

MASS MoCA

***Daniel Giordano: Love from Vicki Island* showcases provocative assemblages that evoke the complexities of the post-industrial age**

***Daniel Giordano: Love from Vicki Island* is on view February 4, 2023 – January 2024**

North Adams, MA, December 15, 2022 – Amarelli liquorice, Husqvarna motocross bikes, cattails, and railroad spikes: artist Daniel Giordano sources these materials and more on the streets of Newburgh, New York and along the banks of the nearby Hudson River to make provocative and playful sculptures which speak to his hometown and heritage. This February, MASS MoCA is delighted to present Daniel Giordano's first solo museum exhibition, *Love From Vicki Island*, which will fill one of the museum's third floor gallery spaces beginning February 4, 2023.

Giordano's eclectic assemblages reflect his immediate surroundings and daily experience: his family, his Italian-American heritage, and the post-industrial realities of his hometown. He works in his family's now-defunct factory, the former Vicki Clothing Company, which Giordano's grandfather founded and named for his daughter. The studio overflows with memories and material remnants of previous enterprise. Singer sewing machines, rolls of fabric, giant spools of thread, and metal hangers share space with lumps of bricks, eels, tennis balls, strawberry Nesquik powder, boxes of Murano glass shards, cartons of discontinued lipstick, and other items Giordano amasses for inspiration.

At the steel cutting tables once occupied by seamstresses, Giordano crafts his serial works by hand, both mimicking and subverting processes of mass production. He combines industrial artifacts, processed foodstuffs, and organic matter with components he crafts in ceramic and cast aluminum, transforming familiar elements into "portraits" of his family and his hometown. Giordano's works evoke the assemblages of predecessors such as George Herms and Bruce Conner, though Giordano's influences range far and wide – Francis Bacon, Paul McCarthy, Samurai culture, Japanese art of the Edo Period, Etruscan chariots and boyhood figurines and fantasy figures all find their way into the artist's sculptural language, evident in his masks, pipes (an homage to his grandfather Frank), and the many portraits of the artist's brother, a primary muse and an alter-ego.

Giordano both recognizes and satirizes traditional stereotypes of masculinity in his works, experimenting with materials and symbols like bison tails, Bald eagle excrement, and playboy bunny ears that conjure masculinist America. The 34 works on view in the exhibition likewise express change and deterioration; rotting food, candied fruit, and decaying materials evoke rot and its more positive form, decomposition. Grappling with a culture in transition, the works in this exhibition speak simultaneously to a family, a city, and a country trying to reconcile the past with the present while envisioning a new image – new forms – that contain the complexities of both.

Artist Bio

Giordano (b. 1988, Poughkeepsie) earned his MFA from the University of Delaware in 2016. He has had solo exhibitions at the Rosenberg Gallery, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York; Wil Aballe Art Projects, Vancouver, Canada; and Sardine, Brooklyn. The artist's work has been featured in group exhibitions in New York: at Fortnight Institute, Zurcher Gallery, Fridman Gallery, JDJ, Anonymous, Morgan Lehman, and at Mother, Beacon, New York. He is a recipient of the AIM fellowship at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. Giordano's work has been featured in Art Spiel, Canadian Art, Cultured Magazine, and Sculpture Magazine which spotlighted his work in a 12-page feature article in 2020. For additional information, see <http://www.danielgiordano.xyz>

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