

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Gustav Hamilton
A Sucker for the Souvenir

March 27, 2021 – May 1, 2021

Socially Distanced Opening Reception: Saturday, March 27, 2021, from 12 - 5pm

No appointment necessary, facemask required for entry, maximum 10 people admitted at a time, free and open to the public



Image: Gustav Hamilton, *How to jump a shark*, 2021,
Glazed ceramic, 18.5 x 18.5 x 2 in. (47 x 47 x 5 cm)

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present *A Sucker for the Souvenir*, a solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Gustav Hamilton.

Presented in the gallery's project room, *A Sucker for the Souvenir* features ceramic wall paintings and floor sculpture in Hamilton's debut with the gallery. Incorporating imagery of everyday objects into his meticulously constructed ceramic works, Hamilton incorporates art historical references that effortlessly meld with diaristic dreamlike scenes.

Hamilton's works possess a uniquely modern surrealistic quality, wherein playfulness and humor create an immediate sense of familiarity with viewers. Upbeat and even jovial at times, the complexity of the process-bound ceramic material and the level of mastery required to create such works are humbly present. A ubiquitous material often understood as utilitarian and three-dimensional, the assumption of ceramic as best suited to function offers opportunity for exploration.

The illusion of depth versus the concrete tangibility of ceramic is a conceptual thread throughout pieces in *A Sucker for the Souvenir*. Weight and perspective play off each other in Hamilton's complex glazed surfaces, creating amiable tensions between dimensions and allowing for

metaphorical association. In these physically impossible scenes, the viewer is grounded by the objects depicted. In *How to jump a shark* (2021), an orange Ron Nagle vessel offers both focal point and attachment to the tangible, physical world in an otherwise dreamy composition. Conversely, references to Rene Magritte's cloudy blue skies offer an airy lightness.

Hamilton's interest in creating what he calls "ceramics about ceramics" doubles as a form of self-portraiture, often including scenes of his native Midwestern landscapes, Western art influences, and personal objects from his childhood. The history and perceptions of ceramics are not lost on Hamilton, who in turn abstracts the notion of materiality itself. *A Sucker for the Souvenir* pairs Gustav Hamilton's adept craftsmanship with an open ending inquiry into the nature of the "real," simultaneously introspective and fun loving.

About Gustav Hamilton

Gustav Hamilton (b.1990, Everett, WA) was raised in Fargo, North Dakota and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He received his MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and his BFA from the University of Montana. Prior to moving to New York City, he was a Visiting Professor at Colorado State University. He is currently a Studio Manager at BKLYN CLAY. He has exhibited most recently at Fisher Parrish Gallery, The Hole, Steuben Gallery, The Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, and Zoe Fisher Projects in New York, as well as Springbox Gallery and Lacuna Gallery in Minnesota.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as Art in America and ARTnews, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The New York Times hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting-edge works" and The Denver Post declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.