

Richard Heller Gallery

F Like Family

Jan 12 — Mar 9, 2019 | Los Angeles, United States

Richard Heller Gallery is pleased to present, *F Like Family*, the first US solo exhibition for Brussels based artist, Eric Croes.

Eric Croes' artistic practice is at once both experimental and disciplined. The objects are playful yet extremely well executed and conceptually rigorous. A unifying theme is that Croes always starts a body of work with a set of rules, much like in his favorite game, Yahtzee.

For this series, Croes gave a disposable camera to his boyfriend, artist Simon Demeuter, along with each member of his close family (his father, his two brothers, and his sister). He then asked them to shoot images of their daily life in a free way. Croes then collaged together selected elements of the resulting photographs as references for this new body of ceramic sculptures.

Like it or not, our families have a great influence on our lives. The concept for this body of work was to find a way to have family shape not only the artist's life but also to influence the shapes of his sculptures. As a declaration of love Croes is, in essence, bringing his family along to the exhibition for his first trip and solo exhibition in the US.

The titles and forms of the sculptures are composed with each element giving protection to the other. Much in the spirit of Native American totem poles, the two totemic sculptures, *Giant with Left Foot* and *Giant with Right Foot* function as guardians, lucky charms, and ancestors of the artist's loving grandparents (who look after not only him and his family but also offer protection to the other individual sculptures in the exhibition).