Eric and Morgan Grasham

“The Stilling Engine”

On the surface, the piece is about the exploitation of nature (javelina) to support a culture of excess and opulence (amphora). On another level, the javelina is a symbol of our desire for nature which in its acquisition necessitates its stilling or death. In that context, the amphora represents mankind’s desire to idealize nature, and in so doing, simultaneously discard the genuine in favor of the manufactured and digest the complexity of the living into the easily controlled and admired without the counterpoint of fear and admiration that accompanies true nature. By placing the acquisition (stilling) of the living, and the digestion of the uncontrollable (engine) side by side, a narrative of consumption is created.