

Heather Kaplan  
[hgkaplan@gmail.com](mailto:hgkaplan@gmail.com)  
[www.hgkaplan.com](http://www.hgkaplan.com)

Artist Statement:

My studio practice revolves around play and experimentation and the pieces that I create convey the language of toys, figurines, and collectibles in their form, content, and size. Because of their size, what they are made of, their interchangeability, and their figurative qualities my works deal with the imaginative. Like figurines and toys my work begs to be arranged, rearranged, and played with. Because of this I consider the arrangements in flux and open to rearrangement by others. I am intrigued by the possibilities and open-ended nature of working with parts and am invigorated by the ways that others (curators, gallerists, and the viewer/audience) might reinvision my work in yet to be conceived arrangements.

Texture and form drive my decision making as well as a desire to keep the content and narrative fluid. I work primarily in low fire clay where I render some of the forms by hand and others are cast and altered. I work with raw clay and I apply many layers of glaze and re-fire the pieces multiple times in order to achieve my surfaces.

I am drawn to complex forms and textures and find that my decision making in terms of what elements to include for others to later play with, curate, and rearrange has to do with an interest in figuration, pattern (particularly where pattern and repetition break down into texture) and an exploration of play and childlike aesthetics –the aesthetics of carnival, festival, imagination, and play. I also assume that what I am drawn to play with, to rearrange, to look at more closely, and am generally fascinated with will catch the fascination of others. I work with and foster this interest and through this experimentation with forms, color, and texture, I am questioning aesthetics of interaction, play, and adult relations to children and childhood.