

# FOSTER/WHITE GALLERY

GABRIEL JOHN POUCHER

*All Structures Are Unstable*

2022

My work examines the disruption of organized systems through ceramic structures that draw inspiration from architecture, industrial aesthetics, and childhood construction toys. Following patterns found in architectural design and natural formations, assembling these frameworks begins with an organized approach. But clay is a capricious material, and as it responds to shifts in temperature, moisture, and the pressure of its own compounding weight, the stability of these structures deteriorates. As they are constructed, the forms will warp, separate, and collapse under the strain. For me, these sculptures are an exercise in letting go. Patterns are interrupted and restructured, becoming maximal and cacophonous - my interest lies in capturing the motion of change. The process is both playful and precarious, and as these systems develop and collapse, my role becomes more participatory than directorial. In this way, the structures evolve organically: my inclination is to design, but I am unable to predict. Akin to the construction toys referenced through texture, bright colors, and a building block approach to assembly, the impetus of my work is driven by an urge to explore new possibilities. Moment to moment, the entire sculpture may topple or split apart, changing its orientation completely. The only option is to readjust and continue building, and often the results of these "accidents" are far more interesting. For these pieces, the journey is the entire destination. These systems are allowed to respond naturally to the forces of entropy, and the resulting formations create snapshots of structures that exist in a state of perpetual flux - celebrating growth while embracing collapse.

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