

Susan Hobbs

Katie Bethune-Leamen

Pickle Fingers

January 19 to February 25, 2023



Katie Bethune-Leamen's exhibition *Pickle Fingers* brings historical domestic languages of geometric abstraction—as found in 19th century 'red work' quilts and 1930s European spritzdekor ceramics—into the space of the gallery. Here, she makes their parallel to the aspirational, revolutionary languages of early avant-garde and spiritualist abstraction explicit. These references frame a large, slipcast porcelain tile sculpture that is extrapolated from the ceramic cladding of shared public spaces and circular porcelain works that emulate airbrushed dinnerware, themselves at times supporting small stacked marble and bronze pieces. Together, these materials speak in the range of references they encompass, from the utilitarian to the vaunted. They ensconce floor-based powder-coated bronze sculptures, studded and spiked, with reclaimed glass elements like giant brooches on the lapel of the gallery's floor or like sculptures that consider the deep affect of encounters with animals and their traces. Bethune-Leamen continues her work into making objects articulate the experience of living with them and being with each other in the context of material, objects, and consumption.

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