

BEAUTY SURPLUS

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 are all created by the same artist, they are all created in the same medium, or they all tell a story from a moment in history.

Site-specific: Artwork that is created just to be displayed in one space, such as a room, or a garden.

Altered: In art, to alter something is to change the way it looks.

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 worked together more, looked for new possibilities, believed in a bit of magic, and were kind to one another.

Beauty Surplus is **site-specific**. Serra **altered** the rooms with artworks specifically designed for the space that are inspired by the natural environment. Cavern-like ceilings, mysterious ceramic growths, walls with holes, and cloud-like structures transform the galleries. 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.

What does it sound like?

An onomatopoeia is a word that is a sound, for example “moo”, “boom!”, or “splash!”.

Serra created an onomatopoeia (“on – o – mah – toe – pee - ah”) to describe her ceramic work in *Beauty Surplus*.

She describes the sculptures she created when she worked in the Kohler factory as an artist-in-residence as “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 or share your ideas with a friend.



Images (left to right): *Beauty Surplus*; Serra Victoria Bothwell *Fels* installation view at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 2019.

Sounds like...



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