

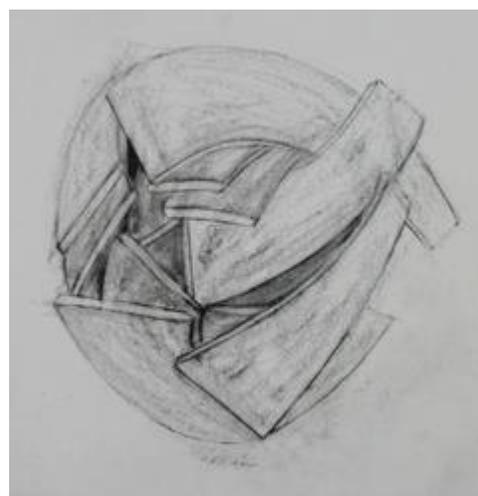
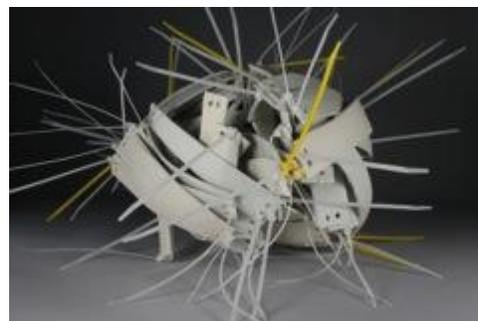
WILMA W. DANIELS GALLERY
200 HANOVER STREET
WILMINGTON, NC 28401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ... *Wilma W. Daniels Gallery* is pleased to present ***Bundles***, a solo exhibition of Aaron Wilcox's work, opening on Friday, May 17, 2013, and running until Monday, June 28, 2013. An opening reception for the artist will take place on Friday, May 24, from 6-9 p.m.

Bundles consists of nearly 30 ceramic sculptures, accompanied by digital photographs of details of the sculptures, and drawings of existing and speculative sculptures.

In this exhibition, Wilcox exploits the malleable nature of clay and the boundaries that arise in its fired form. His works are joyfully maniacal, with their endless yet subtly complex riffs on theme and variation. Strips of clay are thrown and stretched, fired (occasionally glazed), and bound by zip ties (often cut into sharp edges) in ways that challenge the materials' inherent characteristics with the demands of gravity and the artist's conceptual manipulations. In spite of the insistent restrictions placed upon the choice of elements and processes, each sculpture offers its own internal logic, associations, and formal analogies, ranging from meditative tranquility to clenched anxiety. The articulation of theme and variation is demanding in its call to observation and exquisite in its relentlessness.

Wilcox considers the sculptures residue of his studio practice, in which he aims to remove as many of his subjective tendencies as possible by establishing rules and limiting variables. For him, the formal oppositions that arise are unresolvable. He writes of embracing this irresolution: "Clay — Plastic; Old — New; Precious — Disposable; Rigid — Flexible; Heavy — Light." As a result, he states that the sculptures with zip ties make him very "uncomfortable." It is, in part, out of these dialogues of oppositions and discomforts that the photographs and drawings emerge. Cropped, enlarged, and often installed with disregard to the orientation of the original piece, the photographs of sculptural details propose moments of admiration for, and reinvention of, the original piece. The drawings serve a similar purpose, replacing the abundance of the ceramic strips with the repeated charcoal gesture. The resulting trio (sculptures, photographs, and drawings) captures and celebrates a rigorous investigation of the formal splendors of clay and the conceptual challenges arising from such an exploration.



Aaron Wilcox was born in Winston-Salem, NC. He has participated in many recent exhibitions, including *Handcrafted*, Maria V. Howard Arts Center, Rocky Mount, NC (2013); *Gallery Nomads: Down East*, Green Hill Center for NC Art, Greensboro, NC (2011); *5x5x(5)*, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA (2008); *Clay*, Gloria Kennedy Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (2007); *Clay National*, M.T. Burton Gallery, Surf City, NJ (2007), and the *International Festival of Postmodern Ceramics*, Croatian Ceramic Association, Varaždin (2005). Wilcox received an MFA in ceramics from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI (1998), and an M.A. in Liberal Studies (1994) and a B.A. in Religious Studies and Art (1992) from UNC Greensboro. He lives in Wilmington, NC, and is Associate Professor of Ceramics at UNC Wilmington.

Gallery Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Fridays, 10 a.m.–12:00 p.m., and Mondays and Wednesdays, 4 p.m.–5 p.m. The Gallery is operated by Cape Fear Community College and is located at 200 Hanover Street, in the first floor of the Hanover Parking Deck in downtown Wilmington.

Contact: Brandon Guthrie, bguthrie@cfcc.edu and (910) 362-7431; or Aaron Wilcox, wilcoxa@uncw.edu. Visit <http://cfcc.edu/blogs/wilmagallery/>.

