

July 7 - August 10, 2023



The Unimagined Place

An exhibition by Carbondale Clay Center
Resident Ceramic Artists Brian Chen &
Gabby Gawreluk (2021-2023)

**Generously sponsored by Angela Bruno and
the Carbondale Clay Center. Thank you!**

At the Carbondale Arts Gallery
in The Launchpad (76 S 4th Street)
carbondalearts.com | 970-963-1680
Open weekdays 10am - 5pm

BRIAN CHEN



My work is a combination of childhood aspiration, personal escapism, and existentialism. I use the idea of form following function, in the context of biology, architecture, and design, as a guideline to create. I enjoy making forms that pull the viewer's eye with a sense of familiarity, awe, and curiosity. The goal of my studio practice is to tap into a child-like wonder about something that could have been or might become.

My academic path took me through human anatomy and kinesiology. Systems of tissues and organs working together, having specific roles and relationships to make an organism function made so much sense. My work uses shapes influenced by anatomy and science-fiction/fantasy where two vessels are related by form, function, and aesthetic. Parts of one functioning whole. Without one or the other, the object would be rendered useless. However, each individual part carries its own weight in design and aesthetic. Evolution has given us beautiful anatomical shapes and physiological relationships, each designed for a specific function, to help each and every organism survive under different selective pressures. I want to capture that moment of awe when looking at something designed by nature over millions of years.

Clay has been incredibly therapeutic for me. It has given me space without the pressure and lessons without the shame. I have met communities and people I would have never had the pleasure of meeting. It is technical enough

to keep me interested, frustrated, and humbled. Pursuing a career in clay has allowed me to trust myself in all aspects of life. It can be community oriented and solitary at the same time, in the best way. Clay has given me something to do with a group of good people in a rather arbitrary world. An escape that seems to become more and more real the more I create.

Learn more about Brian and his work at brianchenpottery.com or on Instagram [@brianchenpottery](https://www.instagram.com/brianchenpottery)

GABBY GAWRELUK



Originally from Minnesota, Gabby received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. In 2018, she completed one year expanding her art practice as a special student at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. From 2019-2020, she attended

Colorado State University as a Post-Baccalaureate student.

Gabby constructs functional and sculptural ceramics that are constructed from wheel thrown parts and slabs of clay. Her work is featured in juried and invitational exhibitions in galleries around the nation. During the spring of 2020, she was selected to be a summer resident at The Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana.

Before moving to back to Colorado, she was an Anonymous Artist Fellow at Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Gabby now resides in Carbondale, Colorado where she is an Artist in Residence at Carbondale Clay Center.

Learn more about Gabby and her work at gabbygawreluk.com or on Instagram [@g_luckceramics](https://www.instagram.com/g_luckceramics)

About the Carbondale Clay Center's ceramic artist residency program

Designed to encourage the creative, intellectual and personal growth of emerging and established ceramic artists, this program is an ideal opportunity for a developing artist who is looking for a place to pursue focused work while gaining teaching experience and valuable technical skills. The selections are based on the quality and artistic merit of the work, and the diversity of the prospective group in terms of commitment, work, background, and stage of career development. There are up to three residents at a time. Ceramic artist residencies range from one to two years, starting September 1st and ending August 31st each year.

Brian and Gabby are the ceramic artists-in-residence from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023.

Learn more about the residency program at www.carbondaleclay.org/residency-about

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Carbondale Clay Center and Angela Bruno. Angela is the executive director of the Carbondale Clay Center. The Carbondale Clay Center has been an important part of the Roaring Fork Valley and the field of ceramics since the Center's inception in 1997. Learn more at carbondaleclay.org

Special thanks to both Brian Chen and Gabby Gawreluk for installing their exhibition "The Unimagined Place" as well as to the Carbondale Clay Center for use of some shelving and pedestals.

About Carbondale Arts

Founded in 1974, Carbondale Arts builds an inclusive and vibrant community through the arts, supporting Carbondale's identity as a place that fosters creativity, collaboration, innovation, and artistic exploration.

Our dedication to this mission has been transformational to the history of Carbondale. We are made possible by volunteers, the generosity of our sponsors and community partners, collaborations with fellow non-profits, schools, local and state governments, and businesses.

Know Your Artist, Know Your Art

Carbondale Arts believes in the power of art and we know you do, too. There is a deep connection that happens when you purchase a piece of art, and getting to know the artist makes that connection even deeper. Carbondale Arts hosts over 10 art exhibitions every year. Find some art you love and dive in.

Gallery Committee Members

Staff: Jamie Abbott, Brian Colley, Staci Dickerson

Non-staff: Savanna LaBauve (chair), Leslie Neveu, Marilyn Lowey, Nichole O'Neil, Sally Nicholson, Elliot Norquist, Laura Stover, and Matt Vickers

Learn more about this exhibition and visit the space virtually online at carbondalearts.com/exhibitions



Carbondale Arts

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