

Alumna takes jab at decorative arts

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Elissa Armstrong '02, assistant professor at the University of Kansas, presents "Elissa Armstrong: Objects of Innocence and Experience" at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO, through Oct. 1, 2006. The 11 sculptures in the show take a jab at lighthearted, decorative objects. Elissa gathers childlike lambs, bunnies, and deer at thrift stores and garage sales and creates others with lowbrow, craft-store molds. She then adds heaps of bumpy plaster, douses the sculptures in glaze and glitter and affixes long, tubular clay appendages. Some of these subversive figurines look virtually untouched; others are so distorted they're practically abstract. Arranged together on a flat plane, the sculptures begin to make sense as an illustration of evolution or devolution - it's up to the viewer to decide.