



Greek Sledge  
stoneware, slip, glaze  
12" x 4" x 1.5"



Woven Masonry, stoneware, slip, glaze, 10.25" x 7" x 1"



African Claw, stoneware, slip, glaze, 12" x 4.5" x 1.25"

GALLERY PAGE AND STRANGE is a contemporary gallery located in the historic Granville Square of downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia. In close proximity to NSCAD University and other fine art shops and restaurants, the gallery is situated within the heart of the cultural district of the city.

**GALLERY  
PAGE AND  
STRANGE**

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GALLERY HOURS: Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm  
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# CAROLINE HOLDER

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Dec 10 - 23, 2009

GALLERY  
PAGE AND  
STRANGE

Egyptian Masonry  
stoneware, slip, glaze  
10.25" x 7" x 1"



## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Caroline Holder emigrated from England to Barbados at the age of four, where she lived until age eighteen. She attended university in Canada, studying Graphic Design and Painting at York University in Toronto, and completing a Diploma of Education in Visual Arts from McGill.

Holder moved to New York City, becoming the Art Specialist at The Professional Children's School in 1993. She started taking ceramics classes at the West Side Y to teach it to her own students, and fell in love with clay, which has been her primary medium ever since. In addition to teaching, Holder was a studio assistant and then manager for several years, before founding Gone To Pot, a small ceramics business. Subsequently, she returned to Canada, to NSCAD University in Nova Scotia, to pursue an MFA in Craft (Ceramics). Its completion found her back in New York City and teaching at PCS. Holder maintains a studio in the city.

Holder has received recognition for her work, in scholarships, awards and nominations. She won Best of Show in "Tea, Glorious Tea" at Revolution Gallery in Jamaica in 2005, the Joseph Beuys and MFA Scholarships at NSCAD in 2003, and a nomination to the Horizons Arts Award show in 2002. Her exhibition record includes shows in the US, Canada and the Caribbean, and her work is in private collections internationally, including that of Barbados' National Art Gallery Committee. Holder is currently affiliated with Gallery Page and Strange in Nova Scotia, and Diaspora Vibe Gallery in Florida. Holder just presented her first solo show in the New York area, "Belly and the Beast" at the African American Museum of Nassau County.

African Ballpeen  
stoneware, slip, glaze  
12.5" x 3.75" x 1.25"



## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

My work fluctuates between functional, semi-functional and sculptural ceramic objects, using hand building, throwing and slip-casting separately and in combination. I frequently use utilitarian forms as a starting point, which are as likely as not to deviate from their original function by the time they are done. The surfaces alternately acknowledge and deny the supporting forms, superimposed across the contours to flatten and distort, or picking up some small detail to reinforce and restate. Drawings alternate with pure investigations of pattern and texture achieved by repetitive mark making. Fun is always a significant element in the work, whether it comes from the choice of object, the process of drawing, the image content or from the meditative, labor-intensive processes of design and construction.

The hammer series was developed when, after hearing so much about weapons of mass destruction, I started contemplating weapons of personal destruction. While the hammer does not leap to mind as an efficient "weapon" of any kind, in the context of murder mysteries, of which I am very fond, it fits the bill for a crime of passion. Having made one hammer, and found the form seductive, I was led to discover a whole world of different hammers, each with a specialized function, none of which will work here given that one of the realities of making porcelain hammers is that their use heralds their destruction. My tendency towards ornament pointed me to rekindle a waning tradition of embellishing tools elaborately in apparent disproportion to their mundane use, making them things of beauty and a joy to use.

Caroline Holder, 2009



Woven Sledge, stoneware, slip, glaze, 12" x 4" x 1.5"



African Tack, stoneware, slip, glaze, 9.5" x 3.875" x .625"