

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Cameron Jamie

12 Rue de Grand Cerf
January 22 – March 7, 2020
Opening January 22, 6 – 8pm

Gladstone Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Cameron Jamie, the artist's first exhibition with the gallery in Brussels. Jamie, who works in various media, including drawing, sculpture, printmaking, film and performance, debuts a new series of ceramic masks that both foreground his intervention into the traditional practice of the medium and continue his longstanding investigation of the mask as form, including its various cultural antecedents and its performative potential in ritual. Jamie's fascination with the mask over the course of the past three decades can be discerned from his earliest works and draws from a variety of sources such as wrestling subcultures, the continually recycled pagan tropes of Halloween celebrations, and the folk rituals and traditions of various regions in Central Europe. He has continued to examining mask-making in a variety of materials, as in the large installation of eleven carved wooden masks making up *Smiling Disease* (2008) and a series of inverted ceramic masks, bodies of work that were both recently exhibited at the 2019 Venice Biennale.

For this new body of work, Jamie has created a rogues' gallery of ceramic masks, some mounted traditionally to confront the viewer, while others are turned to the wall to reveal their undersides. Through a multistage process of repeated firing and glazing, each work is coated with an animated surface pattern of lava-like patinas with spectacular complexity and richness. Brightly colored and heavily textured with protrusions and surface markings, Jamie's masks relate abstractly to humanoid facial expressions and attributes. Often recalling tropes of mysterious folkloric figures, these works simultaneously suggest mounted hunters' trophies and the possibilities of assuming a different persona.

Since 2015, Jamie has been experimenting with hanging his ceramic masks toward the wall, subverting expectations by negating a clear frontal view. While the traditional function of the mask is to disguise the identity of its wearer for the purposes of ritual, these backwards masks instead expose what is usually hidden. They allow the viewer to psychically inhabit the disguise, taking on a potentially new persona or soul for the self. Revealing the mask's interior structure not only confounds the viewers' initial expectations, but also refocuses their attention from external appearances toward a more enigmatic interiority, essentially functioning as a metonym for every individual's psychological malleability. In his prolonged exploration of the mask's form and function, Jamie elucidates how persona and performance are not only slippery constructs of social factors, but also aesthetic postures of being.

Cameron Jamie was born in Los Angeles in 1969 and has lived in France since 2000. Most recently, his work has been featured in the 2019 Venice Biennale and *The Sorcerer's Burden* at The Contemporary Austin, where he presented his first monumental bronze sculpture in the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park at Laguna Gloria. Jamie has been the subject of museum surveys at the Kunsthalle Zurich (2013) and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2006, traveling to the MIT List Visual Arts Center). Jamie has been featured in film festivals and major group exhibitions including *Traces du sacré* at Centre Georges Pompidou (2008), the Berlin Biennial (2010), the Whitney Biennial (2006), the Venice Biennale (2005 and 2019), the Lyon Biennale (2015), *The Infinite Mix* at the Hayward Gallery (2016), *The Absent Museum* at Wiels (2017), and NICC Brussels (2019). In 2008, Jamie was the first recipient of the Yanghyun Prize, and in 2016 he was awarded the Daniel and Florence Guerlain Art Foundation prize for drawing.

T. J. Wilcox
515 West 24th Street
January 18 – February 22

Salvo
130 East 64th Street
January 11 – February 29

For further information, please contact Andrew Huff: ahuff@gladstonegallery.com
Brussels gallery hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10am–6pm and Saturday, 12pm–6pm
New York gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm