrong and Rose Wylie*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany.

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

#### **2017**

Zachary Armstrong | Matthew Chambers | Henry Taylor, Rental Gallery, New York, USA.

#### **2014**

Mint Collective, Columbus, USA.

#### **2013**

*Untitled*, Dayton Visual Arts Center, Dayton, USA.



## Raul DE NIEVES

Born in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico, 1983.  
Lives and works in Brooklyn, USA.

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

#### 2017

*Who Would We Be Without Our Memories*, Apalazzo Gallery, Brescia, Italy.

*Thirty3*, Dio Horia Gallery, Athens, Greece.

#### 2016

*El Rio*, Company Gallery, New York, USA.

#### 2015

*I'm In a Story*, Mars Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

#### 2014

*Celebration*, Clock Tower Gallery, Brooklyn, USA.

#### 2010

*Smile X 3*, Live with Animals, Brooklyn, USA.

#### 2009

*Riddlin Doors*, Newman Popiashvili Gallery, New York, USA.

#### 2008

*De feet of Joy*, Galerie Giti Nourbakhsch, Berlin, Germany.

*I scream you scream we all scream for ice cream*, Art Basel, Positions, Miami Beach, FL 2007, USA.

#### 2007

*Beacha Beach Babies*, Newman Popiashvili Gallery, New York, USA.

*In Blancas Negras*, Live with Animals, Brooklyn, USA.

#### 2005

*Ornithologist Kaleidoscope*, Painted Bird, San Francisco, USA.

**RAÚL DE NIEVES** is a multi-media artist, performer, and musician based in Brooklyn, New York. His body of work encompasses narrative painting, decadent multimedia performance (often with his band HARIBO), large-scale figurative sculpture, live music, ornamentally crafted shoes, and garments.

In 2017, he was included in the Whitney Biennial, curated by Christopher J. Lew and Mia Locks, at the Whitney Museum of American Art. *W* magazine referred to him as the "new star of the Whitney Biennial."

Throughout his career, de Nieves has worked across media, including sculpture, painting, and performance. Perhaps best known for his immersive installations, de Nieves has created vast imaginative spaces wherein his helix-like sculpture, composed of high heels and dance shoes and often resembling bejeweled coral or spiders, are placed alongside paintings of George and the Dragon, bespoke costumes, mounted animals, and other large figurative work.

De Nieves' work often develops its own intricate visual symbolism, drawing on both classical Christian and Mexican vernacular motifs, to develop his own mythology. His work, particularly his performance, often challenges and explores sexuality, the human body, and individual and public history.



Raul de Nieves, RDN#14 (7), Untitled, 2018  
Glazed ceramic, 22 x 40 x 40 cm



Portrait of Louis Lefebvre  
© Paul Jacob Bashour

#### About Louis Lefebvre

Born in Paris.

Louis Lefebvre left to study in Cambridge, England.

On his return, he began working at Christie's in the European Ceramics department, followed by the Asian Ceramics department.

During the 1980s, Louis Lefebvre started working with his father in his role as a respected expert in Ancient Ceramics. He specialized in historical and large decorative pieces, and later Modern and Contemporary ceramics.

In 2009, Louis Lefebvre chose to re-focus the family gallery, created in 1880. He put in place the gallery's first exhibition of new ceramics. Since, the gallery has explored contemporary ceramics and accompanied artists such as Roger Herman, Eric Croes and Cammie Staros in their interrogation of the medium with a leitmotiv and passion to show the real permanence and renewal of Ceramics as a medium in contemporary art.

## Presentation of the Residency Project Interview with Louis Lefebvre

*“The residency grew from a desire precious to my family; that is to know and promote a know-how passed down many generations, enabling the creation of complex and unique art works.”*

#### **In 2015, you opened the “The Residency” in Versailles for artists specialized in ceramics. What is involved in this initiative?**

En 2006, I had the chance to acquire a house in Versailles classified for its historical heritage, once the music room of the princess Elisabeth, sister of Louis XVI.

“The Residency” grew from a desire precious to my family; that is to know and promote a know-how passed down many generations, enabling the creation of complex and unique art works.”

The expenses of the artists invited to participate in “The Residency” are completely provided by Galerie Lefebvre & Fils, from the journey to and from Versailles, to full-board accommodation, through to the materials needed for creation.

The residency is also kitted out with two kilns to make production as easy as possible.

