

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Amy Rummel, Director of Marketing and Public Relations  
(402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org

# Arlene Shechet

A RILEY CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS PROJECT GALLERY EXHIBITION

Now through September 9 at Joslyn Art Museum

(Omaha, NE) – Arlene Shechet's (American, b. 1951) idiosyncratic sculptures are a study in contradictions, balancing the beautiful with the grotesque, natural forms with human interventions, and humor with stoicism.



Although Shechet acknowledges the influence of traditional earthenware vessels on her work, she resists conventional techniques for working in ceramics and has little interest in creating functional objects. Instead, she emphasizes the opportunity for discovery that her chosen medium encourages, saying, "I began working with clay because I wanted a material with a history but also a plasticity that would allow me to make anything. Clay provides an opportunity for building slowly, poking around, and figuring things out while finding what I want to make by making it, rather than thinking it and then making it." In embracing improvisation and play, Shechet assures that her aesthetic is constantly evolving.

Known for her mastery of glazing while also welcoming the element of chance that accompanies working with ceramics, Shechet achieves alluring surfaces, rich with imperfections. Often, she rests her ceramic constructions on pedestals composed of seemingly more durable materials, such as steel, wood, and concrete. Designed by the artist, these sturdy bases serve as both foil and complement to the lively clay forms they support.

On view at Joslyn June 2 through September 9, *Arlene Shechet* is included in free general Museum admission. Riley Contemporary Artists Projects Gallery exhibitions are supported in part by Douglas County, Terry & Catherine Ferguson, and Polina & Bob Schlott.

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*John Divola at Joslyn Art Museum*

### About the Artist

Arlene Shechet (American, b. 1951) received a BA from New York University, New York City, and an MFA at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence. She has recently been featured in solo exhibitions at venues including Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C., The Frick Collection, New York City, and Contemporary Art Museum St Louis (all 2016); Institute of Contemporary Art Boston (2015); Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC (2013); and Museum of Contemporary Art Denver (2009). Shechet's work has been included in group exhibitions at venues including Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS, The Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH, and Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (all 2017); Brooklyn Museum of Art (2016); and Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (both 2009).

### About Joslyn's Riley CAP Gallery

A 500-square-foot space in the Scott Pavilion suite of galleries, the Riley CAP Gallery showcases nationally- and internationally-recognized artists, as well as emerging talent, selected by Joslyn curators. A rotating schedule of carefully focused exhibitions will examine how artists engage with the world and respond to the issues that challenge them creatively, bringing new perspectives on contemporary art to Nebraska. Riley CAP Gallery artists will be invited to Joslyn for lectures and other public programs, giving audiences the opportunity to gain insight into creative processes and contribute to an expanded dialogue about new art. The first Joslyn gallery dedicated exclusively to living artists, the Riley CAP Gallery represents an important step in making contemporary art an even more integral component of the Museum's exhibition programming.

PICTURED: (PAGE 1) Arlene Shechet (American, b. 1951), *Long Form*, 2017, glazed ceramic, wood, painted steel, 46 1/2 x 28 x 14 in., © Arlene Shechet; photo: Phoebe d'Heurle

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 **JOSLYN** Art Museum **Our Mission** — Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience. **Our Vision** — To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The

Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

**General Museum Admission:** Free (the *Arlene Shechet* exhibition is included in free general Museum admission).

**Regular Museum Hours (includes exhibition):** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

**www.joslyn.org | (402) 342-3300 | 2200 Dodge Street | Omaha, NE 68102**