BEAUTY SURPLUS:
SERRA VICTORIA BOTHWELL FELS

Serra Victoria Bothwell Fels is an artist from Brooklyn, New York. Her new exhibition at the Arts Center, Beauty Surplus, imagines how our world might be different if we accepted things even when they do not look perfect.

Serra was inspired by people and nature. Some of her art looks like caves, plants, and skin. Serra wants visitors to look closely and think about what is real and what is imaginary.

Beauty Surplus is the second year of the Arts Center’s Open House Project, which asks artists to create art in the rooms of the historic John Michael Kohler home.

WORDS TO KNOW

Exhibition: A display of artwork, and often other objects and artifacts, that all share something in common. Three possible examples are: they were all created by the same artist, are all created in the same medium, or tell a story from a moment in history.

Inspired: When someone or something gives you an idea to do or make something.

Historic (Place or Object): Something important or famous that people want to take care of so many people can see it and learn from it.
Do you ever try to make the sound an animal makes? Sounds like “moo” and “quack” are called onomatopoeias. It is a big word! Try sounding it out like this: “on - o - mah - toe - pee - ah”

Serra invented her own word to describe some of the ceramic shapes she created when she worked in the Kohler factory - “splat-ploops”! Serra explained that she would stand on a table and drop slip roll (a heavier clay) onto plastic on the floor to see the different shapes it would make.

What sounds would her other sculptures in *Beauty Surplus* make? Write your ideas below!