

# DEC THE WALLS EXHIBITION

## FEATURING NYSCA DECENTRALIZATION GRANTEES

LAUREN SKELLY BAILEY, *CREATIVE INDIVIDUAL GRANT 2018*

### DEC PROJECT: "MARINE DEBRIS AWARENESS"

In the spring of 2018, Lauren Skelly Bailey was awarded two grants from the New York State Council on the Arts through the Huntington Art Council to bring about awareness of how important it is to keep beaches clean and how global warming is bleaching coral lives. Bailey created new works, taught hands-on clay workshops, and hosted beach clean ups in her community thanks to the support of these grants. Her work explored coral bleach events caused by global warming in clay. It included neon colors and white as a symbol of warning, not rebirth.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dedicated to the investigations of ceramics, Lauren Skelly Bailey explores surface, form, and the layering of histories in her sculptures. Bailey draws from nature, architecture, and objects tooled by man to assemble installations and sculptures. In 2015, Lauren received her Master of Fine Arts from Rhode Island School of Design with a concentration in ceramics. At RISD, Bailey focused on constructing new textures in clay in the form of coral reef beds and creating multiple fired conglomerates. These experiments furthered Bailey's knowledge in ceramic materials. Prior to RISD, Bailey received her B.F.A. in fine arts and a M.A. in studio arts (concentration in ceramics) from Adelphi University. Bailey's work was recently on view in a solo show at the Museum of Arts & Design (MAD) in Manhattan. The show surveyed her "funk-tional" and sculptural works that revolve around craft, coral reefs, and installation art. In 2017, Bailey had the opportunity to participate as a resident artist in MAD's Artist Studio Program. Her project focused on bringing the city's architecture into her practice through the use of metallic colors and historical molding she found on her journey into the city and the museum. In 2016, Bailey had her first solo show, "Freshly Funk", at the Clay Art Center. The exhibition highlighted Bailey's conglomerate sculptures, assemblages; lively vessels; and a site-specific installation of her floral corals, entitled "Constructing Awkward Beauty". The opportunity was awarded to Bailey by Glenn Adamson, Barry Harwood, David McFadden, and Jennifer Scanlan of the Clay Art Center. Since 2008, Bailey has nationally exhibited her art. The artist currently works in her East Meadow, NY, studio.