

Chinamania

On view July 9, 2016–June 4, 2017, Freer|Sackler

Lee Glazer, curator
Walter McConnell, artist

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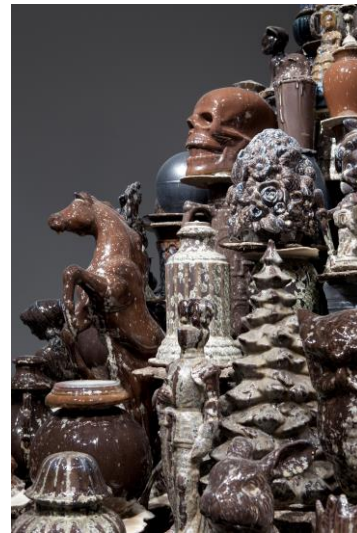
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Contemporary artist Walter McConnell's interest in replication and the serialized mass production of ceramic forms began more than a decade ago. He began his series *A Theory of Everything* after he traveled to China in 2002 and witnessed the mind-boggling ceramics production sites at Jingdezhen. Each sculpture comprises hundreds and hundreds of individual elements—imitation Ming vases, smiling Buddhas, grim reapers, historical icons, and cartoon characters—that the artist casts from molds recycled from the hobby industry. The figures are enveloped in mineral-rich crystalline glazes that, when fired at extremely high temperatures, yield complex surface textures and rich tonal variations.

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Walter McConnell, *A Theory of Everything: Dark Stupa*, 2014. Porcelain, 264.2 × 284.5 cm. Photo courtesy Cross MacKenzie Gallery, Washington, DC.



Walter McConnell, detail, *A Theory of Everything: Dark Stupa*, 2014. Porcelain, 264.2 × 284.5 cm. Photo courtesy Cross MacKenzie Gallery, Washington, DC.

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Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery



FREER | SACKLER
THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUMS OF ASIAN ART



Walter McConnell, *A Theory of Everything: White Stupa*, 2004–16. Porcelain, 264.2 × 284.5 cm. Photo courtesy Cross MacKenzie Gallery, Washington, DC.



Walter McConnell, detail, *A Theory of Everything: White Stupa*, 2004–16. Porcelain, 264.2 × 284.5 cm. Photo courtesy Cross MacKenzie Gallery, Washington, DC.