

# DAUMANTE STIRBYTE

*London, ON*

## BIOGRAPHY

Daumante Stirbyte (Dauma) was born and raised in Lithuania and moved to Ireland in 2007. She graduated from the National College of Art and Design (Ireland) in 2016 with a Bachelor of Design, specializing in ceramics. Dauma was a long-term international artist-in-residence at the London Clay Art Centre in Canada from 2017 to 2020, where she also taught sculpture classes. Since moving to Canada, she has taken part in numerous group shows, exhibitions, and fundraisers. She is currently represented by galleries across Ontario, including The Gardiner Museum in Toronto. Since July 2020, Dauma has been working independently from her home studio in London, ON.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

At the heart of my work lies escapism – clay gives me the freedom to create a universe of my own, a world full of strange things that perhaps don't fit in anywhere else. Growing up I hid in books and ghosts and aliens and mythical creatures. I hid in music, in video games, in quiet, lonely places. Running away to imaginary worlds felt safe and comforting. I spent a large part of my childhood on my grandparents' farms, surrounded by all kinds of animals and plants. I often use this love of nature as a driving force. I find the insect world exceptionally fascinating and inspiring, but I'm also very much interested in all things botanical. I love to create conceptually driven, peculiar characters with rich surfaces that quietly tell a story of their own. Lately, I have been working on pushing the boundaries of this surreal little world of mine further to include deeper, personal narratives and bring more figurative concepts to life.

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## CREATURES OF HABIT

"Have you ever wanted to be a fly on a wall? Perhaps you've experienced being snug as a bug? Maybe you're a social butterfly, or you've got ants in your pants, but I just think you're the bee's knees!

Insects have long fascinated me, they perform various rituals, have relationships, complex societal structures, and specific ways to communicate. I feel a strange kinship with ants, in particular, I relate to their busyness and sense of urgency. We're not all that different, us - the people and them - the tiny life forms that surround us. We often feel superior, yet we're all just creatures of habit.

The show explores these parallels, through a series of figurative and abstract forms, and references to self, while using nature as a metaphor for the human condition."

- Dauma

Wall Space gallery is proud to present Dauma's debut exhibition with the gallery, *Creatures of Habit*.

In her fantastical porcelain creations, Dauma offers equal doses of anthropomorphism and zoomorphism – the tendencies to equate human characteristics to the non-human and vice versa. This intentional flipping of perspectives is at the heart of Dauma's understanding of what it means to be human. She connects aspects of human experience to the structures and habits of the other-than-human to nod at the fact that we are not so dissimilar.

Through darkly comedic human figures and otherworldly porcelain creatures, Dauma explores nature as a metaphor for the human condition and escapism. Her hybrid flora-insect creatures are tethered to our world, but feel as though they originated in an alternate dimension. Humour is an underlying thread amidst the fantasy of Dauma's world; ants adorned in party hats partake in human rituals and indulgences, beetles are frosted like cupcakes with spirals of icing sprinkled with toppings, and flowers look back at us through human eyes. Dauma artfully combines humour and the uncanny to suggest that humans, in all our elaborate emotions and societal structures, are not so far removed from our earthly roots.

- Tiffany April  
Curator

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# CV

## EDUCATION

- 2012-2016 Bachelor of Design, National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland  
2011-2012 Fetac Level 5, Art and Design, Colaiste Dhulaigh College of Further Education, Dublin, Ireland

## SELECT EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Canadian Exhibition – The Ceramics Congress 2021*, Online Show  
2020 *Halloween Group Show*, The Benz Gallery, London, ON  
2019 *Feature*, Strand Fine Art, London, ON  
2019 *Put a Lid on It – London Clay Art Centre Juried Exhibition*, Strand Fine Art, London, ON  
2019 *Fusion Clay and Glass Show*, Wychwood Barns, Toronto, ON  
2019 *Daumante Stirbyte September Featured Artist*, The Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON  
2019 *UpwithArt Silent Auction Fundraiser for Relief of Homelessness*, Museum London, London, ON  
2019 *London Clay Art Centre Fall Exhibition*, London, ON  
2018 *Christmas Show*, Strand Fine Art, London, ON  
2018 *Christmas Pop Up*, Westland Gallery, London, ON  
2018 *London Clay Art Centre Fall Exhibition*, London, ON  
2018 *Fusion Clay and Glass Show*, Wychwood Barns, Toronto, ON  
2018 *Fusion Breakthrough Exhibition*, Robert Langen Gallery at Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, ON  
2018 *UpwithArt Silent Auction Fundraiser for Relief of Homelessness*, Museum London, London, ON  
2018 *London Clay Art Centre Spring Show*, London, ON  
2017 *6<sup>th</sup> South Huron Juried Art Exhibition*, Exeter, ON  
2017 *London Clay Art Centre Fall Exhibition*, London, ON  
2016 *Sculpture in Context*, National Botanical Gardens, Dublin, Ireland  
2016 *The Graduate Exhibition*, The Courthouse Art Centre, Tinahely, County Wicklow, Ireland  
2016 *Degree Show*, National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland  
2016 *Enantiodromia*, Zozimus Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
2015 *Alchemy*, Zozimus Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
2015 *Transform*, TileStyle, Dublin, Ireland

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## RESIDENCIES

2017-2020 International Artist in Residence, London Clay Art Centre, London, ON

## AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

2020 Toronto Visitor Guide 2020/2021, pg 41-43

2019 Create! Magazine Issue 16, Emerging Artist Feature, pg 172-173

2018 Best in Show Award, Fusion Breakthrough Exhibition, Robert Langen Gallery, Waterloo, ON

## TEACHING

2017 Fusion Makers Meet, Online Workshop

2019 Handbuilding Workshop, The Gardiner Museum, Toronto, ON

2018 Handbuilding Workshop, Hutton House, London, ON

2017-2020 Handbuilding/Sculpture Instructor, London Clay Art Centre, London, ON

2017 Intro to Mold Making Instructor, London Clay Art Centre, London, ON

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