

IT'S ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON

Ian Shelly

R. Bede Clarke, Thesis Supervisor

ABSTRACT

This creative research explores connections between the fields of scientific research, weapons proliferation and ceramic art making. My work consists of a twisted world of these themes seen and told through childhood imagery and subjects. The juxtaposition of violence and destruction against innocence and playfulness and the cyclical way that I engage both intuitively and through calculation with my artwork are vital in impressing a notion of conflict's early presence and danger in our lives. The overlap of weapons, chemistry and art is embodied in the relationships of the characters within these compositions and their iconographic meanings. This amalgamation is constructed through installations, sculptures and miniature models employing numerous kinds of ceramic and non-ceramic materials such as metal, wood, plastics and glass.

These works present conflict as similar to chemistry - omnipresent and unavoidable. The truths explored here feature a convoluted personal narrative, where family portraiture is seen through the lenses of our scientists and the imaginations of our children. Within the microcosmic worlds that the characters and environments in this work construct, the viewer is presented with simultaneous situations of destruction and unity. It is my intent through this imagery to lead my audience towards a greater appreciation of multiple views and non-binary biases.