



# ***HEY PICCOLO!***

## **JEREMY ANDERSON**

JF Chen  
931 North Highland Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA  
May 20 through June 18, 2022

In his first Los Angeles show, Hey Piccolo!, artist Jeremy Anderson, who works in the ceramics medium, mines the anthropomorphic tensions, playfulness, and individuality of his stoneware Piccolo and Vessel sculptures. Anderson, in debuting a new body of work at J.F. Chen, demonstrates an evolution in experimentation and layering, a departure from his earlier, more restrained body of sculpture. This show ushers in a more whimsical, textural, and looser style than the artist had previously cultivated in his Piccolo characters, in which his experimentation with glaze, ribbing, and color take center stage. To this end, the personalities he imbues his sculptures with are amplified to playful and colorful effect.

From the beginning of his work with ceramics, the act of creating has served Anderson as a conduit to tap into childlike play: the process of throwing, assembling, and painting built around meditative make-believe that the artist yearns for in his adult self. Each sculpture is multifaceted and unique; it is in their collectiveness, however, that the contours of the human condition begin to form, modulating between perfections and imperfections and highlighting the hybrid of tensions that underpin our collective experience as individuals within a society.

Anderson has turned to ceramics throughout his life to explore himself creatively. Made by hand in his ceramics studio in Rhinebeck, New York, and as a studio artist at La Mano Pottery in Manhattan, Anderson creates in introspection that is steeped in fantasy. While assembling wheel-thrown forms one day, he made an off-center hole at the top of a piece; it breathed life into the object, turning the vessel into a character. This act opened up a new creation dialogue, and the outlines of his inspiration began to coalesce around rich and disparate visual and nostalgic fodder. Anderson named these off-center hole pieces Piccolo, a term of playful endearment a former boyfriend who perished in a car crash in 2001 called him. He speaks to his work, and as such his sculptures have taken on a life of their own.

In this nascent body of sculpture, Anderson contemplates the way water interacts with and distorts objects through light. Hey Piccolo!, in its elaborate forms, seeks to emulate the movement water lends to objects beneath its surface, reflecting and refracting sunlight to create multitudes. His color range, which he has expanded in this series, is informed by Japanese textiles and kimono color combinations. The lighthearted nature of Memphis, and a rejection of the notion that design must be serious to be meaningful are evident. Broader brushstrokes and a painterly hand that seeks visibility— not perfection—characterize each Piccolo. Anderson yearns to push the limits of the material, and play with extremes in scale. From the short and squat to the impossibly large, the artist leaves room for experimentation and inherently, mistakes.

The silhouettes of the Piccolos are similarly brutalist and elemental, fusing the sinuous and sensual with the linear in a seamless motion that beckons to be touched. And that is Anderson's objective; he believes in the functionality of the ceramic medium, and dispenses with the precious idea that ceramic sculpture ought to be set on a plinth the way a painting is housed in a frame. Anderson's work invites the viewer into his world.

Hey Piccolo! coaxes dialogue not just between the sculptures themselves in contrasting and harmonious cadences, but invites the viewers assumptions, imagination, and playfulness to bear. It is also, ultimately, a meditation on life practice. "I develop a relationship with these human-like objects, but part of the process is letting them go, allowing them their own lives beyond me."

Forward by Mieke ten Have  
Images by Ethan Herrington







*PICCOLO 95*, 2021  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
6 x 5.25 x 5.25 Inches





*PICCOLO 96, 2021*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
8.25 x 5.75 x 5.75 Inches



*PICCOLO 97*, 2021  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre  
6.25 x 8 x 8 Inches











*PICCOLO 98*, 2021  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre  
10 x 8 x 8 Inches









*PICCOLO 99*, 2021  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
15.5 x 8.5 x 7.5 Inches



*PICCOLO 100*, 2021  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
9 x 7.5 x 6.5 Inches





*PICCOLO 101*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze  
9.75 x 6 x 6 Inches







*PICCOLO 102*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre,  
White Gold Lustre  
7.25 x 6 x 5 Inches



*PICCOLO 103, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold  
Lustre, 22K Gold Lustre  
6.75 x 7 x 7 Inches







*PICCOLO 104*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze  
19 x 11 x 11 Inches











*PICCOLO 105*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre  
7.25 x 13 x 13 Inches







*PICCOLO 107, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
22.5 x 15 x 15 Inches







*PICCOLO 108*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre  
32 x 12.5 x 11 Inches







*PICCOLO 109*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
11 x 9 x 9 Inches





*PICCOLO 110*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre  
13.5 x 10 x 9.5 Inches







*PICCOLO 111*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze, White Gold  
Lustre, 22K Gold Lustre  
10.25 x 8 x 7 Inches









*PICCOLO 112, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
27 x 15 x 13 Inches





*VESSEL 20, 2021*  
Stoneware, Glaze  
12.25 x 9 x 9 Inches



*VESSEL 21, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze, White  
Gold Lustre, 22K Gold Lustre  
22 x 7 x 7 Inches







*VESSEL 22, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre  
31.75 x 13 x 13 Inches







*VESSEL 23*, 2022  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
26 x 12.25 x 11.25 Inches





*VESSEL 24, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze  
16.75 x 11 x 11 Inches



*VESSEL 25, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
22K Gold Lustre  
13.25 x 7 x 7 Inches







*VESSEL 26, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre,  
22K Gold Lustre  
30.5 x 13 x 13 Inches







*VESSEL 27, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze,  
White Gold Lustre  
19.75 x 10 x 10 Inches





*VESSEL 28, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze  
18 x 12 x 12 Inches



*VESSEL 29, 2022*  
Stoneware, Glaze  
29.5 x 13 x 13 Inches







*TOTEM PICCOLO 2 (front), 2019*  
Stoneware, Glaze  
36 x 16 x 16 Inches





TOTEM PICCOLO 2 (back), 2019  
Stoneware, Glaze  
36 x 16 x 16 Inches



*TOTEM PICCOLO 3 (front), 2019*  
Stoneware, Glaze  
49 x 12 x 10 Inches





*TOTEM PICCOLO 3 (back), 2019*  
Stoneware, Glaze  
49 x 12 x 10 Inches

