DIRK STASCHKE & BRENDAN TANG: *NEW CERAMICS*
at GALLERY JONES
January 8-30, 2010, opening reception: Thursday, January 14th, 6-9pm

Dirk Staschke, *Swan Song*, 20" x 27" x 12",
mixed media and ceramic

Brendan Tang, *Manga Ormolu 5.0f*, 18.5" x 12" x 9",
mixed media and ceramic

Dirk Staschke and **Brendan Tang** are contemporary artists making aesthetically, socially and critically relevant work using a medium that is more often associated with art history and tradition. In the digital age, particularly in Vancouver, it is uncommon to see artwork made with clay that adroitly comments on the consequences of this information revolution. Globalization, cultural imperialism and the gluttony of excess are all themes present in the ceramic sculptures of Staschke and Tang, on display at Gallery Jones, Vancouver, from Jan 8 – 30, 2010.

Staschke, who holds a Masters Degree in Fine Art from Alfred University in New York, plays with the traditional idea of "still life" through sculpted arrangements overflowing with all manner of edible things, predominantly in their raw state. The abundance is pushed to the point of irony by the fact that, as it is presented, consuming what is offered would be hazardous.

Tang's work is a cultural amalgamation. Chinese Ming dynasty vessels fused with Japanese pop culture imagery are, like Staschke's work, subversive of what the tradition of ceramics implies, in this case eliminating the elitism implicit in the history of ornamental vases with the robotic prosthetics inspired by anime cartoons and graphic novels. Tang received a Master's Degree in Fine Art from the University of Southern Illinois.

Brendan Tang has recently had work included in several prominent exhibitions, including *How Soon Is Now?*, an exhibition of young artists from BC curated by Kathleen Ritter at the Vancouver Art Gallery, and *Nothing To Declare*, an exhibition currently showing at the Power Plant in Toronto featuring contemporary Canadian sculptors.

Dirk Staschke's work was included in the 5th World Ceramic Exposition Biennial in Gwango-dong, South Korea and a sculpture of his is now in the permanent collection of the Icheon Museum there. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas and The Smithsonian, American Art Museum, have also collected his work.