



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 11, 2007



Nicole Cherubini  
*G-Pot, Vanitas #3, 2006*  
Ceramic, terracotta, luster, yellow and crystal ice, fake gold and silver jewelry, chain, purple rabbit fur, plywood, polyurethane, enamel and red plexi-glass.  
Approx. 33 1/2 x 21 x 64 1/2 inches

## NEWS RELEASE:

# NICOLE CHERUBINI

JANUARY 20–MARCH 25, 2007

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH: NICOLE CHERUBINI AND ASSOCIATE CURATOR JENELLE PORTER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 5–6PM, ICA MEMBERS ONLY

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 6–8PM

### PHILADELPHIA, PA

Nicole Cherubini (b. 1970, Boston, Massachusetts, lives New York), takes clay to a level that would leave any traditional ceramicist faint with dismay. Cherubini declassifies her artforms by responding to a range of qualities inherent in her medium. Her ceramics reflect on both history and popular culture. The constant attention to affluence and the importance of material wealth that is endemic to American culture is reflected in the size, surface and color of her ceramic pieces. Featuring four new works, Nicole Cherubini's work will be on view in ICA's Project Space January 20–March 25, 2007.

Hand-built from flat little clumps, use-free (they are full of holes), and over-scaled vessels, these G-Pots as they are called, are glazed repeatedly to create a seductive richness of hue. They are built in layers, from the bottom-up, then glazed with different colors, sometimes carefully applied, other times dripping and messy. The sculptures are then festooned with all manner of baroque appliqué or "bling": garishly dyed furs, fake gold rings and silver chains, and other surprise, and surprising, elements making them willfully exotic in their array of materials. Some pots are barnacled with ceramic gem shapes that spout in all directions.

Where things get really interesting is the manner of display. The pedestals on which the pots sit are very much a part of the work. Where the pots are over-the-top decorative, the pedestals are mucky minimalism. Made from materials such as steel rod, plywood, plexiglass, pine, and painted foam, these individualized plinths, made especially to suit each pot, create a carefully-honed balance between object and support. The balance of elements in Cherubini's work pushes the precipes of taste and tradition nearly over the top.

Cherubini works in her New York studio with her own kiln, allowing her to glaze the pots repeatedly. She is very much a sculptor, and her assemblage-inspired works are influenced not only by artists who have historically worked in this medium, but also by such compelling artists as Isa Genzken and Matthew Monahan. She studied ceramics at the Rhode Island School of Design and received her BFA in 1993 and her MFA in Visual Arts from New York University in 1998. She attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2002. After a hiatus to work with other media she has returned to clay and invigorated it, with one foot in the traditional and one in the contemporary. She is currently represented by Samson Projects in Boston and will have a show there this April. She was recently included in "Make it Now: New Sculpture in New York" at the Sculpture Center in New York. Roberta Smith of The New York Times in her review of the show wrote, "The show's freshest revision of conventional assemblage is found in Nicole Cherubini's work."

### CONTACT

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\*Images available upon request

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

ICA is located at:

118 South 36th Street at the University of Pennsylvania.

ICA is open to the public, except during installation, from 12:00pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for students over 12, artists, and senior citizens; and free to ICA members, children 12 and under, PENN card holders, and on Sundays from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

For more information, call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit [www.icaphila.org](http://www.icaphila.org).

## **INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

ICA is grateful for the generous support of The Honickman Foundation. Additional support has been provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Dietrich Foundation Inc., the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art, friends and members of ICA, and the University of Pennsylvania. ICA is also grateful for in-kind support from Loews Philadelphia Hotel.

Nicole Cherubini is a recipient of the Jack Goodman Award for Art and Technology, New York University, the NEA Travel Grant (travel in Mexico), a New England Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture as well as numerous residencies in the United States. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at galleries and museums, some of which include: Massimo Audiello Fine Arts, Kravets/Wehby Gallery, The Jersey City Museum's Project Space, Space 101, La Panaderia in Mexico DF and Open Space in Milan, Italy. This past year, she has had exhibitions at Klemens Gasser and Tanja Grunert, Inc., New York and Jane Harstook Gallery, Greenwich House Pottery, New York.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a pamphlet publication with a text by Jenelle Porter, Associate Curator.

ICA acknowledges funding provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Dietrich Foundation, Inc., the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art, friends and members of ICA, and the University of Pennsylvania. ICA is also grateful for in-kind support from Loews Philadelphia Hotel. (Information complete as of 11/20/06.)

All programs subject to change. Please visit the ICA website, [www.icaphila.org](http://www.icaphila.org), for more information on programs in conjunction with "Nicole Cherubini."