

BERGAMOT STATION 2525 MICHIGAN AVE. B1
SANTA MONICA CA 90404 T 310 453 7535

mail@shoshanawayne.com F 310 453 1595

SHOSHANA WAYNE
GALLERY

ARLENE SHECHET

Now and Away

FEBRUARY 16 - MARCH 15, 2008

RECEPTION FEBRUARY 16, 5-7PM

Shoshana Wayne Gallery is pleased to present its 4th solo exhibition of new work by Arlene Shechet.

Moving away from the iconographic and toward the abstract, Arlene Shechet's recent sculptures inflate, exhale, hover and shine. The kineticism of the work translates not only in the magnificent dancing forms but also in their reflective surfaces. Working for the first time in clay, the artist reveals the special quality of the material to mirror or move with her touch. Finishing the sculptures in metallic glazes, the artist fuses the decorative and the fine arts, using humor and dissonance to make surprising hybrid forms.

Making a deliberate reference to vessels in their hollowness and spouts, the undulating forms are overtly sexual yet delicately suggestive of the androgyny of classical Indian sculpture. Incorporating distinctive bases into the language of the sculptures, concrete, plaster, bronze and wood elements speak to and play with the ceramics. Shechet's work is informed by Buddhism but creates fresh, non-referential imagery to great success. Her work resists a single reading by marrying a plethora of opposites: expanding and deflating like the breath, the sculptures are always changing and never entirely contained, in the words of *Art in America's* Faye Hirsch (February 2008) "seemingly pressed by internal forces, they bulge, teeter and spout like geysers," becoming greater than the sum of their parts.

"Her new glazed ceramic vessel-sculptures are terrific, full of references yet almost debt-free....Sexy, devout, ugly and beautiful all at the same time, they move effortlessly between art and religion and East and West, and from painting and sculpture to craft and ritual."

– Roberta Smith, *New York Times*, September 14, 2007

Arlene Shechet lives and works in New York City. She is the recent recipient of a John S. Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship Award as well as three separate New York Foundation on the Arts awards. She is currently working on a public project in Northern Portugal and a permanent installation for the new American Embassy in Beijing opening in August 2008. Shechet's work has been exhibited extensively in the United States and abroad and is included in both public and private collections all over the world.

For more information please contact Kerry O'Bryan at (310) 453 - 7535