#### **The duration of the residencies vary between 6 weeks and 3 months. Part of the package is that your gallery is the stage for a solo show at the end of the residency. Are all the pieces are exhibited being shown exclusive?**

On average, the residency lasts two months for each invited artist. Each exhibited work is unique and unseen. There are no multiple editions.

Each residency is an opportunity to share, experiment and live a human adventure. The resulting solo show is the fruit of work that comes from a strong link between the artist and the gallery.

RESIDENCY



**Not all the artists in “The Residency” are artists of the gallery. How do you choose which artists benefit from the residency?**

It would be impossible to establish an admissions process to participate in “The Residency”.

I am particularly susceptible to the production of a number of artists from the West Coast of America. I find their outlook, when it comes to techniques and the work produced, of a very high level.

There is a really unique style that comes from Los Angeles.

I trust my eye and my aesthetic sensitivity. I owe many artistic encounters to Roger Herman, a professor friend at UCLA and ceramist artist, and to Danny First, an Israeli philanthropist friend.

**“The Residency” has existed for two years, could you tell us your first impressions of how it’s gone so far, and your goals for the future?**

I had given myself two years to make the project viable. I’ve achieved this, as well as doubling the turnover for the gallery.

The solo shows have been a great success, enabling me to confirm my role as a gallery owner by placing the artists’ pieces. I also advise and accompany them in introductions to great collectors and museums. Such as Anabel Juarez, a Mexican artist, or Eric Croes, a Belgian artist, who have works in the collections of the Museum of Sèvres.

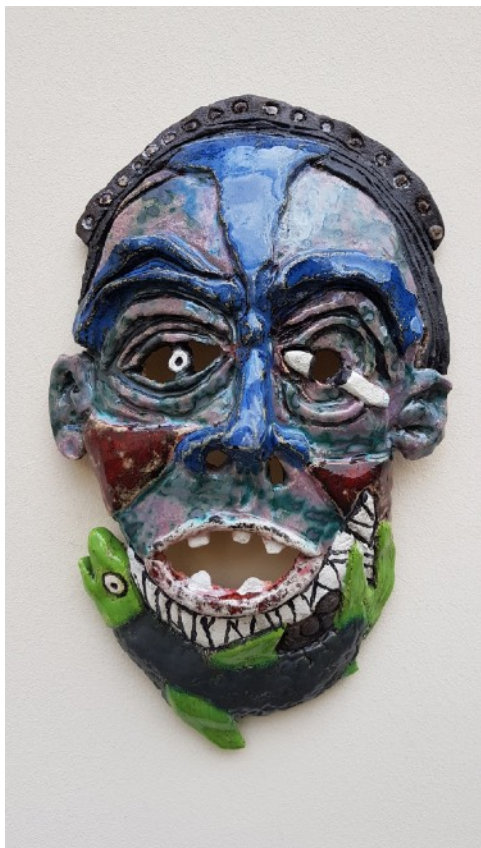
In addition, the gallery offers the residency artists a high quality of visibility through the participation in innovative international fairs, for example in Paris Internationale.

This project, dedicated to the fired arts, which started with the artist Ulrika Strömbäck continues today with many more artists. “The Residency” has a booked-up program until 2020, which demonstrates that the gallery has opened a new chapter and that the story continues.

## **Program The Residency 2018**

Stephanie Hanes  
Jennifer Rochlin  
Gavin Kenyon  
Lynda Draper

Visuals available for the Press  
**Zachary ARMSTRONG**



ZA#40, Untitled, 2018  
Glazed ceramic, 40 x 28 cm



ZA#44, Untitled, 2018  
Glazed ceramic, 35 x 28 cm



ZA#24, Untitled, 2018  
Glazed ceramic, 30 x 23 cm



Visuals available for the Press  
**Raul DE NIEVES**



RDN#05, Untitled, 2018  
Glazed ceramic, 45 x 30 x 6 cm



RDN#03, Untitled, 2018  
Glazed ceramic, 35 x 52 cm



## Practical Informations



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## Upcoming

### Groupshow CLAY

Roger HERMAN, Jasmine  
LITTLE, Grant LEVY LUCERO,  
Stanley EDMONDSON, Ray  
BARSANTE, Anabel JUAREZ  
June 28th - July 28th, 2018



**Galerie Lefebvre & Fils**  
24, rue du Bac  
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From Tuesday to Saturday  
from 11am to 1pm and from 2pm to 7pm

And on Mondays by appointment

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