

VARIATIONS ON SYMMETRY

Saturday, August 18, 2012 to Saturday, September 29, 2012



In the Main Gallery, Modern Fuel presents *Variations on Symmetry*, an exhibition of works by the artists **Eliza Au** (Richmond, BC) and **Ying-Yueh Chuang** (Toronto, On). The two artists show a personal translation of symmetry through their work in contemporary ceramics. Their work reflects a hybrid of Western and Eastern cultures, values and beliefs and examines symmetrical patterns and forms and their connection to the spiritual and natural world. Au's main influences are Islamic and Gothic patterns while Chuang is led by her influences to create work based on a fusion of plants or sea anemones. The two bodies of work exist on different points of the spectrum between the man-made (architecture) and the natural (botanical). These two ideas present themselves within the language of symmetry. Au and Chuang play with the idea of symmetry as an idea that is constantly in flux, which does not reference culturally specific symbols or practices.

Eliza Au received her BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (2005) and her MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University (2009). Au's work is ceramic based and centers around the process of slipcasting. She is interested in how sacred space is transformed by the use of pattern and geometry in Gothic and Islamic architecture. She previously taught at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University, the Emily Carr University of Art and Design and will be a sessional at the Alberta College of Art and Design in the fall of 2012.

Ying-Yueh Chuang was born in Taiwan and came to Canada in the early 1990's. She received a diploma of Fine Arts from Langara College, Vancouver, a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, and a Masters degree in Ceramics from NSCAD University, Halifax. She has exhibited locally, nationally and internationally in both juried and invitational exhibitions and has been the recipient of many grants and awards. She was the 2006 recipient of the Winifred Shantz National Emerging Artist Award for Ceramists, Canada.

See images of exhibition [here](#)

Exhibition brochure, including an essay by Claire Grady-Smith can be found [here](#).