



Nymphs

ELIZABETH JANE WHITELEY

Collection | 9 Ceramic Sculptures | 2026

ARTIST STATEMENT

Nymphs is a collection of stoneware ceramic sculptures exploring the relationship between the human form and the natural world. Inspired by mythology, these sculptures give form to unseen spirits.

Nymphs comprises nine unique sculptures grouped into Woodland, Ocean and Jungle forms. Each inhabits its own ecosystem while sharing a common visual language of transformation. Although each work stands independently, together they form a single exhibition exploring transformation, mythology and the relationship between figure and landscape.

Working intuitively with the clay, I allow each sculpture to develop through a process of discovery rather than predetermined design. Hand-building creates an intimacy, immediacy and individuality within each figure, while glazing introduces depth, movement and emotion.

The figures themselves possess elongated features and naturally evolving limbs that resist classical perfection. They are intentionally neither fully human nor entirely otherworldly. Their stretched forms, flowing gestures, and organic limbs create a sense of becoming—creatures in transition, shaped by the environments from which they emerge. The boundaries between human and landscape dissolve as waves, vines and organic surfaces evolve.

Colour and texture play an important role in communicating emotion. Through layered glazes and expressive mark-making, I create narrative.

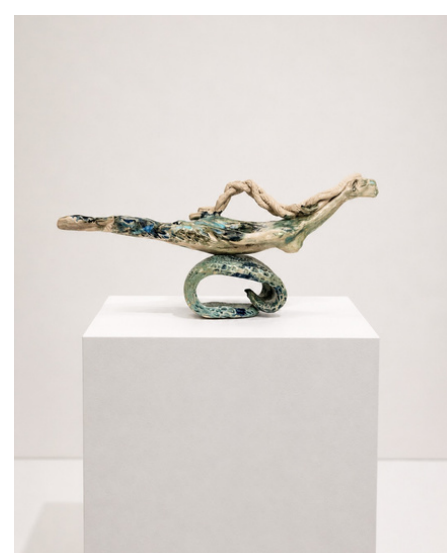
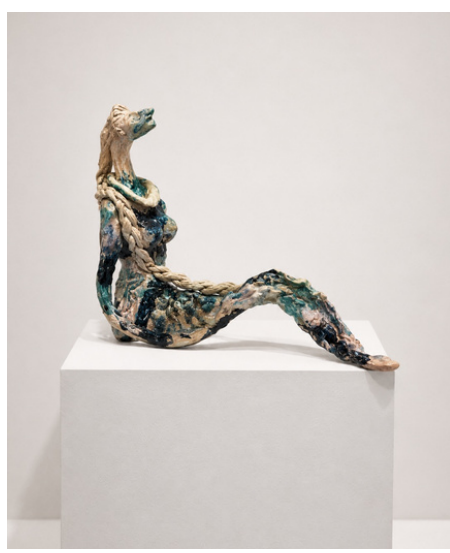
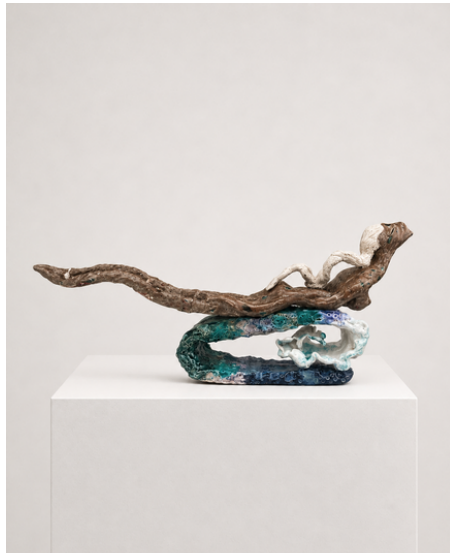
The Woodland Nymphs are glazed in soft creams, moss greens, and earthy tones that evoke woodland dappled light and quiet contemplation. The Ocean Nymphs are fluid and graceful, their forms flowing like waves and currents, with some figures carefully sculpted with wave formations. The Jungle Nymphs embrace darker, richer, more exotic colours, accented with jewellery that suggest abundance, sensuality, and untamed vitality.

At a time when our relationship with nature feels increasingly fragile, Nymphs invites viewers to imagine a world in which body and environment are inseparable—a world where identity, growth, and belonging are rooted in the living landscape.

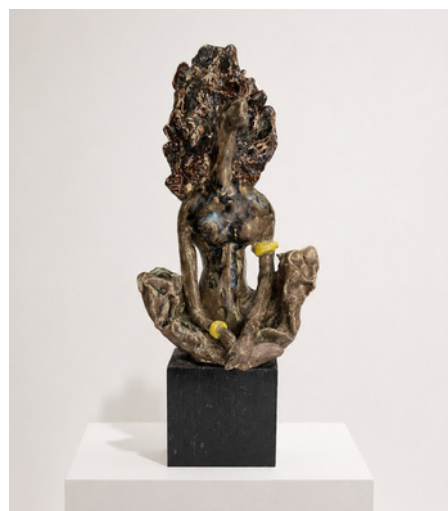
WOODLAND NYMPHS



OCEAN NYMPHS



JUNGLE NYMPHS





Breeze

STONEWARE CERAMIC
25 CM BY 23 CM BY 14 CM



Ivy

STONEWARE CERAMIC
38 CM BY 12 CM BY 19 CM



Nettle

STONEWARE CERAMIC
26 CM BY 15 CM BY 12 CM



Surge

STONEWARE CERAMIC
38 CM BY 18 CM BY 10 CM



Foam

STONEWARE CERAMIC
37 CM BY 28 CM BY 17 CM



Foam

THE GLAZE ISN'T SIMPLY DECORATIVE—IT BEHAVES ALMOST LIKE A PAINTING. THE BLUES GENUINELY EVOKE WATER IN MOTION. THERE ARE PASSAGES THAT RESEMBLE FOAM, CURRENTS AND LIGHT BENEATH THE SURFACE.



Crest

STONEWARE CERAMIC
38 CM BY 18 CM BY 8 CM



Canopy

STONEWARE CERAMIC ON WOODEN MOUNT
36 CM BY 16 CM BY 13 CM



Boa

STONEWARE CERAMIC
38 CM BY 18 CM BY X 12CM



Bud

STONEWARE CERAMIC
28 CM BY 16 CM BY 12 CM



Bud

THE TEXTURED SURFACE HAS A LAVA-LIKE QUALITY, WITH GLAZES SETTLING INTO THE HOLLOWES TO SUBTLY EMPHASISE THE MARK-MAKING AND EVOKE THE RAW CHARACTER OF EARTH.



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