

GIRAUD

Sterling Ruby — *HEARTS + CLUBS*



September 7 - October 6, 2018

PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD



**CLUB** (6693), 2018

Ceramic

25 1/4 x 6 5/8 x 2 1/2 in

64.1 x 16.8 x 6.4 cm

*Opening—*

Thursday September 6, 2018

5-9pm

*Exhibition—*

September 7 - October 6, 2018.

Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm

For his third solo exhibition at Pierre Marie Giraud, Sterling Ruby presents a newly developed body of ceramic works. Evolving from his previous project, ASHTRAY, Ruby's new exhibition HEARTS + CLUBS is the outcome of plastic transformations; clay forms morphing from vessels to figurative and totemic objects.

Rough, uneven, and irregular, Ruby's objects reveal an urgency in their making. They embed the traces and the energy of hands and fingers that knead and give shape. With the application of shiny enamels, however, these gestures become fixed; their metallic lusters cover and combine with the raw textures of dirt and gravels.

HEARTS + CLUBS is like a dissected clay body; organs and bones taken apart. A splayed conversation between that which is organic and that which is inert. At once the passivity and peacefulness of HEARTS and the active provocation of CLUBS. Visceral and symbolic, raw and bloody, if HEARTS + CLUBS are not strictly physical containers, they nevertheless transport meaning, values, and emotions.

Like a gesture interrupted, HEARTS are equally made of matter and of holes. Deriving from vessels folded and re-formed to become bodies, bisected by a raised aorta or spine, HEARTS have edges that extend out to create folded arms or limbs. Through holes in their body, the HEARTS are pieces that dialogue with a background that both support and complete them.

The CLUBS, by contrast, are vertical and free-standing objects. Some suggest standing figures, while others are blunt objects, resembling ancient weapons or tools that might have been unearthed as artefacts. The CLUBS stand as an incitement to use, ready to be seized and used as a weapon, a spectre, or a walking stick.

PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD



**HEART** (6638), 2018

Ceramic

21 1/2 x 17 x 2 3/4 in

v54.6 x 43.2 x 7 cm

PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD



**CLUB** (6724), 2018

Ceramic

29 1/2 x 3 1/4 x 3 1/8 in

74.9 x 8.3 x 7.9 cm

*Sterling Ruby*

American, born in 1972, in Bitburg, Germany

Lives and works in Los Angeles

Sterling Ruby works in a wide range of aesthetic and material strategies, from polyurethane, bronze, steel and ceramic sculptures; to drawings and collages; photography and video; spray-paint and oil paintings; as well as textile works, including quilts, tapestries, garments and soft sculptures.

Ruby has cited a diverse range of sources and influences including aberrant psychologies, urban culture, craft, masculinity, public art and civic monuments, prisons, globalization, American domination and decline, waste and consumption.

Public collections include Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; Tate Modern, London; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; and Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

The survey exhibition, *Sterling Ruby: Ceramics*, is currently on view at the Des Moines Art Center, June 9 – September 9, 2018. It will travel to the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, October 3 – March 17, 2019.



PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD



**CLUB** (6721), 2018

Ceramic

41 1/4 x 11 x 2 1/2 in

104.8 x 27.9 x 6.4 cm

PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD



**HEART** (6694), 2018

Ceramic

25 7/8 x 15 1/2 x 2 1/2 in

65.7 x 39.4 x 6.4 cm



PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD

First page

**HEART** (6635), 2018

Ceramic

25 1/8 x 21 x 2 1/4 in

63.8 x 53.3 x 5.7 cm

Photo by Robert Wedemeyer. Courtesy Sterling Ruby Studio.

For more information about the artist, the exhibition or the works, and for high-resolution images, please contact [charlotte@pierremariegiraud.com](mailto:charlotte@pierremariegiraud.com)