

# INLIQUID art+ DESIGN <sup>TM</sup>

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Images Available upon Request

**InLiquid at the Crane Hall** presents

## ***Motifs***

Work by **Shannon Donovan**

**May 11 – June 26, 2011**

### **The Hall at the Crane Arts Building**

1400 N. American Street, Philadelphia, PA  
Second Thursday receptions:  
May 12 and June 9, 6 - 9 pm



Shannon Donovan, *Of Nature Made* 2009. Ceramic objects, wallpaper, altered tree branches, gold leaf, gold enamel, 156" x 48" x 12"

(Philadelphia, May 2011) **InLiquid** presents ***Motifs***, work by artist Shannon Donovan in the Hall at the Crane Arts Building. There will be an opening reception for the artist on **Second Thursday, May 12, 2011** from 6 to 9 pm, and an additional reception on June 9, 2011 from 6 to 9 pm.

In this exhibition, Donovan describes a motif through its common definition as a recurrent visual or narrative theme. This exhibition provided the artist with the opportunity to reflect on motifs in her own work and extend them in new directions. The works on display here embody four primary motifs:

*Decorativeness -- the use of traditional patterns and objects from the domestic lexicon is integral to my work. In an era where visual flourishes and "prettiness" are sometimes distrusted as superficial or unnecessary, I take "decorative" as a compliment.*

*Translation -- crochet becomes clay, clay becomes flowers, branches become fabric. Nature is incorporated but not replicated. Stylization is emphasized.*

*Cross-pollination -- wallpaper patterns and fabrics reference nature; nature in turn is trimmed, dressed, and painted, added to the patterns, and asked to behave.*

*Exuberance -- unabashed, unironic, joyous visual expression is the essence of my visual philosophy. There is no shame in what you love. "Tasteful" is arbitrary.*

*-Shannon Donovan*

*Continued...*

Shannon Donovan creates pseudo-domestic environments in which clay is the primary medium. These environments ask us to think about décor as an expression of social status and taste. The artist's installations cross boundaries of expectation in rendering the functional decorative, and in challenging ideas about the use and meaning of ceramics. Through transformation of mundane objects and cultural detritus, she promotes interplay between nature and artifice, fostering a cycle of cross-pollination between outdoors and in, and champion Flaubert's claim that exuberance is better than taste.

The public hours for the Crane Arts Building are noon – 6 pm, Wednesday – Sunday, and until 9 pm on the Second Thursday of each month.

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**ABOUT INLIQUID**

Founded in 1999, InLiquid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization dedicated to expanding opportunities and exposure for visual artists while serving as a freely-accessible hub for arts information. By providing the public with immediate access to view the portfolios of over 270 artists via the internet, through "real world" activities and exhibitions in a variety of venues, and through an extensive online body of timely art information ---- including gallery listings, articles, reviews, artist resources, links, and discussions ---- InLiquid brings to light the richness of our region's art activity and broadens audiences for all forms of visual culture. **[www.inliquid.org](http://www.inliquid.org)**