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## Now Showing | Ann Agee

By PILAR VILDAS | NOVEMBER 19, 2010, 5:45 PM



“Gross Domestic Product”

*Courtesy of Locks Gallery, Philadelphia*

LOCKS GALLERY



“Ann Agee: Rules of the Pattern,” at the Locks Gallery in Philadelphia until Dec. 30, offers a look at recent work by the artist, who is known for her playful, subversive treatment of traditional decorative porcelain archetypes, like blue-and-white patterns (which she has applied to ceramic sex toys, or an entire bathroom) or 18th century figurines (which she re-imagines in contemporary clothing, doing things like carrying shopping bags). In this show, Agee continues to give domesticity her own spin, in hand-painted and stenciled, large-scale “wall-paper drawings” that depict idealized interiors, and which allude to models as diverse as 19th century scenic wallpaper, Matisse’s “The Dessert: Harmony in Red,” and the spaces depicted in Roy Lichtenstein’s paintings. Along with a display of intricate white porcelain vases, the

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exhibition includes three works that are groups of hand-made porcelain platters and bowls arranged on a steel armature. Traditional pieces like this are decorated with floral patterns or pastoral scenes, but Agee's depict modest domestic interiors, including everyday items like washing machines and stoves.

This is Agee's second show in Philadelphia this year; in the spring, she was one of the artists featured in "Interactions in Clay: Contemporary Explorations of the Collection" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. There, Agee filled a period interior with color and pattern, painting faux architectural elements and furniture on the walls, and placing her white vases on an antique table. You can see the installation on Agee's Web site.



An installation view at Locks Gallery

*Courtesy of Locks Gallery, Philadelphia*