



kelli rae adams  
**work / study**

11/14 - 12/06

artist talk:  
11/14 4:30pm  
closing reception:  
12/06 5-7pm

hartnett gallery  
wilson commons  
university of rochester  
rochester ny

gallery hours  
tues-fri: 12pm-7pm  
sat & sun: 12pm-5pm  
closed mon

hartnett gallery is funded by the university of rochester students' association and the venture fund from the office of the president of the university of rochester



# kellie rae adams: work/study

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[web.archive.org/web/20230331062332/http://blogs.rochester.edu/hartnett/kellie-adams-work-study/](https://web.archive.org/web/20230331062332/http://blogs.rochester.edu/hartnett/kellie-adams-work-study/)

With this mixed-media installation, Kelli Rae Adams calls attention to the magnitude and urgency of the student debt crisis in the U.S. Utilizing several hundred handmade ceramic bowls, a quantity of steadily accumulating coins and a wall-hanging triptych composed of dollar bills, Adams renders legible the physical volume of this collective burden while also shining light on the insidious practical and psychological implications of educational debt.

The centerpiece of this exhibition, entitled *Forever in Your Debt*, is a material data visualization of this issue. Using the pottery wheel, Adams has crafted a quantity of ceramic bowls sufficient to hold the average individual student debt — approximately \$37,000 — in the form of coins. Through the mechanism of the resulting installation, she invites visitors to contribute their accumulated household change in exchange for an eventual return in the form of one of the vessels, which they will receive once the project has been fully realized.

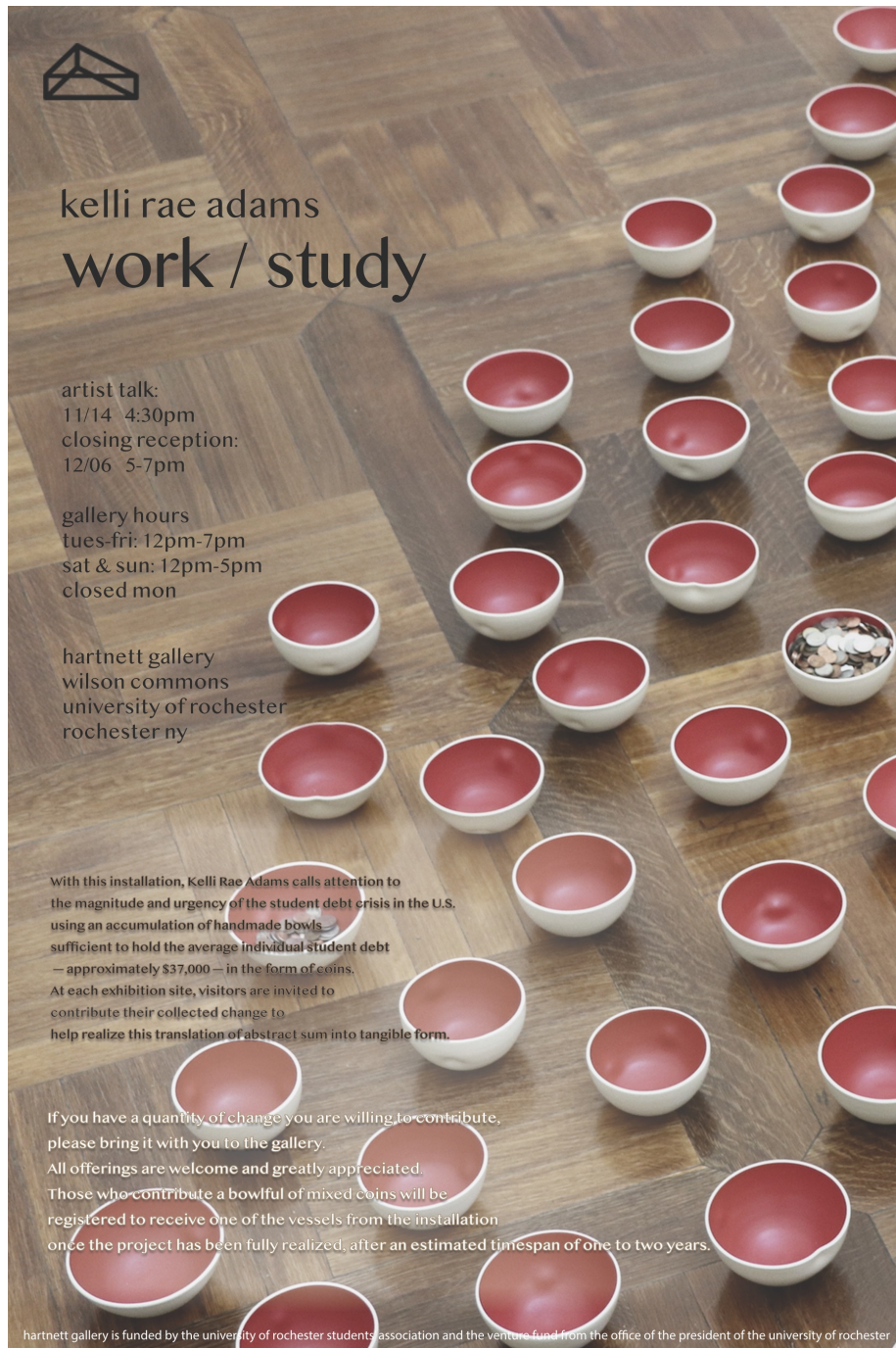
If you have a quantity of accumulated change you are willing to contribute to the installation, please bring it with you to the gallery. All contributions of change are welcome and greatly appreciated. Contributions of mixed change sufficient to fill a bowl will be reciprocated by the artist; those who contribute this minimum amount will receive one of the bowls from the installation once the project is complete, after an estimated time period of one to two years.


## **about the artist:**

Kelli Rae Adams utilizes clay in various states of permanency—often alongside additional materials—to create installation-based works that examine prevailing economic systems and probe our existing relationships to labor, currency and value. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally at venues such as the the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design (Washington, DC), the David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University (Providence, RI), the Wassaic Project (Wassaic, NY) and the Museum of International Ceramic Art (Denmark). She has been a fellow at the Halcyon Arts Lab in Washington, DC, and an artist-in-residence at Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center in Denmark and Vista Alegre in Portugal. In 2019, she served as Arts Envoy to Honduras for the U.S. Department of State, lecturing & teaching at several institutions in Tegucigalpa and jurying the XVIII Central American Sculpture and Ceramics Biennial. Her study of ceramics began in Japan, where she apprenticed over a period of five years with Tetsuro Hatabe, a master potter in the Karatsu tradition. Kelli holds an MFA in Ceramics from the Rhode Island School of Design and a BA in Visual Arts and Spanish from Duke University, and she has served as faculty at RISD.

## about the opening reception:

The opening reception will take place on Nov 14th with an artist talk in Gowen Room at 4:30 pm. The exhibit will remain on view in Hartnett Gallery from Nov 14 through Dec 16. There will also be a closing reception on Dec 16th from 5-7 pm.





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With this installation, Kelli Rae Adams calls attention to the magnitude and urgency of the student debt crisis in the U.S. using an accumulation of handmade bowls sufficient to hold the average individual student debt — approximately \$37,000 — in the form of coins. At each exhibition site, visitors are invited to contribute their collected change to help realize this translation of abstract sum into tangible form.

If you have a quantity of change you are willing to contribute, please bring it with you to the gallery. All offerings are welcome and greatly appreciated. Those who contribute a bowlful of mixed coins will be registered to receive one of the vessels from the installation once the project has been fully realized, after an estimated timespan of one to two years.

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