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One of Minnesota's Most Eligible Singles on Display Minneapolis Artist Laura Drabant Shows at Frank Stone Gallery

Laura Drabant, named "one of Minnesota's most eligible singles" in the February romance issue of Minnesota Monthly, has spent the last several months up to her elbows in clay instead of perusing menus over swanky lunch and dinner dates.

She presents new sculpture in artful Northeast Minneapolis at the Frank Stone Gallery, 1226 2nd Street NE. Laura will be present at the opening reception on Friday, April 12th from 5 p.m.-10 p.m., and throughout the weekend as the show continues April 13th from 10 a.m.-6p.m. and April 14th from noon to 6 p.m.

After years of volunteering for the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association and helping other artists bring their work to the public via Art-A-Whirl, Laura's own artwork is emerging. A perpetual student at the Northern Clay Center, she has assembled a body of work that is inquisitive, humorous, and tactile.

Her sculptures include small gourds, egg-like rattles, fish, and human/animal hybrids. "Amphibians always look like they're smiling," Laura comments about her subject matter.

Laura's work is inspired by the sensual qualities of gourds and by pottery figures from ancient Mexico. All shapes are formed by hand. Sculptures are set ablaze in a trash can filled with banana and orange peels, sawdust, newspaper, and oils to finish the surfaces with random sooty effects. They retain the campfire-like smell.

Surfaces of the small pieces are obsessively burnished with a teaspoon or small stone. "I make art that calls out to be picked up, smelled for its smoky remnants, rattled for the seed inside, and rubbed for its smooth finish," Laura explains. "It's a socially acceptable multi-sensory experience."

Laura's ceramic pieces will be shown at Frank Stone Gallery in conjunction with photography by Cynthia Amendt.

For more information see www.lauradrabant.com or www.frankstonegallery.com.

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**MINNEAPOLIS ARTIST LAURA DRABANT AT WORK,
STARTING A CERAMIC SCULPTURE.**



**"Fish Without a Bicycle" Ceramic
by Laura Drabant, 2002**



**Ceramic eggs
by Laura Drabant, 2002**