

### Exhibition | Barnaby Barford's Shard Animals Promenade in David Gill Gallery

**LONDON** — We're huge fans of [Barnaby Barford](#) at Cfile. We've profiled several of his projects in the past and it's difficult to pick a favorite. They're so different, but united with a strong narrative sense. Whether he's making [satirical kitsch](#), mirrors that reflect your [deadliest sins](#) or a tower of consumer

[decadence](#), there's always a critical voice communicated through contemporary ceramic art. His newest exhibition at the David Gill Gallery [Me Want Now](#) (November 18 — December 21) is no different, though the topic has changed a little. From the grunting id-like voice of the title, Barford tackles greed, me-first culture and — my new favorite topic— the implications of living in a post-fact society.



*Barnaby Barford, The Polar Bear; porcelain, wood, epoxy putty, MDF, copper wire, plastic and foam, 2450 x 850 x 1350 mm*



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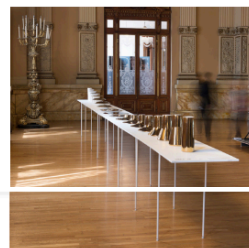
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At first glance there's a Noah's Ark look to the exhibition that made me think Barford had put down his knives for a moment. But as is usually the case with Barford, his narrative is hinged on an uncomfortable, even grim, message. Animals (similar in shard structure to his *Deadly Sins* mirrors) wait patiently in line but for what? The next room shows them mounted as hunting trophies. In this way it's a great box to store all of the anxiety of the last few years. The certainty that we're headed for a mass extinction event and just have to ride it out until the inevitable happens. The racist populists who scream loudly about their superiority while they do everything within their power to guarantee that they'll be serfs within a generation or two. The temporarily embarrassed millionaires who saw away at the branch they're sitting on. The concept of being so invested in a lie that it would never occur to you to simply walk away. If you've spent the last few months wondering if you have any skills that would translate into a post-apocalyptic society, this is the exhibition for you.

As grim as it is, I'm grateful for it. It's possible to have these thoughts and encounter dissonance as you see life continuing as normal in the coffee shop, at the grocery store. People going about their routines, seemingly unaware of the danger written plainly all around them. Waiting patiently in line for their turn.

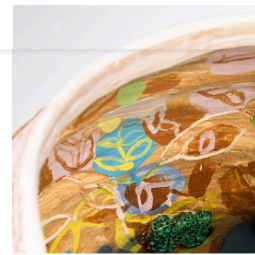
**Bill Rodgers** is the Managing Editor of [cfile.daily](#).



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