James Evans’ biomorphic objects are composed of a collision of qualities, ones not usually encountered within a single form. Constructed from both ceramic and metallic materials, the fired clay is encased within a smooth crust of gleaming gold, tarnished copper and rusting iron.

The works are ambiguously organic and inorganic, seemingly soft but also hard, a curious amalgamation of human flesh, geological specimen and myriad other natural and man-made qualities. When asked about his formal references he points to the modelled drapes of a porcelain figurine and a weathered object found washed up on the beach. He also speaks of a long-standing fascination with the marble curls of the coat of the Newfoundland dog carved by Matthew Cotes Wyatt in the work Bashaw; The Faithful Friend of Man ... (1834) - to be seen in the collections of the V&A.

However, it is more pertinent to consider Evans sculpture in existential terms. Each work has a sensuous beauty that is almost immediately undercut by its awkward and faintly humorous posture. From alternative viewpoints a form may appear to be perfectly poised, or about to collapse, pitch and roll. But ultimately his curious artefacts are honourable survivors, the noble relics of exceptionally eventful lives.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES
Born 1964, James Evans studied for a BA in Ceramics at the Central School of Art, London and for an MA in Fine Art at the University of Colorado, USA. He has since exhibited internationally, most recently selected for Award, a major survey exhibition of current British ceramic practice held at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent and part of the 2011 British Ceramic Biennial. His work is represented in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Marsden Woo Project Space is curated by Tessa Peters and runs alongside our programme of solo and small group exhibitions by gallery artists. The Project Space allows us to respond quickly to significant bodies of innovative work and showcases the work of talented emerging artists and designers and fresh directions in the work of more established artists. The exhibitions are organized at short notice, so please check our website regularly for news on forthcoming shows and events.

For more information, images, or to arrange an interview with the artist please contact: Alida Sayer or Rachael Crabtree:
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