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Fruitcake

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FRUITCAKE

By

Joshua Schutz

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts
In
Studio Art
Ceramics

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FRUITCAKE

12 March 2018

This thesis has been examined and approved by the following thesis committee:

________________________________
Chair of Committee, Todd Shanafelt

________________________________
Committee Member, Amy Toscani

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Committee Member, Jessica Flatequal
I would like to offer my special thanks to Amy Toscani who has been most influential in the development of my artistic practice. Amy, I am consistently astounded by your generosity and kindness and consider you akin to family. A very big thank you to the entire MNSU art department, especially Alisa Eimen, Mika Laidlaw, and Todd Shanafelt. I consider each of you to be close friends! Finally I must acknowledge my studio soulmate Hanna Newman for the years of friendship and many overnights spent in the studio (to which there is no greater joy). I love you, Newman.
FRUITCAKE

I explore figurative ceramics in relationship to gesture and sexual identity. The surfaces reference art history, decorative arts, and popular culture. The quasi-functional components of the work are inspired by my personal relationship with domestic objects and space. But also from the results of capitalism, which has created a materialistic, consumer-based society with heteronormative ideals. I respond to this heteronormativity by utilizing humor as a strategy to discuss subversive topics while simultaneously drawing in the viewer. I intend for the viewer to reflect on the purpose and narrative behind such flamboyant objects.