

SHANE  
CAMPBELL  
GALLERY

Ocean Drive Magazine  
April 2015

# Why Painter Joanne Greenbaum Started Sculpting

By Brett Sokol



For her show at Miami's Michael Jon Gallery, painter Joanne Greenbaum trades in her canvases for clay.

2021 S WABASH AVE  
CHICAGO IL 60616  
+1 (312) 226 2223

# SHANE CAMPBELL GALLERY

Give Joanne Greenbaum credit for refusing to stand still. On the heels of rave reviews for the New York City-based painter's latest work—wall-size canvases sporting a Technicolor Twombly-esque sea of furiously intertwined lysergic lines—Greenbaum dramatically changed gears.

For her current show at the Little River neighborhood's Michael Jon Gallery, Greenbaum has set aside painting entirely, instead exhibiting a selection of small sculptures. "Painting is more intellectual and in my head," she explains, citing the inevitable subconscious pressures that arise from having spent nearly three decades honing her practice, both in and out of academia. "The whole history of painting goes into it; everything I am goes into it. Sculpture is a much more physical, instinctual process. I allow something else to take over."

To be fair, Greenbaum's sculptures aren't entirely divorced from her paintwork. Many have been left purposely unglazed with a bright white surface, onto which she draws and, yes, paints, in styles that evoke her familiar hypnotic looping. If the overall effect remains strikingly raw, almost primordial, credit Greenbaum's self-taught aesthetic.

When she first enrolled in an advanced sculpture class near her home, in order to access their kiln, "I'd never even touched clay before," she admits. "I thought I'd just wing it. It was awkward at first, but eventually I figured out how to construct something that wasn't going to fall apart or blow up. The teacher looked at me like I was nuts: 'Who is this crazy woman?' Everybody else was making pots and functional objects, and I'm making stuff that looks like a 5-year-old dreamt it up. But no one ever said anything. I guess that's just New York!" *"Jean-Baptiste Bernadet & Joanne Greenbaum" is on display through April 25 at the Michael Jon Gallery, 255 NE 69th St., Miami, 305-521-8520*

2021 S WABASH AVE  
CHICAGO IL 60616  
+1 (312) 226 2223