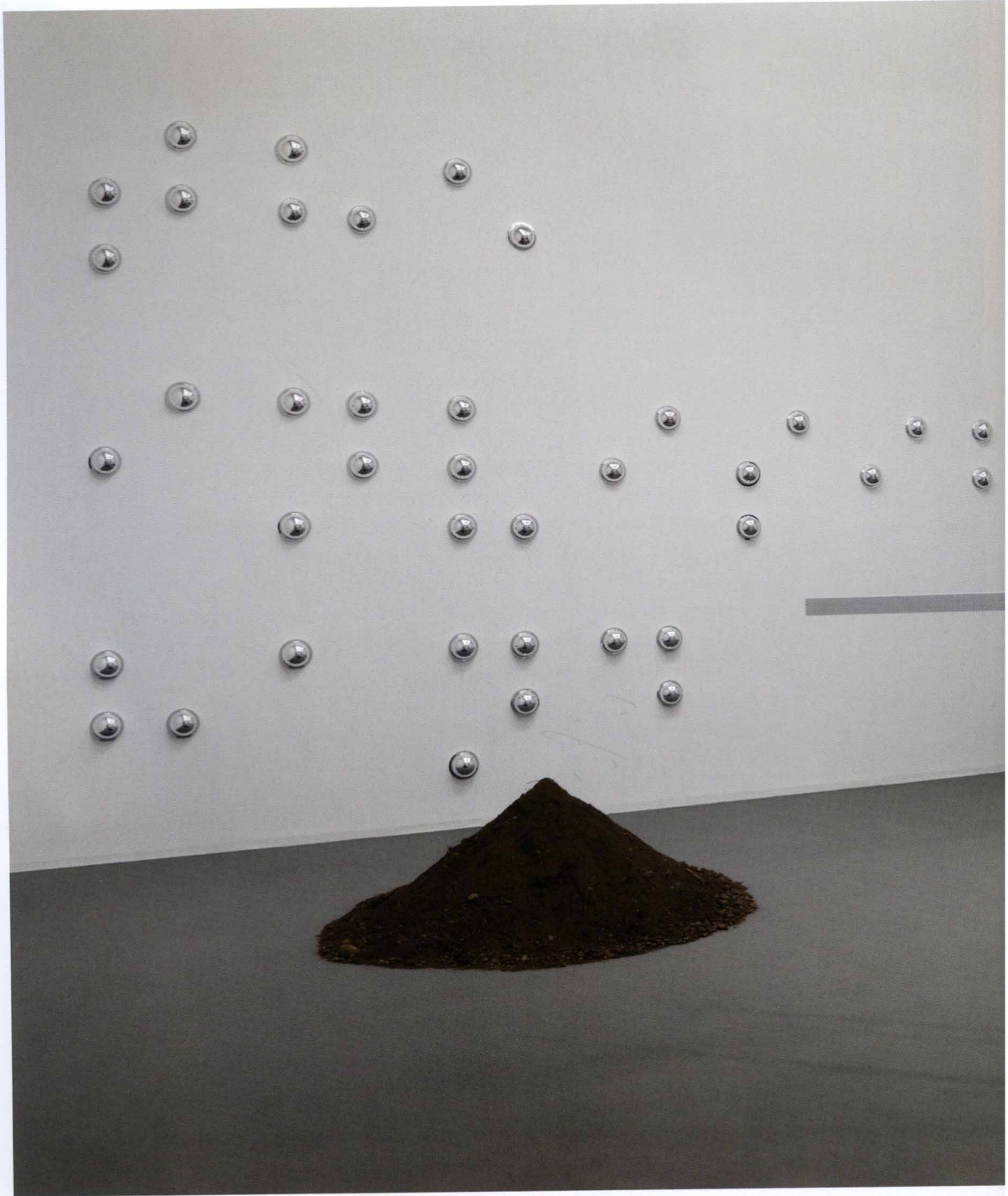


Ritter, Kathleen. "Damian Moppett." How Soon is Now. Vancouver Art Gallery, 2009. 8 - 9, 44 - 45.



INSTALLATION VIEW

Antonia Hirsch, Holly Ward, Damian Moppett and Christian Kliegel



Ritter, Kathleen. "Damian Moppett." How Soon is Now. Vancouver Art Gallery, 2009. 8 - 9, 44 - 45.

DAMIAN MOPPETT

45

Damian Moppett's artistic practice uses the vocabulary of Modernism to question inherited notions of craftsmanship, mastery and value. Drawing on a cast of notable references from the history of art—Constantin Brâncusi, Henry Moore, Tony Smith, Lygia Clark—Moppett often appropriates iconic works of modern art into his own practice in a gesture that is both an homage to the original and an irreverent doubling.

In particular, Moppett has refabricated other artworks into various platforms to use for his own display purposes, usurping the authority of the original by essentially equating it with a standard museum plinth. *Studio at Dawn* is modelled after Anthony Caro's austere, monumental steel sculpture *Early One Morning* (1962). Here, Moppett repurposes the sculpture as a platform for amateur ceramics, adding objects he crafts to Caro's basic frame over the course of the exhibition. The act of placing pottery on the sculpture reduces it to a ready-made, while creating a visual trap. Caro's sculpture is painted matte white, camouflaging it within the various framing apparatuses of the gallery (walls, shelves, plinths, etc.), while by contrast the pottery is finished in brightly coloured, glossy glazes. The pottery becomes a visual lure, drawing one into the space of the larger sculpture, whose massive size, long bars and sharp edges suspended high in the air appear subtly threatening. As different ceramic pieces are added over the course of the exhibition, Moppett disrupts conventional ideas of artistic process, amateurism and expertise, and challenges the idea of the art object as static.

Moppett received his MFA from Concordia University in 1995 and his BFA from Emily Carr College of Art + Design in 1992. He has exhibited in Canada and internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; Yvon Lambert, Paris, France; Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver; TrépanierBaer Gallery, Calgary; and Access Gallery, Vancouver; as well as group exhibitions at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; White Columns, New York; The Power Plant, Toronto; the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; and The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland. Born in Calgary, Moppett lives in Vancouver.

Studio at Dawn, 2009