

Shannon Donovan
Artist's Statement

I am a visual translator and creator of mythologies; I transform raw clay into ceramic, ideas into sculpture, and found objects into *objets d'art*. One vein of my work calls attention to overlooked aspects of our environment: For example, I take casts from the utility covers that provide access to the municipal gas and water system, from discarded hubcaps, and from bones and skulls found on country walks, and elaborate on and re-present these objects in new contexts.

I also create site-specific installations that imply a narrative: patterned wallpaper that has sprouted fabric-wrapped tree branches and ceramic excrescences; a dressmaker's dummy with porcelain head and feet presiding over her ancestral domain; or the marking of personal time through daily crocheting of doilies, each one then rendered in porcelain rather than cotton thread. Themes of fragility, beauty, domesticity, and nonutility underpin these projects.

Overall, my work asks viewers to question their expectations about the relationship between artistic media and subject matter, and it blurs the boundaries between outdoors and indoors, the refined and the vernacular, the industrial and the homespun, and craft and art.