

**FIGUR**  
**ZACHARY LEENER**  
**April 10–May 22, 2021**

Parker Gallery is proud to present its first solo exhibition with Los Angeles-based artist Zachary Leener. *Figur* features an assortment of twenty new ceramic works, all made within the past year, each a focused meditation on a single notional form.

For this body of work, Leener operated at an unusually small scale, crafting intricate, compact sculptures out of terra cotta—and a small amount of white clay, sifted from a riverbed in Ojai and gifted to the artist by a former student. In a new endeavor, he also embedded a wide array of found objects and substances into the medium. Most of these ingredients possess strong personal meanings for the artist: fragments of a broken glass vessel was a family heirloom; smatterings of ash came from last year's nearby wildfires; coins and other curio were found in the corners of his house and studio. Many are melted or transformed by the heat of the kiln, baking their associations and emotional charges into every work's base material.

Leener fires and re-fires his pieces, often in excess of 30 times, allowing their layers of customized glazes to mix, dry out, burn, and discolor. Their surfaces become kaleidoscopes of pearlescent hues and gritty, cratered textures, each distinct and irreproducible. These idiosyncrasies contrast with the repetition of shape and form; every work possesses a similar L-shaped structure, held in place by a bed-like base and headboard. Industrial motifs, such as miniature railings and narrow cylindrical orifices, commingle with more domestic intimations of soft bolsters and baby bassinets, barring any direct associations to everyday objects.

Instead, Leener's sculptures strike a subtle balance between fantasy and the familiar, teetering between worldly figuration and abstract invention. Born from a deeply intuitive process, every sculpture becomes a devout contemplation of a single universal form. Its reiteration begins to feel ritualistic, yet the works all retain their own singularity, with wide variations in adornments, textures, and shimmering colors, each uniquely shaped by the aleatory magic of the kiln.

–Juliana Halpert

**Zachary Leener (b. 1981) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Solo and two-person exhibitions include *Shekhinah*, Klaus von Nichtssagend, New York, NY (2020), *Family Practice*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada (2019), and *Zachary Leener: Three Sculptures*, Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, Davis, CA (2019). Select group exhibitions include *Soft Corners*, Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA (2018), *Softcore*, South Willard, Los Angeles, CA (2018), *Of a well-sucked apricot pit*, Tif Sigfrids, Los Angeles, CA (2017), and *Build Your Own House*, Dio Horia, Mykonos, Greece (2017). He received his MFA from University of California, Riverside and his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art.**