

Dupuis, Dorothee. "The Clay Digger," *Crash Magazine* #73, Fall 2015, p. 63.

# THE CLAY DIGGER

A NEW TAKE ON CERAMICS BY LOUIS LEFEBVRE

In 2010, Louis Lefebvre completely transformed the gallery his ancestors first opened in 1880 to showcase French and European ceramics. In his hands, Lefebvre & Fils now welcomes a selection of works featuring more contemporary practices. Following pieces by Ettore Sottsass of the Memphis Movement and the modernist Georges Jouve, the space will now host more curated and/or emerging designs that explore all the complexity of ceramic as a medium, striking a careful balance between unflinching adherence to the rules of the craft – notably its technical rules – and a more personal form of expression that draws on the material's formal possibilities. A recent example includes Patrick Letovsky's exhibition of several of the discipline's rising stars like Jean-Marie Appriou and New York artist Elizabeth Jaeger. For Paris's FIAC art fair, the gallery will show new work by Beverly Semmes, the genre's American master who remains largely unknown in France despite holding a professorship at the Pratt Institute in New York. Active on every front, Louis Lefebvre is also launching a ceramics residency program housed in a registered historical building of Versailles that once belonged to the King's Brother. After an inaugural show focusing on the work of Ulrika Strömbäck, the site will feature the striking practices of two Mexican artists: the half-modernist, half-offbeat domestic pottery of Milena Muzquiz (exhibited last year at Empire and Loevenbruck) and Eduardo Sarabia's porcelain replicas of post-pop objects in motifs taken from narcoculture. *DOROTHÉE DUPUIS*

HANDLE, BEVERLY SEMMES, GALERIE LEFEBVRE & FILS, 24 RUE DU BAC, PARIS 7<sup>ème</sup>, OCTOBER 20 - DECEMBER 4, 2015, WWW.LEFEBVREETFILS.FR



BEVERLY SEMMES, ON THE LAKE, 2012 - COURTESY SUSAN INGLETT GALLERY, NYC