

**PRESSBOOK**

Genesis BELANGER

*Galerie*

*November 2018*

**Genesis Belanger** Surrealism may be a century old, but Brooklyn

artist Genesis Belanger breathes new life into the conceptual movement with her droll, alluring sculptures. Hand-rolled in clay, porcelain, and concrete, the works often merge furniture shapes with classic still life objects, which are tinted in candy-color hues whose cheerful effect belies a pointed edge. A centerpiece features a woman’s erotic lips and tongue sprouting from a bouquet of flowers. A life-size vanity table is cluttered with the belongings of a “hot-mess character” of Belanger’s imagination: perfume, booze, a melted chocolate bar. “It’s funny and sad at the same time,” she says. “I was thinking about how we marginalize women as they age—just when we become more dynamic and have more interesting things to say.”

Based on her exhibition schedule, Belanger has a surfeit of interesting things to say. Her new sculptures are currently paired with paintings by fellow Brooklyn artist Emily Mae Smith at New York’s Perrotin gallery (through December 22). Two solo shows follow: at Ghebaly Gallery in Los Angeles in May and Rodolphe Janssen gallery in Brussels in the fall. Yet despite a red-hot career, Belanger took a circuitous route. She studied fashion design at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and built props for advertising campaigns in Manhattan before earning her MFA from Hunter College, where she was accepted into the painting program only to be captivated by clay. “It’s easy to find art in the abject, that touches some dark discord,” she says, “but I think it’s possible to make work that is relevant *and* beautiful.”

*genesisbelanger.com* —VICKY LOWRY

**Above left:** José Yaque’s “Kind of Blue” solo show included *Phtalo-Prussia I* (2018), an intoxicating wave of paint and enamel on canvas. **Right:** A 2018 stoneware-and-porcelain work, entitled *Center Piece*, by sculptor Genesis Belanger (below).



FROM TOP, COURTESY DAVID GILL GALLERY; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MRS. GALLERY, NEW YORK; STEVE BENISTY